



Caulking Stonework and Masonry

Porous substrates such as granite, marble and other stones deserve special consideration when choosing a joint sealant system. The porosities of granite, marble and stone vary within each. Depending on composition, water penetrates into the stone at various rates, causing degradation of the bond between the sealant and the stone substrate. Inconsistencies in the stones' make-up and their varying porosities may cause spotty or discontinuous sealant adhesion. To avoid spotty or random adhesion and to provide long-term adhesion, all bonding surfaces should be primed before applying any Polymeric Systems sealant to granite, marble or other stone.

Additionally, most sealants contain plasticizers, chemicals that may diffuse or "bleed" into a porous substrate. The stone may then appear stained or darkened where the sealant meets the stone. This condition can become worse by compression of the sealant during joint movement. All PSI sealants contain plasticizer that under certain conditions could bleed into the stone substrates. By using the recommended primer, this bleeding can be minimized or stopped.

Before doing any extensive caulking, tests need to be done with the sealant and primer to ensure an adequate initial and long-term bond and to determine if staining of the substrate will occur. The primer also may stain or discolor the stone substrate, so it should be applied carefully to avoid discoloration of exposed areas. All other industry standards and procedures for joint design, preparation and application of sealants must be strictly observed in granite,

marble and stone installations. One needs to read and thoroughly understand the data sheets for both the sealant as well as the primer that will be used.

Additional information

For more information, please contact Polymeric Systems or Whitford Ltd. at:

Polymeric Systems, Inc.
 47 Park Avenue
 Elverson, PA, USA 19520
 800-CAULK IT (800-228-5548)
 Tel: [1] 610-286-2500
 Email: sales@polymericsystems.com
 Website: polymericsystems.com

In the EU contact:

Whitford Ltd.
 10, Christleton Court, Manor Park
 Runcorn, Cheshire, UK WA7 1ST
 Tel: [44] (1928) 571000
 Email: salesuk@whitfordww.com
 Website: whitfordww.com

Recommended Primers for Caulking Stonework and Masonry

PSI Sealant	Recommended Primer			
	PSI-75	PSI-591	PSI-690	PSI-691
PSI-275	●			
PSI-631			●*	●
PSI-641			●*	●
Sili-Thane 803		●	●	
Flexiprene 1000		●		
* Less likely to stain				

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