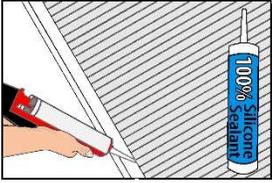


## Polycarbonate & Sealant Compatibility

### "Choosing the Right Type Matters"

Sealants have been used for years in the building and construction industry. In general, sealants are used to fill in gaps to keep out debris or create a seal against wind and water. But not all sealants are the same, choosing the right type is important and really does matter. Selecting the correct sealant requires understanding its chemical makeup and performance characteristics. Choose the wrong sealant and it could cost you a great deal of time and money!



There are a wide variety of sealants available on the market today. Silicone is a material that is found in sealants, caulk, and adhesives. The main difference between a sealant and a caulk is elasticity. When caulk dries, it becomes rather rigid. Sealants are not actually an adhesive, but they do have adhesive qualities. Sealants typically have a lower strength and higher elongation than adhesive. Silicone sealant is a liquid form of adhesive and looks like a gel. Unlike some adhesives, silicone sealants must cure.

***As the name suggests, a 100% silicone sealant is not 'cut' with any solvents or oils.***

Here's a few of the mostly commonly asked questions:

#### **What type of sealant should be used with multiwall or corrugated polycarbonate sheets?**

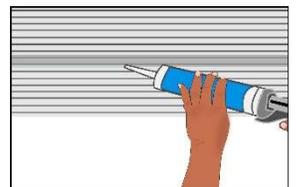
*"We only recommend using a 100% silicone on polycarbonate sheets. Silicone sealants are durable, adhere well, and are resistant to the sun, moisture, weathering, and temperature change."*

#### **What are the consequences of using a sealant that is incompatible with polycarbonate?**

*"You have to be careful when sealing polycarbonate. Using the wrong sealant may cause cracking or a condition called crazing. This is when fine lines appear on the surface of the sheet. Many manufacturers will void their warranties if an incompatible product is used."*

#### **What about a sealant that has been around for years by the name of Butyl?.....DO NOT USE!**

Silicone sealants have had success in structural glazing applications because they do not degrade in the sunlight and they resist mold, mildew, and most chemicals. The material does not yellow over time and can be applied at virtually any temperature. The silicone sealant's unique polymer structure remains flexible over time, allowing for polycarbonate sheet movement without failing.



***"Silicone sealants maintain their elasticity and stability in both high and low temperatures."***

Using the wrong sealant can cause serious sheet degradation, void the warranty, and cost a significant amount of money and time to fix. Bottom line - do your homework and make sure the sealant is compatible with polycarbonate and meets all the required criteria.

The following is a list of frequently recommended silicone sealants for use with polycarbonate.

- **GE – Contractor's Sealant SCS1000**
- **GE – Construction Sealant SCS1200**
- **GE – SilPruf™ Sealant SCS2000**
- **Dow Corning – 999 Silicone Sealant**
- **Dow Corning – 795 Silicone Sealant**

**\*Always check with the polycarbonate sheet manufacturer before using any sealant.**