

# Choosing the right Caulk

- **Acrylic Latex** – Good for general applications such as sealing around windows, doors, and moldings. May be used both inside and out as long as the temperature is 40°F or higher while curing. Can be painted and also comes in colors. Water and mildew resistant but needs to dry thoroughly before getting wet. Not as flexible as silicone or butyl rubber, but easier to apply and cleans up with soap and water.



- **Butyl Rubber**– Forms a highly water resistant sealant and is excellent for caulking concrete, brick, or metal surfaces. Can be painted when completely cured. Remains flexible and is a good choice for joints that expand and contract, like gutters and roof flashing. Messy to use and requires solvent for cleanup.



- **Silicone** – Best for sealing glass, metal, ceramic tile, and other non-porous surfaces. Doesn't adhere well to porous materials like wood and masonry. While most brands cannot be painted, it's available in clear and several colors. Remains flexible after drying. Since nothing sticks to cured silicone—including more silicone—it is hard to repair and leaves a film behind that is difficult to remove. Can be applied at almost any temperature. Emits a sharp odor when curing and requires solvent for cleanup.



- **Kitchen and Bath**– Specifically designed for areas subject to high moisture like around sinks and tubs. Comes in a variety of colors that resist mold and mildew growth. Allow to dry thoroughly before getting wet. Cleans up with soap and water.



## More .....

It can seem rather confusing when it comes to picking the right caulk for the right task since there are so many different kinds to choose between. However, you don't really need too many different kinds of caulk, in fact all you need is two different kinds: acrylic caulk and polyurethane caulk.

### Acrylic

Use acrylic caulk as an all purpose caulk. It's water based so you can easily smooth it out with your hands and clean it off your tools and hands easily as well. It's easy to paint acrylic paint, often you can paint it almost immediately after applying the caulk. It's important to buy a good acrylic caulk, go for the more expensive version since it often is of higher quality.

### Polyurethane

Polyurethane caulk is great when you want extra strong adhesion for concrete, stucco or other masonry. It's great to use where you want to protect areas from water. This material performs better than acrylic, however it's more annoying to work with since it's very sticky and difficult to apply. Also, you can't just clean your hands and tools with water, but you'll have to use mineral spirits or paint thinner when it comes to cleaning up.

