

THE PROPER COMPOSITION OF A CAULK SEAM

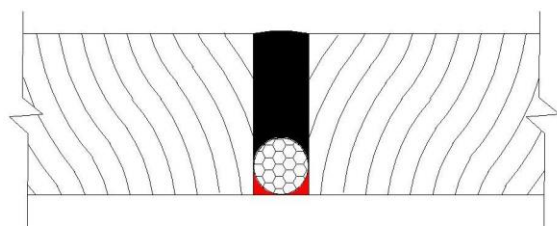
- **Preparation of seam** – All surfaces of the seam must be **dry, dust free, and cleaned with acetone on a rag** to remove any contaminants that would thwart proper adhesion. Isopropyl alcohol may be used, but acetone is strongly recommended. **Do not** use de-natured alcohol, as this will cause separation of the seam from the substrate after curing.
- **Seam design** – Three sided adhesion will limit the amount of movement that a seam can accept before failing. **TDS recommends applying bond breaker tape at the base of every seam to create two-sided adhesion, which allows the sides of the seam to work independently from the bottom, increasing flexibility.**
- **Complete filling of seam** - Seam must be completely filled from top to bottom, without voids or air bubbles, allowing sealant to adhere to sides of seam. Please see our sealant application instructions for the proper procedure to minimize chance of seam failure.
- **Atmospheric conditions during curing** – Sealant should be applied at a time of day when the seam surface is cool and will not experience extreme temperature or moisture changes.

SEAM COMPOSITION AS RECOMMENDED BY TDS

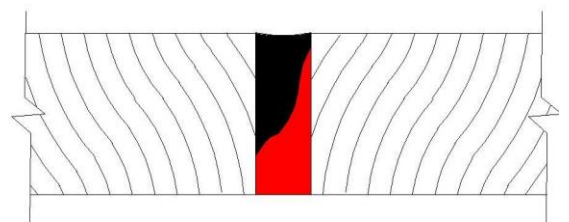


- Use of polyurethane bond breaker tape in seams of 6mm and deeper. It aids to achieve 2-sided adhesion. The bottom of seam must be flat and square. The caulk seam should be able to move at the base of the seam, as the deck flexes and works.

SEAM COMPOSITION **NOT** RECOMMENDED BY TDS



- Use of a backer rod does not ensure a good, tight seal at the base of the seam.



- A proper caulk seam must be filled entirely to the bottom. This is achieved by forcing the tip of the caulk gun close to the bottom of the seam when filling. Drag a flexible putty knife at a 30 degree angle to push the caulking into the seam applying a little pressure to the blade. Leave a minimum of 2mm of excess caulk on the top of the bead. The excess caulk should be cut away after the curing has taken place with a chisel or razor knife.