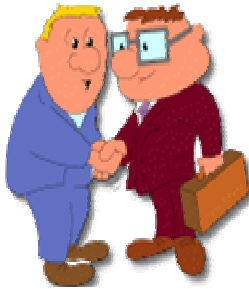


Turning your
house into
your dream
home

Vol. 2, #7



Let's talk—
CAULK

You have two
choices...

DOING IT RIGHT

With help from D4 Construction

Let's Talk Caulk— *What to do when your tub/ shower needs new caulking*

While performing your spring and summer maintenance schedule you noticed a problem with the caulking in your tub and/or shower. You know it needs to be replaced—but how?

You have two choices:

1. Hire someone to do it for you
2. Do it yourself

If you choose the latter—here are some tips to help.

Removing Old Caulking

Here again you have two choices:

1. Use a chemical remover—protect all nearby surfaces with tape, apply the remover and wait. If it works you'll be able to pull out the softened, gloopy caulk. Wipe everything clean with paper towels.
2. Dig out the caulk with a utility knife. Try using a blow dryer— or other source of heat— to soften the caulking before trying to carefully remove.

Applying New Caulking

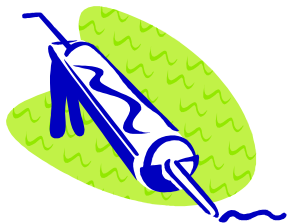
Wipe down the area to be caulked with rubbing alcohol to remove any soap residue and/or remaining caulking.

Apply a strip of tape along tile edges to prevent the caulking from creeping up the tile grout.

Some Caulking Tricks

- ⇒ Make an angled cut— matching the angle you'll be holding the caulking tube/gun— across the tip of the caulking tube using a sharp blade
- ⇒ Make sure the hole is large enough to allow smooth flow—if it's too small the contents will act like they are under high pressure
- ⇒ Most caulking tubes have a thin barrier inside the tube that prevents the caulk from drying out—you'll need to pierce this with a nail or some other pointed object
- ⇒ Hold caulking gun, if you're using one, over a garbage can or paper towelling and squeeze trigger till caulking begins to come out—caulking should flow not squirt or drip
- ⇒ Position caulking tube tip slightly above—almost touching the surface to be caulked

Doing it Right



Plans are only good intentions unless they immediately degenerate into hard work.

Peter Drucker

- ⇒Apply caulking by moving the gun/tube at an even and steady pace—straight along the seam creating a uniform bead
- ⇒To maintain an even bead be sure to release and squeeze the trigger again before caulking flow stops
- ⇒Do not stop till you reach a corner
- ⇒Be sure to stop squeezing the trigger just before you come to the end of the seam
- ⇒If you're using a caulking gun make sure it has smooth trigger action that stops dispensing when you release it
- ⇒Smooth the new caulking joint with a water moistened fingertip or caulk-smoothing tool
- ⇒If you've used tape make sure to pull it up gently to avoid ruining the bead before it has a chance to set
- ⇒Don't use the tub till caulking has had a chance to cure—see tube for specific instructions

A Final Warning

Don't ignore cracked or missing caulking—you can be guaranteed water will find it. From there it can creep up two or three rows of tile soaking the grout and loosening the tiles—making what was once a small job into an extensive one requiring a week or more drying time alone.

The best time to fix it is now.

Upcoming Topics

- ⇒Fall maintenance
- ⇒Out with the old ... grout
- ⇒Winter maintenance

For more information:

If you are interested in protecting the value of your home, turning your house into your dream home or simply have remodeling questions or needs -call Mike Spruyt at 572-4812

The D₄ Guarantee



D₁ – Your job will be done for the price specified—there are no surprises or hidden costs.

D₂ – Your job will be completed the way you want it done.

D₃ – If you aren't satisfied with the finished product we'll fix it for free.

D₄– All work comes with a 2-year guarantee on all workmanship