

# Caulking

## ROPE CAULK

Rope caulk is **temporary** caulking (like putty) best used between moving and non-moving parts of the windows. It is also used to fill large gaps.

**Tools needed:** cleaning solution, paper towels

1. Clean and dry the surface before applying.
2. Unroll a long strand of caulking and gently press it into the gap between the window sash and the window frame.
3. Caulk all the way around the window between the movable part and the frame

### Do and Don't:

- Place rope caulk firmly into the gap but such that it is easily removed.
- Do not shove many pieces of rope caulk into a gap, making it difficult to remove the pieces later.

## SILICONE ACRYLIC CAULK

Silicone acrylic caulking is a **permanent** seal around air filtration points.

**Tools needed:** cleaning solution, paper towels, utility knife, caulking gun

1. Clean and dry all surfaces before applying.
2. For a new tube of caulk, use a sharp knife to make Cut 1 at a 45-degree angle (as shown in picture).
3. Make Cut 2 at a 90-degree angle to Cut 1, removing about 1/4 to 1/3 of the tip.
4. Insert tube into the caulking gun. Push the plunger forward with its ratchet teeth down.
5. Gently squeeze the trigger to get an initial bead. If the bead does not come out, push a nail through the nozzle to puncture the diaphragm inside.
6. With one hand on the barrel and the other hand on the trigger handle, position the gun at a 45-degree on the gap.
7. Push the gun forward or pull it towards you while constantly applying pressure on the trigger. The bead should be about 1/16" to 1/8" wide and it should never be wider than the nozzle tip. Smooth the bead with a finger if needed.
8. To stop caulking, release pressure on the trigger. Press the tab near the trigger and pull back the plunger to disengage the ratchet teeth. Place the caulking gun on a paper towel while it is not in use.
9. Do not allow caulking to dry on carpets, furniture and clothing. You can clean up messes with soap and water **ONLY** while caulk is still wet.

