

Frequently asked questions about Alcolin Acrylic Sealant

1. What is the difference between a “grab” adhesive and a sealant?

The primary function of a grab adhesive is to bond substrates together while the primary purpose of a sealant is not to bond but to seal a joint or space against movement of liquid, gases or solid material. Sealants are generally required to have good flexibility. Many sealants can act as good adhesives, but don't have the wet tack required specifically of a grab adhesive. Alcolin Acrylic Sealant as the name suggests, functions primarily as a sealant.

2. Why should I use Alcolin Acrylic Sealant over a silicone sealant?

If your joint needs to be painted over, then use an acrylic sealant as silicone sealants cannot be painted over. Acrylic sealants are suitable for use in contact with most building materials whereas acid curing silicone sealants are not suitable for adhesion to cement and concrete and other strongly alkali surfaces.

3. Why should I use an acrylic sealant over a polyurethane sealant

Acrylic sealants and Polyurethane sealants are very similar products – both are paintable, flexible building sealants. Acrylic sealants come into the for as a low cost general purpose flexible and paintable building sealant for caulking, grouting, jointing and crack filling applications. The polyurethane sealant is a performance sealant and due to its high cost, is frequently only used if it has been specified for a particular job. A polyurethane sealant also displays excellent adhesion properties, so it is often used for flexible bonding applications on a construction site e.g. gluing down of parquet flooring.

4. What adhesive can I use to glue expanded polystyrene foam to itself?

The adhesive providing the best bond to expanded polystyrene is Alcolin Waterproof Where a high wet tack / grab is required, there are a number of grab adhesives that are also excellent for the job: Alcolin Fix All, Alcolin Polyurethane Adhesive & Sealant, Alcolin MS37 1000 Uses, and Evo-Stik Sticks Like.

Silicone sealants are also good for the job e.g. Alcolin Silicone Sealant.

Bostik Mount It is a waterbased grab adhesive that is suitable for the job. Acrylic Sealant and Alcolin Cornice Adhesive are also suitable. These products are all waterbased and for this reason they perform best only when gluing small parts of EPS (expanded polystyrene) to itself or when bonding EPS (expanded polystyrene) to a porous surface.

5. I am looking for a sealant that I can paint over?

Alcolin Acrylic Sealant is the traditional painters sealant and can be painted over. Alcolin Polyurethane Adhesive and Sealant, Alcolin MS37 1000 Uses and Evo-Stick Sticks Like are high performance sealants that can be painted over.

6. I am looking for Painters Sealant

Alcolin Acrylic Sealant is the traditional painter's sealant and can be painted over.

7. Can I paint over Alcolin Acrylic Sealant?

Yes you can. This is one of the main features of an acrylic sealant. Be aware that if the sealant experiences much movement, and the paint is less flexible than the sealant, then the paint can craze.

8. I am looking for a ready mixed and flexible crack filler?

Alcolin Acrylic Sealant is perfect for this application.

9. How do I clean up Alcolin Acrylic Sealant?

Remove excess acrylic sealant and clean tools immediately after application using soapy water. Cured acrylic sealant can be removed mechanically i.e. with a sharp knife.

10. How do I use Alcolin Acrylic Sealant?

It is used in the same way as a silicone sealant. Apply in a continuous bead to the prepared joint. Use masking tape to get a clean, even sealant line and to eliminate cleaning difficulties on porous surfaces. Be sure to remove the tape before sealant begins to skin. Smooth down after application before skin formation occurs, by using a flat or rounded tool. Leave for at least one hour before painting.

11. I used an acrylic sealant to fill a crack in the wall above the window, but the crack keeps re-appearing. What else can I use for this application?

A sealant with superior movement accommodation and adhesion properties is probably what is required, such as Alcolin MS37 1000 Uses. It is also non-shrinking and paint-able. Evo-Stik Sticks Like and Alcolin Polyurethane Adhesive and Sealant are also ideal alternatives offering superior movement accommodation compared to acrylics, superior adhesion and very low shrinkage.

12. Can I use Alcolin Acrylic Sealant on damp concrete?

No. Alcolin Polyurethane Adhesive and Sealant is suitable, however the best product to use is one of the new MS polymer hybrid silicone technologies such as Alcolin MS37 1000 Uses, Alcolin Expansion Joint Sealer or Evo-Stik Sticks Like.

13. Is Alcolin Acrylic Sealant suitable for joining a granite / natural stone table top?

No, rather use Alcolin Polyurethane Adhesive and Sealant, Alcolin MS37 1000 Uses or Evo-stik Sticks Like.

14. What mileage can I expect from a 300ml cartridge of Alcolin Acrylic Sealant?

Use the following formulation:

$$L = \frac{300}{W \times D}$$

Where: L = Length of sealant in metres obtained per cartridge.
W = Width of the joint in mm
D = Depth of the joint in mm.

A joint of 5mm width and 5mm depth yields approx. 12.0m per 300ml cartridge

A joint of 4mm width and 4mm depth yields approx. 18.8m per 300ml cartridge

15. How soon after I applied Alcolin Acrylic Sealant can it be over painted?

Water-based paints can be applied an hour after application of the sealant.

16. Can Alcolin Acrylic Sealant be used as a "no more nails" product?

It is not suitable as a direct replacement for a 'no more nails' product such as Alcolin Fix-All or Bostik Mount It. However, it is suitable for some gluing applications e.g. embedding of cornices.

17. Can Alcolin Acrylic Sealant be used for applications permanently under water?

No. While it is waterproof, it is not suitable for permanent underwater exposure.

