



Painting and Decorating Contractors of America

PDCA INDUSTRY STANDARDS

PDCA P11-05

Painter's Caulk, Implied Requirements

1.0 Scope

- 1.1 The purpose of this standard is to define painter's caulk, determine its suitability and establish its placement whether delineated, implied and/or not referenced in the specification for painting.
- 1.2 It is the intent of this document to specifically address by inclusion or exclusion, joints, cracks, junctions and voids in relation to the application of painter's caulk whether defined, implied or not referenced in the plans, specifications or contract documents.

2.0 Significance & Use

- 2.1 The painting contractor, owner, general contractor and specifying entity are affected by the extent to which painter's caulk is applied, to what surfaces it is applied, and to what extent it is applied when not specifically referenced in the painting specifications or in the absence of a written specification.
- 2.2 The extent of caulking, the suitability of the caulking material and the performance of the applicator all have an effect on the appearance and performance of the surfaces to which the caulk is applied.
- 2.3 The type and quality of the caulking material, the extent of its use and the substrates to which it is applied have an affect on the painting contractor's cost to perform his work, both from a material and labor perspective.

3.0 Reference Standards & Documents

- 3.1 MPI, The Master Painters Glossary 1997
- 3.2 PDCA, Standard P4-04, Responsibility for Inspection and Acceptance of Surfaces Prior to Painting and Decorating
- 3.3 PDCA, Standard P9-04, Definition of Trade Terms

4.0 Definitions

- 4.1 **APPLICATOR:** A person (or coating contractor) who applies a substance (in painting, a person, whether contractor or tradesperson, who applies a coating [MPI]
- 4.2 **BACKER ROD:** A flexible rod of foamed urethane, Styrofoam or similar material inserted into wide joints or cracks (generally ranging from 3/8 inch to 3 inches or more) to stop the flow of caulking or sealant material through the joint being sealed. [MPI]
- 4.3 **CAULKING COMPOUND:** A soft, resilient, putty-like material used for filling cracks and holes or for sealing around flashings, frames and piping. The binder type used dictates the use, adhesion and resistance properties. Examples are: latex, acrylic, epoxy, urethane, silicone and butyl. Generally available in single component tubes or a single or multiple-component materials for application by knife or spreader. [MPI]
- 4.4 **FIELD PAINTED:** Coat or coats of paint that are applied at the job-site. [MPI]
- 4.5 **PAINT:** A mixture or dispersion of opaque pigments or powders in a liquid or vehicle. [MPI]
- 4.6 **PAINTER'S CAULK:** The use of joint filler caulking to enhance painted surfaces. Caulking bead is usually small and triangular (not rectangular) in shape. This term does not apply to sealant principally used to waterproof a building or structure, a sanitary sealant, to seal building expansion joints, nor does it refer to sealing of joints that require backing (e.g., backer rod). [PDCA, P9-04]
- 4.7 **SCOPE OF WORK:** An overview or abstract outlining the work to be performed within a specification. [MPI]
- 4.8 **SUBSTRATE:** A variant of substratum. In painting, any surface to be painted, including wood, concrete, masonry, steel, other metals, and various other materials or previous paints. A substrate can, therefore, be bare or covered. A previously unpainted surface sometimes is called the "original substrate." [PDCA, P4-04]



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5.0 Standard Specification

- 5.1 The application of painter's caulk shall be as directed and as delineated in specification section 09900, painting, or in the absence of direction or delineation, the following shall be assumed within the scope of work:
- 5.1a Joints between wood or wood composite materials, trim, baseboard, molding, and casements. These joints include and are limited to wood to wood or wood composite substrates, and wood to gypsum drywall, plaster or similar wall surfaces. These joints shall only be between field painted surfaces.
 - 5.1b If the caulking work indicated in paragraph 5.1a is listed as part of another section of the specifications or is excluded from the contract, then it shall not be the responsibility of the painting and decorating contractor.
 - 5.1c Painter's caulk is to be applied to enhance the aesthetic appearance of the affected surfaces. It is not the responsibility of the applicator of painter's caulk to waterproof a surface, joint or void, nor is it the responsibility of the applicator of painter's caulk to conceal, eliminate, minimize, or disguise shrinkage or movement of joints or voids.
- 5.2 The following shall be excluded from the scope of work unless specifically directed or delineated in specification section 09900, painting or in the plans or contract documents:
- 5.2a Caulk and sealant application included in specification section 07920, caulking and sealing.
 - 5.2b Surface defects, cracks, joints, voids or holes greater than 1/8 inch (3.18mm) wide, deep or across in wood, masonry, gypsum drywall, plaster or any other substrate.
 - 5.2c Caulking, sealing or repair of crumbling or spalling masonry or plaster surfaces.
 - 5.2d All caulk and sealant applications on exterior surfaces, whether for aesthetic purposes or for waterproofing a building envelope.
 - 5.2e Application or insertion of backer rod in any joint, crack or void.
 - 5.2f Items, trims or objects installed in new construction prior to the application of gypsum drywall, plaster or other wall or ceiling surfaces.
 - 5.2g Caulk and sealant applications to or on floor surfaces.
 - 5.2h Caulk and sealant applications abutting a stained, natural or pre-finished wood surface, electrical or mechanical cover plates, H.V.A.C. registers or grilles, acoustic tile and acoustic tile grid and runners.

6.0 Comments

- 6.1 This standard is intended to clarify the application or placement of painter's caulk when not specifically directed or delineated in the painting specification or in the absence of a written painting specification.
- 6.2 This standard is intended to establish a guide for inclusion or exclusion of painter's caulk in the preparation of a bid or quotation.
- 6.3 This standard is intended to establish a consensus document for the painting industry's practices.

7.0 Notes

- 7.1 PDCA does not warrant or assume any legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness or usefulness of any of the information contained herein.