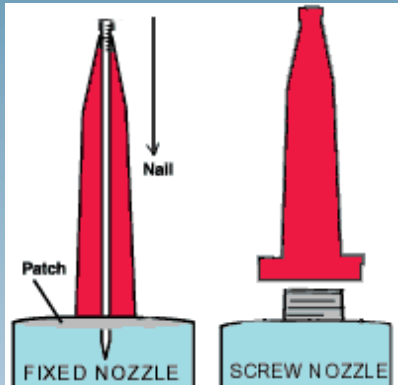


APPLYING SEALANT CORRECTLY

Cutting The Nozzle



Some sealant tubes come with a fixed nozzle whilst others have a threaded section that the nozzle screws onto.

With the fixed nozzle there is an internal foil patch at the base of the nozzle that needs to be punctured with a nail to allow the contents to flow. With the screw on type, the top of the male thread needs to be removed before the nozzle is screwed on.

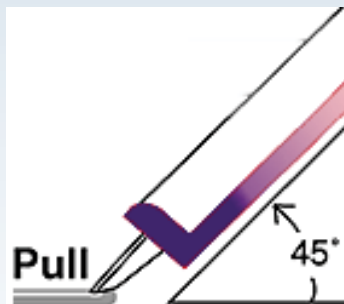
Before cutting the tapered nozzle, judge or measure the width of the joint gap you are working on and cut the nozzle accordingly. Cut the nozzle at a 45-degree angle.

Before You Start

Do some testing on newspaper or scrap timber to get a better feel for how the sealer dispenses. It's important to get the feel of keeping the caulking gun moving smoothly as you complete one stroke of the trigger and begin the next stroke.

It is usually better to pull the sealer tube nozzle along the joint than to push it. Pulling it allows the nozzle to smoothly slide over any obstructions on the surfaces being sealed; while pushing usually can lead to sudden stops resulting in 'blobs'. Remember that, you can always clear out the joint and start again if you "muff" things.

Applying A Bead



As you apply the sealant, hold the caulking gun at a 45° angle parallel to the joint being filled. Orient the nozzle opening so that it forces sealant into intimate contact with the joint surfaces. As you finish applying each bead of sealant, relieve the pressure inside the tube by releasing the trigger and pulling back on the rod to stop the flow of sealant. (Releasing the trigger alone will not stop the sealant from flowing out of the nozzle as there is still pressure in the tube.) Apply only about 600-900mm of sealer at a time so that you will have enough time to get it tooled before it begins to skin over.

Tooling

"Tooling" the bead ensures, not only good adhesion but looks professional as well. "Tooling" is the process of gliding over the entire length of the applied bead of sealant in order to smooth it out and further force the thick sealant into the joint. A bare or gloved finger makes a pretty good tooling tool, (most people have one on hand). Simply wet it in water or solvent as the sealant requires and away you go. Other good tools are spoons, spatulas or foam paint brushes. Avoid removing an excessive amount of sealant out of the joint during tooling this not only wastes sealant but makes for a weak joint. Clean up any mistakes immediately with water or solvent as applicable, because sealant is nearly impossible to easily remove when dried.