

Caulking Materials

DIFFERENT TYPES AND CHARACTERISTICS

Silicone

- lasts 12-30 years
- best adhesion
- use in seams, cracks, gaps up to 1/4"
- good for all surfaces
- may not take paint

Butyl

- lasts 8-10 years
- some shrinkage
- use in seams, cracks, gaps up to 1/4"
- available in many colors

Acrylic latex silicone

- lasts 12-20 years
- easiest application
- use in seams, cracks, gaps up to 1/4"
- may not take paint

Acrylic

- lasts 8-10 years
- water cleanup
- use in seams, cracks, gaps up to 1/4"
- no odor

Latex

- lasts 2-10 years
- water cleanup
- use in seams, cracks, gaps up to 1/4"
- most are paintable
- available in many colors

Oil base asphalt

- lasts 1-4 years
- soft and tar-like
- use in seams and gaps on roof around chimneys, stacks and pipes to 1/4"
- hardens rapidly
- cracks

Caulking cord

- lasts 1-2 years
- peel from roll then push in place
- temporary filler around storms, air conditioner
- comes in rolls, unused portion can be stored for years

Oakum

- twisted hemp treated with tar
- cut to needed length then push in place
- stuff large gaps then caulk over the oakum

Glazing compound

- lasts indefinitely
- application requires some practice with a putty knife
- use as a seal between window glass and frame
- often overlooked as an area needing repair

Save Energy, Save Money

- ▶ **Replace incandescent light bulbs with compact fluorescent lamps** that last 10 times longer and consume 75% less energy.
- ▶ **Install a programmable thermostat.** Save up to 30% on your heating bills with an ENERGY STAR® programmable thermostat.
- ▶ **Set your heating thermostat no higher than 68 degrees** when at home and 60 degrees when not at home or sleeping.
- ▶ **Get an annual furnace checkup** and air conditioner check up and check the filter every 30 days and change as necessary.
- ▶ **Weatherize your home.** Earn up to 20% savings on heating bills by caulking and weather-stripping. Earn up to 10% savings on cooling bills by caulking and weather-stripping.
- ▶ **Consider installing more attic insulation.** Achieve up to 20% savings on heating bills by upgrading 3 inches of insulation to 12 inches. Achieve up to 10% savings on cooling bills by upgrading 3 inches of insulation to 12 inches.
- ▶ **Set your water heater no higher than 120 degrees Fahrenheit.**
- ▶ **Clean your refrigerator and freezer coils** once a year.
- ▶ **Use a microwave** to reduce cooking time, reduce your energy bill and avoid adding heat to your house that the air conditioner has to remove.
- ▶ **Use ceiling fans** or portable fans during summer months to increase your comfort at warmer temperatures allowing you to set your air conditioning thermostat to a warmer setting.
- ▶ **Clean the dryer lint filter** after each load.
- ▶ **Use a drying rack** or a clothesline for drying items not needed right away.
- ▶ **Turn off lights** and unnecessary electronics when you are not using them.

For more information on energy conservation, environmental stewardship, rebates and educational classes on energy, water and Xeriscape, please visit www.csu.org or call 448-4800.