

CAULKING WINDOWS

Caulk on the exterior of the window frame can dry out during the summer. If you find the caulk is coming off or contains cracks, this may be a sign for re-caulking.

MATERIAL

Caulk comes in cartridges that fit in a caulk gun, or in pressurized containers that do not need a caulk gun. They also come in aerosol cans and squeeze tubes.

ADVANTAGES

- Save you heating and air conditioning bills by preventing uncomfortable drafts
- Easy DIY project

Tools required: Caulk gun (if not using a pressurized container, putty knife (or similar tool to scrape the old caulk)

Materials required: Caulk

Estimated time taken: 2-3 hours to prepare and apply the caulk, 12- 15 hours for it to dry

Project cost: Prices vary depending on type of caulk, starting from \$5 per tube

INSTALLATION

There are caulks made specifically for concrete, for brick, for wood, and even for glass and metal. It is best to ask someone at the hardware store for advice on the best caulk to use for your specific type of window. Typically, Polyurethane caulk sticks to just about everything. It is quite flexible and lasts longer than most other types of caulk. One tube should be enough for a whole window.

HOW TO



Step 1: Remove any old caulk using caulk softener. Apply caulk softener at least 2 hours in advance, and then remove old caulk with a putty knife. Try to strip off or scrap out old caulk and smooth out the surface.

Step 2: Wipe down the surface with a damp cloth to remove any residue or dirt. Be careful not to wash old windows with water since water entering through the crack might damage the window. Make sure the window surface is clean and dry before beginning to caulk.

Step 3: Cut the tip off of the tube of caulk at a 45-degree angle and load it into a caulking gun.

Step 4: Break the seal on the tube by inserting a nail or a small screwdriver into the nozzle opening.

Step 5: Squeeze and apply the caulk along the seam at an angle, moving the gun slowly and evenly. When filling larger gaps, move more slowly to let the caulk adequately fill the space.

Step 6: For a finishing touch, use a wet finger to smooth out the caulk and give it a clean look, as soon as caulk is applied to prevent caulk from drying and cracking.

Allow 12-15 hours for caulk to dry and set, and your windows should be airtight for the season!

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS

Caulking is best done when the outside temperature is above 45°F and humidity is low. Higher temperatures help the caulk to dry and set properly.

Watch a video [here](#).

Source: www.energysavers.gov