



# 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. The user needs to thoroughly read and understand the data sheets for both the sealant and the primer that will be used.

### Recommended Primers for Caulking Stonework and Masonry

PSI Sealant	Recommended Primer		
	PSI-75	PSI-591	PSI-690
PSI-275	●		
Sili-Thane® 803		●	●
Flexiprene® 1000		●	

## Contact Details

Polymeric Systems, Inc., is a part of Whitford Worldwide.

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

Polymeric Systems, Inc.  
47 Park Avenue

Elverson, PA, USA 19520

Tel: [1] (610) 286-2500

Email: sales@polymericsystems.com

Website: polymericsystems.com



Whitford Ltd.

11 Stuart Road, Manor Park  
Runcorn, Cheshire, UK WA7 1TH

Tel: [44] (0) 1928 571000

Email: salesuk@whitfordww.com

Website: whitfordww.com

Toll Free: 800-CAULK IT (800-228-5548)

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