

Sealant

Practical skills

Getting a clean silicone line, and the mistakes that guarantee a bad one.

The difference between a neat bead and an obvious repair.

1 Remove all the old sealant

Scraper and a silicone remover. All of it.

2 Clean and dry completely

Silicone does not stick to damp or greasy surfaces.

3 Mask both sides

Tape a few millimetres either side of the joint.

4 Cut the nozzle at 45°

Small hole first. You can enlarge it; you cannot shrink it.

5 One continuous bead

Steady pressure and speed. Stopping leaves a lump.

6 Smooth, then remove the tape

Wet finger or a tool, then peel the tape while it is still wet.

FOR A BATH

Fill the bath with water first

Seal while it is full and weighted

Empty after curing, so the joint is not stretched later

Use sanitary-grade silicone with a fungicide in bathrooms and kitchens.
Ordinary silicone grows mould quickly.