

Removing Old Caulk

Do you need to remove existing caulk before applying Energy Seal™, Woodsman™ or Check Mate 2®? Applying new sealant over old caulking is never a good idea even if it looks like the old caulk is still sticking to the wood. The old caulk should be removed for several reasons. If the caulk has lost some of its adhesion, it may have allowed moisture to seep in under it, possibly creating decay. The old caulk must be removed to properly treat and seal the area, so it does not happen again. The old caulk may also have deteriorated due to age, decomposition or the wrong type of caulk was used. We often find that silicone caulks were used to seal wood joinery or checks. Although silicone caulk does a good job sealing glass and tile, it does not adhere well to porous materials like wood, and deteriorates rather quickly when exposed to direct sunlight. Butyl rubber caulks and oil-based caulks may out-gas creating blisters in freshly applied Energy Seal™, Woodsman™ or Check Mate 2®. Inexpensive hardware store caulks harden with time and will pull away from adhesion points. No matter what type of caulking was used previously, if it is not removed, the adhesion of Energy Seal, Woodsman or Check Mate 2® to the wood will only be as good as what is left in the old caulk.

All sealants manufactured by Perma-Chink Systems are formulated to have excellent adhesion to wood and other building materials. They also contain high quality acrylic resins to ensure that they do not lose their adhesion, color or elasticity when exposed to the elements for decades.

There are some tools that can make the removal of old caulk easier. Hawk billed or linoleum knives are great tools for scraping off old caulk. If the old caulk is silicone-based, it can usually be peeled off by pulling on it with your fingers or needle-nosed pliers. Check caulked areas that have failed for evidence of moisture. If the wood has been exposed to water for an extended period, these areas should be treated with a borate wood preservative and allowed to dry before applying Energy Seal™, Woodsman™ or Check Mate 2®.

Energy Seal™, Woodsman™ and Check Mate 2® work best when applied to bare wood, over stains or topcoats manufactured by Perma Chink Systems, Inc. If it is applied over an existing old caulk, you run the risk of adhesion failure and your time and money will have been wasted. **Note:** Please remember that Energy Seal™, Woodsman™ and Check Mate 2® should always be used in conjunction with Backer Rod wherever possible.



Linoleum knife