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Fill The Crack Around the Bathtub or Shower

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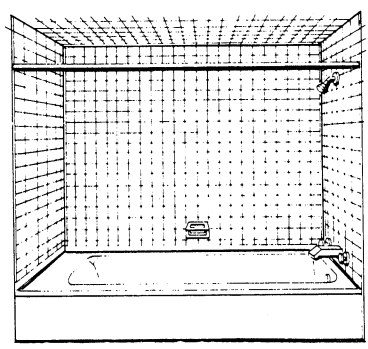
simple home repairs

Sandra Shank, Extension Specialist, Housing-Home Furnishings

FILL THE CRACK AROUND BATHTUB OR SHOWER

YOUR PROBLEM

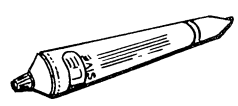
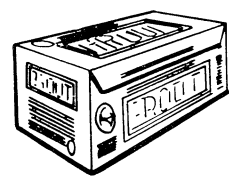
There's a crack between the bathtub and wall. It should be filled to keep water out. Water can damage the walls and house frame. The crack catches dirt and looks bad.



WHAT YOU NEED

There are two types of waterproof crack filler. Choose one:

1. Waterproof grout
2. Plastic sealer



Grout comes in powder form. It must be mixed with water. You can mix it in small amounts at a time. Grout costs less than plastic sealers.

Plastic sealer comes in a tube. It looks like toothpaste. It is easier to use than grout, but costs more. Read directions on the package before you begin your project.

HOW-TO

Prepare the surface

1. Remove the old crack filler from the crack. (Fig 1.)
2. Wash the surface to remove soap, grease, and dirt. (Fig 2.)
3. Dry the surface well before you make repairs. (Fig 3.)

Using grout

Put a small amount of grout in a bowl. (Fig. 4) Slowly add water and mix until you have a thick paste. Put this mixture in the crack with a putty knife. (Fig. 5) Press in to fill the crack. (Fig. 6) Smooth the surface. (Fig. 7)

Wipe excess grout from the wall and tub before it gets dry and hard. Let the grout dry well before anyone uses the tub.

Empty any left-over grout mixture. (Not down the drain!) Wash your bowl and knife before grout dries on them.

Using plastic sealer

You can squeeze plastic sealer from the tube in a ribbon along the crack. Use a putty knife or spatula to press it down and fill the crack. Smooth the surface. Work fast! Plastic sealer dries in a very few minutes. Keep the cap on the tube when you're not using it. (Fig. 8)

YOUR REWARD

- A better looking bathroom.
- Prevent water damage to the house.
- You save money by doing the job yourself.

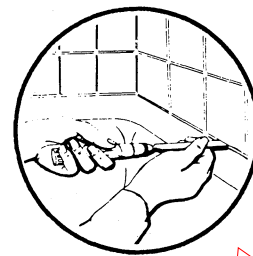


Fig. 1

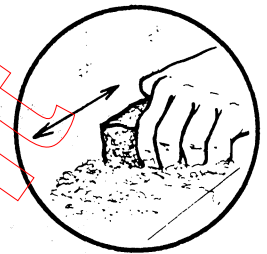


Fig. 2

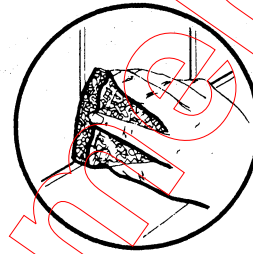


Fig. 3



Fig. 4

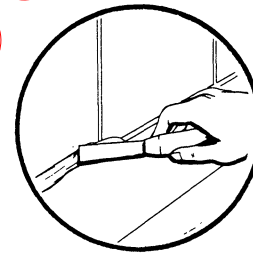


Fig. 5

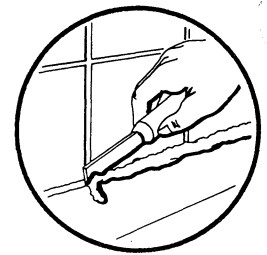


Fig. 6

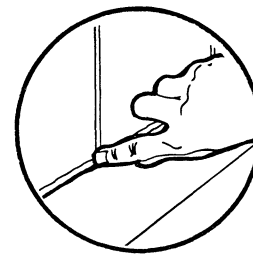


Fig. 7

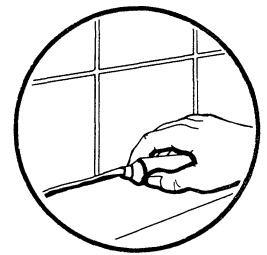


Fig. 8

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