

Reader's DIY Tip

Silicone sealant

Sent in by Shaun Packham (London, SE16)

This stuff is very important in your home as it stops water getting where it shouldn't. What did builders do before silicone sealant?

Depending on how it was applied in the first place it will eventually degrade or look a bit mouldy. It is essential that this problem is not ignored as water will get in and do long term damage in places you can't see.

Start by using a very sharp scraper to remove old silicone. I know this will take ages but it is very important to remove every little bit. Finish by thoroughly cleaning the area to get rid of grease and dirt. Finally dry.

Buy very good quality sealant for your bathroom and kitchen. It is well worth spending those extra pounds.

Using masking tape mask the area 5mm either side of the joint. This may sound painstaking but it is the only way to ensure a perfect finish unless you are a professional.



Have a kitchen roll and carrier bag on standby.



With the sealant in the application gun cut the nozzle to appropriate width and apply your bead of mastic as smoothly as possible starting from one end, keeping the gun at 45 degrees.

With the line of sealant applied run your finger along. Wipe finger on tissue. Immediately remove the masking tape and place in carrier bag taking care not to touch any other surfaces or yourself.

Stand back and admire.

Shaun sent in this article as a DIY tip. We liked it. Congratulations to Shaun who wins a £10 shopping voucher for his efforts* "Don't forget, if you have any favourite DIY tips you'd like to share with other residents why not send them in to us. You too could win a £10 shopping voucher!"