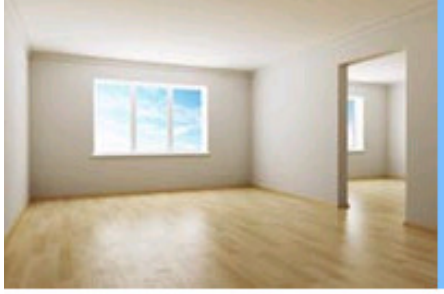


how to

caulk interior windows

print this

recommended products:
DAP® 3.0™ Advanced All-Purpose Sealant, DAP® DYNAFLEX 230® Premium Indoor/Outdoor Sealant, and DAP® ALEX PLUS® Acrylic Latex Caulk Plus Silicone can be used to seal cracks and gaps up to ½" for energy savings and/or prior to painting for a professional-looking finish. For gaps above ½" in diameter, use a foam backer rod first, then apply the caulk over the backer rod.

project instructions:

1. Be sure to read the entire package to ensure you have all materials the job will require and to budget for dry times in your project. *Carefully review all safety precautions on the package.*
2. Clean and dry the surface you will be sealing to ensure it is free of all dirt, dust, grease, old caulk and debris. (To remove old caulk, use DAP® Caulk Be Gone® for latex caulks or DAP® Silicone Be Gone® for silicone caulks; or a utility knife or a caulk removal tool. Once completely removed, wipe away any debris. Use a rag to wipe the joint surface with rubbing alcohol or an over-the-counter disinfecting spray, rinse thoroughly with water, and dry.)
3. Apply the painter's tape to mask off areas around the joint where the caulk should not appear and to help give a straight caulk line.
4. There are many different nozzle designs on caulk cartridges. Read the instructions of your selected product for instructions on cutting the nozzle. Some nozzles have an inner-foil lining that needs to be punctured or a removable nozzle covering an inner plastic seal that also needs to be cut.
5. Load the cartridge into the caulking gun. Applying steady pressure to the trigger, fill the joint around the window with an even bead of caulk. If you have selected a product in a squeeze tube, cut the nozzle at a 45° angle with scissors or a utility knife and squeeze the product into the joint. It is best to push the caulk ahead of the nozzle to ensure that it gets into the joint for a proper seal. Follow using a finishing tool such as the DAP® Pro Caulk™ Tool Kit to smooth the bead for a professional-looking finish.
6. If you applied painter's tape, remove the tape prior to the caulk skinning over. To correctly remove tape, lift the edge up at a 45° angle away from you, and carefully place in a trash can.
7. Wipe away excess caulk with water and a damp cloth before the caulk dries. Excess dried caulk will need to be cut or scraped away.
8. The DAP CAP™ is ideal for storage if later use of a partially-used container is desired.

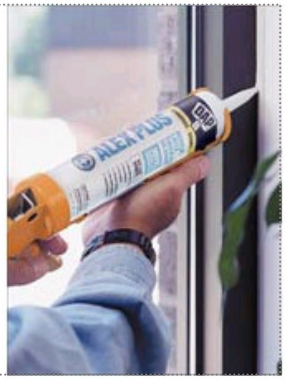
paintable, clean-up, and other information:
Generally, latex-based products are paintable and are soap and water clean-up. Silicone products are not paintable and must be cleaned up with solvent cleaners. Carefully read all label instructions before beginning your project. See the following product attribute chart for select DAP products providing valuable information to aid in your product selection.

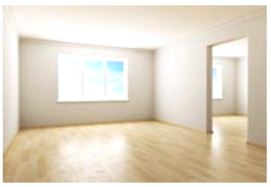
which product should I use?

	DAP® 3.0™ Advanced All-Purpose Sealant	DAP® DYNAFLEX 230® Premium Indoor/Outdoor Sealant	DAP® ALEX PLUS® Acrylic Latex Caulk Plus Silicone
quality	advanced	best	better
paintable	yes	yes	yes
time before painting	3+ hours	2+ hours	2+ hours
clean-up	mineral spirits	soap & water	soap & water
unique feature	CAULK & EXPOSE TO WATER AFTER JUST 3 HOURS	Outstanding Durability Waterproof and Paintable and Adhesion	America's #1 Selling

this is a great project to:

- reduce air flow, and therefore reduce heating & cooling bills
- create a smooth surface prior to painting
- eliminate openings for insects to enter your home





windows and doors

faq

Q. Why do some caulks crack after they have been applied?

A. When joints are filled with too much caulk (in excess of ½" width or depth) the product tends to shrink as it dries, resulting in cracks. A foam backer rod must be used for joints deeper than ½" inch. When joints are filled with too little caulk (less than 1/8" in width or depth), the product tends to have little ability to accommodate for joint movement, which makes it prone to cracking. When properly applied, caulk should bridge the joint with attachment to 2 sides of the joint.

Q. Why do paint films crack when applied to caulking?

A. There can be more than one reason for the appearance of cracking. In many instances, it is not the caulk that has cracked, rather the paint film on top of the caulking that has cracked. In an assembly where a brittle coating (flat latex paint) is applied over a more flexible substrate (caulking product), exposure to significant joint movement may result in the appearance of cracking in the less flexible surface coating. To avoid cracking in the paint's surface, allow for complete recommended dry time on the caulk's packaging and then paint.

Q. Clear acrylic latex caulks are white when first applied. How long does it take to turn clear?

A. Clear acrylic and latex caulk such as DAP® DYNAFLEX 230®, DAP® ALEX Plus®, DAP® Kwik Seal® and DAP® Kwik Seal Plus® apply white, and turn clear in 7 to 14 days (depending on joint depth, temperature and humidity). DAP® Silicone Plus™, DAP® SIDEWinder®, DAP® 3.0™ All Purpose Advanced Sealant, and DAP® Clear Flexible Sealant apply and dry clear.

Q. What is the recommended dry time for most acrylic and latex caulks before you can apply paint?

A. Most acrylic latex caulks can be painted approximately 2 to 4 hours after application. Cool or humid conditions, large joint depths and type of paint used may require a longer wait time. Clear acrylic latex caulks must be allowed to cure for 7 to 14 days or turn completely clear before painting.

Q. Which DAP caulks or sealants are the most flexible?

A. The ASTM C 920 tested products are the most flexible. Our family of flexible, high performance caulks and sealants include DAP® 3.0™ All Purpose Advanced Sealant, DAP® DYNAFLEX 230®, DAP® SIDEWinder®, DAP® Silicone Sealant, DAP® Silicone Plus™ Premium Silicone Rubber Sealant, and DAP® Premium Polyurethane.

Q. I used a non-paintable silicone sealant and now I need to paint the surface. What should I do?

A. The non-paintable sealant must be completely removed and replaced with a paintable sealant. Note: Paintable latex caulks may not adhere to silicone products or their residue. We recommend using DAP® Silicone Be Gone® to completely remove silicone sealants and their residue.

Q. Are caulks stainable?

A. No. In order for most stains to perform properly, they must be able to penetrate the surface that they are applied to. Most caulk will allow paint to bond as paint lays on the surface of the caulk in a film. Caulk will not absorb stain because the surface of the caulk will prevent the stain from penetrating.

Q: How do I remove silicone?

A: Uncured non-latex based caulk can be wiped away with a solvent such as mineral spirits, acetone, or lacquer thinner. However, once non-latex based caulks have cured, we recommend DAP® Silicone Be Gone® or physically cutting or scraping away the product (a razor-type blade would work the best, as it is a precise cutting tool).