

6.0 CAULKING AND FINISHING PROCEDURES

6.1 Caulk Types and Specs

The caulk that we recommend or supply is typically available in colors (to match the color of the panel or grout color as close as possible) and has the option to have a sand texture to match the grout texture.

Consult Replications Unlimited for the current caulk recommendation for your specific project. We are working with several different suppliers of Acrylic, Polyurethane and Silicone sealants that each have their advantages.

*The polyurethane caulk can also be used as the adhesive for gluing the tongue and groove keys between the panels. See 5.4 for this detail.

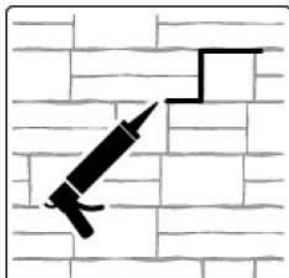
Be sure to consult the instructions printed on the caulk tubes for specific requirements, but typically the sealants will not cure properly unless they are applied at 50 degrees for 4-6 hours.

6.2 Caulking Between Panels

Caulking is necessary to seal between the keys of the panels and between each horizontal layer (especially in exterior applications). It can be done as each panel is installed (typically better because the caulk gets deeper into the gap) or after all the panels have been installed.

6.3 Caulking Methods

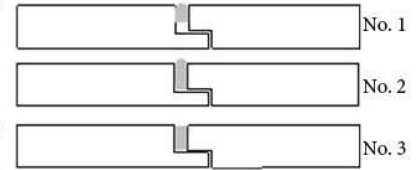
When caulking after the panels have been installed, it is important to inject the caulk as deep as possible into the gaps. If the caulk is just applied at minimum depth or just on the surface then will not provide enough protection with expansion and contraction. (see Figure 6.3A). The proper caulking method is to apply or inject the caulk as deep into the gaps so that it has the ability stretch with the expansion and contraction. (see figure 17C). However, in order for the caulked seams to blend in properly it is important not to add too much caulk that draws attention to the joints.



Not enough caulk may tear easily when expansion occurs.

6.4 Caulking Methods - continued

It is important to use the proper amount of caulk in the mortar joint. If the joint is under filled (no. 1), there may not be enough caulk to stretch properly. Using too much caulk (no. 2) will make the joint stand out. The ideal amount is to add the amount to fill just below the level of the stones or to match the mortar joint depth of the specific stone pattern that you are using (no. 3). See the next section for knocking the joint size down and for texturing in the joint with a brush on certain patterns



6.5 Caulking Recessed Screws

The colored caulk is also designed to be used to cover up the recessed screw areas. Typically the screws should be placed in the grout areas and the same technique outlined in caulking the grout areas. If the screw in the middle of the stone, a non textured caulk may be necessary instead of a textured caulk depending on the stone panel. In both cases see feathering the caulk below and coloring instructions to blend in the color where necessary.

