

Re-caulking a Bathtub

This procedure provides a step-by-step guide on how to remove old caulk from around a bathtub and apply a fresh, waterproof seal using new caulk.

Step 1: **Preparation**

Gather the necessary tools and materials including a caulk remover tool, silicone caulk, mineral spirits, a utility knife, rags, painter's tape, and latex gloves.

Step 2: **Removal**

Use the utility knife and caulk remover tool to carefully cut away and remove the old caulk from around the bathtub. Ensure all remnants of the old caulk are removed.

Step 3: **Cleaning**

Clean the area with mineral spirits to remove any residue, soap scum, or mildew. Use rags to wipe down the area until it is completely dry.

Step 4: **Taping**

Apply painter's tape to the edges of both the bathtub and the wall to ensure straight lines when applying the new caulk. Leave a gap for the caulk to be applied.

Step 5: **Caulking**

Cut the tip of the caulk tube at a 45-degree angle. Apply the silicone caulk into the gap between the bathtub and wall, holding the caulk gun at an angle for a smooth application.

Step 6: **Smoothing**

Wet your finger and run it along the caulk line to smooth it out. This should create a clean, even seal. Ensure there are no gaps or air bubbles.

Step 7: **Finishing**

Carefully remove the painter's tape while the caulk is still wet. Be careful not to disrupt the fresh caulk. Allow the caulk to dry as per the manufacturer's instructions before using the bathtub.

General Notes

Caulk Type

Ensure you use a silicone caulk suitable for bathrooms as it provides a waterproof seal and can resist mold and mildew.

Curing Time

Do not use the bathtub immediately after caulking. Wait for the caulk to fully cure, which usually takes 24 to 48 hours.