

Caulking and Clean Up

In general, caulking is unnecessary around doors, windows, gables and siding accessories when flashing end/or J-Channels are used in the installation. Caulking is needed where metal meets brick or stone around chimneys and walls. Try not to use exposed caulking on top of siding panels. Surface caulking required at panel cutouts around faucets, meter boxes, etc. must be done neatly.

It is important to get a deep caulking bead (1/4-inch minimum), not just a wide bead. Cut the plastic tip of the caulking cartridge square to get this deeper bead. Move the gun evenly, and apply steady, even pressure on the trigger. A preferred caulking is the butyl type, as it has greater flexibility. Most producers supply caulking in colors to match siding and accessories. Do not depend on caulking to fill large gaps (more than 1/8 inch wide), as expansion/contraction of siding may cause cracking of the caulking.

Clean up

Keep hands as clean as possible during application, or use clean work gloves. To clean smudges, use a soil cloth or damp sponge dipped in mild detergent solution or in soap and water. Avoid rubbing too hard which might create a glossy area on the finish surface. Never use harsh abrasive cleaners. Thoroughly clean off any residue.

