

# The Master Caulksmith™

by **Roy Cannon**

## Comments from the Field

*I'm devoting this edition of the Master Caulksmith™ to readers' comments regarding previous editions of the Caulksmith.*

In the Master Caulksmith article titled Lexan and Plexiglass which speaks to sealant use on these particular substrates, I should state that the samples tested were all untreated versions and did not have factory surface treatments for UV or mar resistance. Field experience and project-specific testing on various treated samples are consistent with the results illustrated in the article. And while we are on the subject, I would also like to mention the fact that some ingredients of sealants may eventually cause degradation of physical properties of Lexan and Plexiglas products. The ingredients I am referring to however are generally contained only in urethane-based products – *which are typically not used in glazing applications anyway*. My thanks to an observant industry colleague for commenting on this article and prompting this clarification.

A follow-up question regarding the Painting and Caulk article which discussed the application relationship to paint and sealants comes from Patrick Harle of Munster, IN. He asks why there is sometimes a very slow cure – or even a complete absence of cure – when paints are applied over certain sealants. What Patrick's referring to is what's happening when the paint applied is fine and dries/cures as expected on all surfaces *with the exception of areas applied over sealant*.

In these areas, the paint simply remains wet and uncured causing a serious and unacceptable condition. From my experience the fatal combination is a "tin" catalyzed urethane-based joint sealant and an alkyd-based paint or coating that contains "drying" oils and catalysts. My theory is that the "tin" catalyst contained in the sealant attracts the "drying" catalysts contained in the paint or coating and *literally sucks them out of the coating* – leaving an un-catalyzed coating system laying on top of the sealant.

Unfortunately there is no easy fix to this. Ultimately the sealant is either removed or replaced with a sealant more compatible with the coating or a suitable coating can be found to cover the existing sealant. In any case, this problem could have been completely avoided along with the obvious expense involved had someone done their homework prior to the commencement of work. Like the old carpenter's saying goes, "Measure twice, cut once!"

*If there is a subject you would like to see discussed and published on the Master Caulksmith section at Pecora.com, simply direct your request or question via e-mail to Cannonr@pecora.com. I appreciate the opportunity to share my many years of sealant knowledge and experience in the interest of supporting those who strive for perfection throughout the waterproofing industry.*

