

simply

Caulking a Bath Tub



When the caulking around a bathtub starts to crack and become a home for dark stains that signal mould, it's time to replace it. The caulk is the water-tight seal between the bathtub and the wall. Once the caulk's integrity is comprised, water can invade the wall, causing rot in the framing around the tub.

TOOLS REQUIRED

Silicone Gun
Utility Knife
Scraper
Putty Knife
Sponge

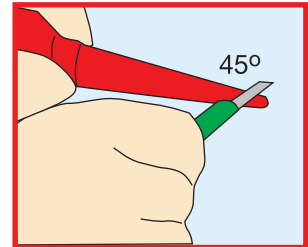
Building made simple!

simply

Caulking a Bath Tub

Laying a smooth clean-looking bead of caulk is tricky. If it does not go right, you can wind up with sticky caulk all over the place and a sloppy looking job. It takes a little technique and practice to lay a caulk bead like a pro. Before you recaulk your tub, first remove old caulk. Clean joint so new caulk will bond properly, creating a watertight seal (see images below).

Cutting the right size opening at the tip of the caulk tube is critical for a smooth bead. A large opening will spread too much caulk into the joint and you'll wind up getting it all over the place. It is better to cut the tip too small at first, because you can always recut it if necessary. Cut the caulk tip so the opening is about the diameter of a wire coat coat hanger.

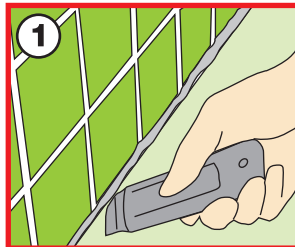


Fill bathtub with water before caulking. The water weight will maximise the width of the tub/wall joint and prevent future stress and cracking. Once your caulk bead is dry, you can drain the water.

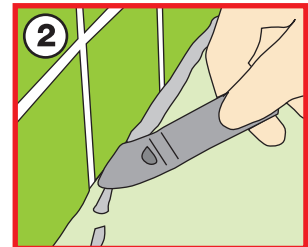
Laying a uniform bead of caulk requires constant pressure on the caulk tube. The caulk bead should be sized so that only a slight amount wipes off when you drag your finger over it. Ensure that as tube empties, constant pressure is maintained to lay a uniform bead.

Finish bead and clean off excess caulk. If you are having trouble smoothing the bead of caulk, try rewetting your finger or using a different one. The tile corner joint is just as important as the tub joint.

Push a razor scraper in all the way under both edges of the old caulk bead to release its grip. Don't pry the caulk with the scraper because you could break off the razor blade.



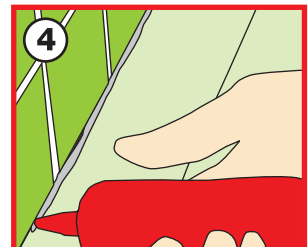
Scrape the loosened caulk out of the joint with the pointed end of a can opener or putty knife.



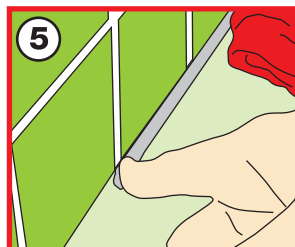
Remove any remaining caulking residue and grime with a tub-and-tile cleaner and a non-abrasive sponge.



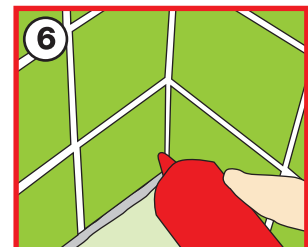
Pull the caulk tube down the tub/wall joint from the inside corner of the tub. Keep even pressure on the tube by pushing the caulk forward and folding over the empty portion.



Dampen your finger in the tub and drag it over the freshly laid bead of caulk. Press the caulk into the joint with the tip of your finger and scrape away the excess with the sides of your finger (it may take a few swipes). Wipe excess caulk off your finger with a damp rag.



Caulk up the tile corner joint if the old caulk has cracked or deteriorated.



simply Build it

SHOULD YOU HAVE ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS, PLEASE DO NOT HESITATE TO CONTACT YOUR LOCAL BUILD IT STORE.

REGIONAL OFFICES

KWAZULU NATAL 031 508 5000	EASTERN CAPE 041 404 5000	WESTERN CAPE 021 550 7300	L O W V E L D 013 753 6800
SWAZILAND 013 753 6800	SOUTH RAND 011 821 4000	NORTH RAND 011 203 5300	N A M I B I A 00264 61214201

© 2006 BUILD IT

E & O. E.

Building made simple!