

## 1. Scope

- 1.1. The purpose of this standard is to define painter's caulk, determine its suitability and establish its placement whether delineated, implied and/or not referenced in the specification for painting.
- 1.2. It is the intent of this document to specifically address by inclusion or exclusion, joints, cracks, junctions and voids in relation to the application of painter's caulk whether defined, implied or not referenced in the plans, specifications or contract documents.

## 2. Significance and Use

- 2.1. The painting contractor, owner, general contractor and specifying entity are affected by the extent to which painter's caulk is applied, to what surfaces it is applied, and to what extent it is applied when not specifically referenced in the painting specifications or in the absence of a written specification.
- 2.2. The extent of caulking, the suitability of the caulking material and the performance of the applicator all have an effect on the appearance and performance of the surfaces to which the caulk is applied.
- 2.3. The type and quality of the caulking material, the extent of its use and the substrates to which it is applied have an affect on the painting contractor's cost to perform his work, both from a material and labor perspective.

## 3. Reference Documents and Standards

- 3.1. MPI, The Master Painters Glossary Version - Painting and Decorating Terminology Version 4.0, 2004
- 3.2. PDCA Standard P4, Responsibility for Inspection and Acceptance of Surfaces Prior to Painting and Decorating
- 3.3. PDCA Standard P9, Definition of Trade Terms

## 4. Definitions

- 4.1. APPLICATOR: A person (or coating contractor) who applies a substance (in painting, a person, whether contractor or tradesperson, who applies a coating) [MPI]
- 4.2. ARCHITECTURAL CAULKING: The application of caulking (perhaps, but not necessarily, in an integral color) for aesthetic purposes to minimize joints created by construction design and/or deficiencies, and adjacent to painted surfaces, such as: the perimeter of windows or window walls, expansion joints, casework/cabinetry, countertops, prefinished door/window frames, prefinished trim, natural or stained wood, ceramic tile, wallcovering, rigid vinyl wallcovering, seamless floors, floor surfaces, vinyl base, ceiling grid, acoustical tile, electrical or mechanical cover plates, HVAC registers, or grilles, etc. More specifically, unless the caulking is between two (2) field painted surfaces as further defined in PDCA Standard P11, it is not "painter's caulk", and is not the responsibility of the painting and decorating contractor unless explicitly specified as such. [PDCA]

- 4.3. BACKER ROD: A flexible rod of foamed urethane, Styrofoam or similar material inserted into wide joints or cracks (generally ranging from 3/8 inch to 3 inches or more) to stop the flow of caulking or sealant material through the joint being sealed. [MPI]
- 4.4. CAULKING COMPOUND: A soft, resilient, putty-like material used for filling cracks and holes or for sealing around flashings, frames piping, etc. Available in single component tubes (gun) or as single and multiple-component materials for application by knife or spreader. [MPI]
- 4.5. FIELD COAT: Coat or coats of paint that are applied at the job-site. Also known as field application. [MPI]
- 4.6. PAINT: A mixture or dispersion of opaque pigments or powders in a liquid or vehicle. Now used in the general sense, which includes all organic and inorganic coatings such as enamels, varnishes, emulsions, bituminous coatings, etc. [MPI]
- 4.7. SCOPE OF WORK: An overview or abstract outlining the work to be performed within a specification. [MPI]
- 4.8. SUBSTRATE: A variant of substratum. In painting, any surface to be painted, including wood, concrete, masonry, steel, other metals, and various other materials or previous paints. A substrate can, therefore, be bare or covered. A previously unpainted surface sometimes is called the “original substrate.” [PDCA Standard P4]

## 5. Standard Specification

- 5.1. The application of painter’s caulk shall be as directed and as delineated in specification section 09 90 00, Painting, or in the absence of direction or delineation, the following shall be assumed within the scope of work:
  - 5.1.1. The caulking material is limited to paintable acrylic/latex caulk.
  - 5.1.2. The joints to be caulked shall only be between field painted surfaces.
  - 5.1.3. The joints to be caulked are limited to joint voids of 1/8 inch or less.
  - 5.1.4. The joints to be caulked are limited to those between wood and/ or wood composite materials, and between wood and/or wood composite materials and painted wall or ceiling substrates such as gypsum drywall, plaster, or similar surfaces; in certain geographic areas, caulking of painted hollow metal members to painted wall surfaces is also included.
  - 5.1.5. Painter’s caulk is to be applied to enhance the aesthetic appearance of the affected surfaces. It is not the responsibility of the applicator of painter’s caulk to waterproof a surface, joint or void, nor is it the responsibility of the applicator of painter’s caulk to conceal, eliminate, minimize, or disguise shrinkage or movement of joints or voids
  - 5.1.6. If the caulking work indicated in paragraphs 5.1.1-5.1.4 is listed as part of another section of the specifications or is excluded from the contract, then it shall not be the responsibility of the painting and decorating contractor.
- 5.2. The following shall be excluded from the scope of work unless specifically directed or delineated in specification section 09 90 00, Painting, or in the plans or contract documents:

- 5.2.1. Architectural caulking
- 5.2.2. Caulk and sealant application included in specification section 07 92 00, Caulking and Sealing
- 5.2.3. Caulking, sealing or repair of crumbling or spalling masonry or plaster surfaces.
- 5.2.4. All caulk and sealant applications on exterior surfaces, whether for aesthetic purposes or for waterproofing a building envelope.
- 5.2.5. Application or insertion of backer rod in any joint, crack or void.
- 5.2.6. Items, trims or objects installed in new construction prior to the application of gypsum drywall, plaster or other wall or ceiling surfaces.

## 6. Comments

- 6.1. This standard is intended to clarify the application or placement of painter's caulk when not specifically directed or delineated in the painting specification or in the absence of a written painting specification.
- 6.2. This standard is intended to establish a guide for inclusion or exclusion of painter's caulk in the preparation of a bid or quotation.
- 6.3. This standard is intended to establish a consensus document for the painting industry's practices.

## 7. Disclaimer of Liability

- 7.1. PDCA does not warrant or assume any legal liability or responsibility for the accuracy, completeness or usefulness of any of the information contained herein.