

Caulking Tools Glossary

Many types of caulks are available for different situations. Caulks come in white, clear, and specialty colors like beige, brown, and black. Some caulks go on white and dry clear.

Most caulks come in tubes and will need a caulk gun to apply, but you can also find caulk in squeeze tubes, almost like a toothpaste tube. Most have soap and water clean-up and are paintable. Read the label. It should say, “clean up with soap and water,” and will say if it is paintable.

Common Types of Caulk:

1



Acrylic-Latex Caulk, also known as painter’s caulk: This caulk dries quicker than caulk with silicone added. Not as flexible when dry.

Brand Example: DAP ALEX--Painter’s Acrylic Latex Caulk

2



★ **Acrylic-Latex Plus Silicone**: Good Choice! It’s more flexible when dry. Better seal and has good water resistance.

Brand Example: DAP ALEX PLUS--All Purpose Acrylic Latex Caulk Plus Silicone

3



Indoor/Outdoor Window, Door, and Trim Sealant: Good for exterior work; resistant to weather and temperatures. Usually, 100% waterproof.

Brand Example: DAP DYNAMAFLEX 230--Window, Door, and Trim Sealant

4



Kitchen and Bath Sealant: Formulated for use in kitchens and baths. Good at repelling water, soap scum and stains. Usually not painted and painting is not recommended.

Brand Example: DAP Kwik Seal

5



100% Silicone (Specialty Caulk): Not Paintable! It has the advantage of being 100% waterproof and weatherproof. Very flexible when dry and can withstand freezing and hot sun. It can be difficult to apply. Needs solvent to clean-up, so no water clean-up is possible.

Brand Example: GE All Purpose Silicone Sealant Caulk

Useful Caulking Tools:



Caulk Gun: A tool for pushing caulk out of a tube. It has a trigger grip that advances a rod that goes into the bottom of the caulk tube. Usually \$4.00 to under \$10.00.

Most models have a cutting tool in the handle for cutting the tip off the caulk tube and a piercing rod to break any inner seal on the caulk tube.



Scraper: Use a stiff putty knife or tool to clean old caulk and paint away as needed.



Cleaner: Use a no-rinse cleaner to clean any dirt and dust; caulk won't stick to dirt.



Rubbing Alcohol or Isopropyl Alcohol: Use for final wipe of caulk line to eliminate any soap residue.



Gloves: Thin vinyl or latex gloves to keep your hand clean; caulk is sticky and will stick to your nails.



Rag or sponge: To smooth the caulk line and catch any stray caulk.



Tape: Blue painter's tape to outline the caulk area if you want a very clean caulk line.



Razor Knife: To cut the caulk tube tip.



Water: To wet or rinse your rag or sponge.