

# COMPARISON OF RETAIL MARINE SEALANTS FOR USE IN BEDDING DECK FITTINGS

SEALANT	BRANDS	TENSILE STRENGTH (PSI)	ELONGATION (PERCENT)	CHEMICAL RESISTANT	DIRT RESISTANT	INCOMPATIBLE WITH	COMMENTS
BUTYL	Butyl tape	15	>1,000	No	No		<i>Can be difficult to obtain</i>
POLYSULFIDE	Boatlife Life-Caulk	170	150 <sup>1</sup>	Yes	Yes	Plastic	<i>Need adequate thickness</i>
POLYETHER	3M 4000 UV, West Marine Multi-Caulk	200-250	600-800	Yes	Yes	Some plastic <sup>2</sup>	<i>Difficult to disassemble</i>
LOW-STRENGTH POLYURETHANE	Sikaflex 295 UV, Sikaflex 291 LOT <sup>3</sup>	160-200	500-700	No	Yes	Plastic <sup>4</sup>	
SILICONE	3M Marine Silicone, West Marine Marine Silicone Sealant, Boatlife Marine Silicone	200-220	350	Yes	No		<i>Does not age well, leaves residue that prevents adhesion of new sealants</i>
MEDIUM-STRENGTH POLYURETHANE	3M 4200, Sikaflex 291	260-300	500-750	No	Yes	Plastic	<i>Construction adhesive</i>
HIGH-STRENGTH POLYURETHANE	3M 5200, Sikaflex 292	>550	500-570	No	Yes	Plastic	<i>Construction adhesive</i>

<sup>1</sup>Tested at 500 percent, but in real-world applications 150 percent with caution against more than 25 percent elongation

<sup>2</sup>West Marine Multi-Caulk is not compatible with ABS or Lexan.

<sup>3</sup>Long Open Time

<sup>4</sup>Sikaflex 295 can be used with plastic if a primer is applied first

- Most appropriate for re-bedding deck fittings
- Avoid unless bedding plastics
- Least appropriate for re-bedding deck fittings