



MERLYN

STEP-BY-STEP GUIDE

How to seal a shower enclosure the right way



How to seal a shower enclosure the right way

Follow our step-by-step guide for a professional result.

After time, the silicone sealant in your [shower enclosure](#) may need replacing. If an acetoxy based silicone with no anti-fungal properties has been used, black mould stains can build-up around your shower tray and the sealant can detach from the shower wall, which can cause water to leak.

Our step-by-step guide takes the hassle out of a seemingly tricky DIY task.

You'll learn how to replace old silicone sealant and how to seal your shower tray to a professional standard. Let's get started.

What you need:

Before you tackle the job, check that you have the following tools to hand.

- **Silicone sealant** – choose a product that is designed for bathrooms and contains a neutral cure anti-fungal additive.
- **A sealant gun** – helps to apply the sealant evenly and forces sealant into any cavities to achieve a consistent bead.
- **Silicone sealant smoothing tool** – designed to remove excess.
- **Stanley knife** – use to slice away old sealant. Silicone remover can also be used to remove the residue that remains.
- **Thick gloves** – for protection when using the Stanley knife.
- **Masking tape** – mark area so you can achieve an even line and neat finish.
- **Silicone wipes and a damp cloth** – for smoothing the sealant and cleaning the area. De-greaser can also be used.

Step 1: Remove old sealant

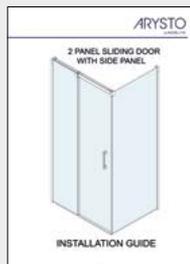
You should wear thick gloves for this step. Using a Stanley knife or similar, gently slice away the old sealant in small sections. Take care when doing this in order to avoid scratching or damaging the surface. Try to remove as much as possible through this initial process.

If you are left with small strands of sealant, simply use your thumb or an old cloth until they come away. For extra tough residue that's difficult to get rid of, you may need to apply a sealant remover. Before you move onto step 2, ensure that all old sealant is fully removed, this will help you to achieve a long-lasting result.

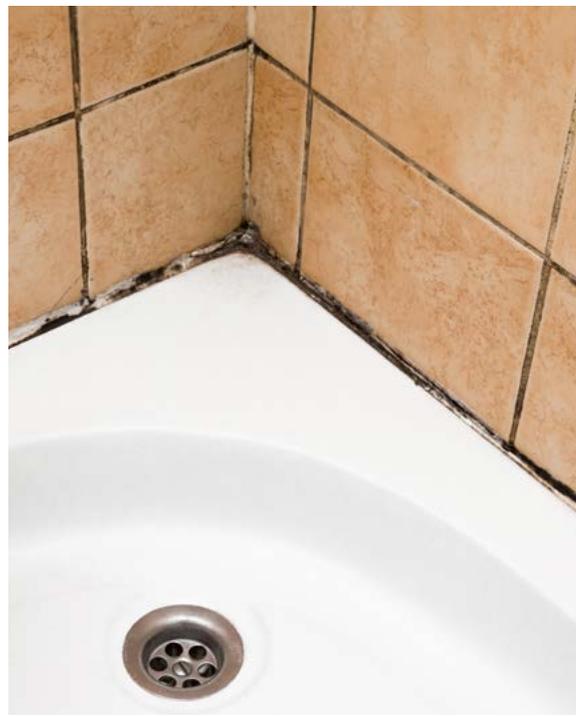
Step 2: Prepare the area

Preparation is an important step and shouldn't be overlooked. After removing the old sealant, make sure you remove any dust or loose deposits. This can be done with a vacuum cleaner. A silicone remover can be used for any hard to remove residue. Then clean the shower tray surface and tiles with a wipe or damp cloth soaked in water and mild detergent.

Leave the surface to dry for a couple of hours. The area must be completely free of moisture before you move onto step 3. If the surface is still wet, it will affect the application process and the longevity of the new sealant.



Before you begin step 3, read the manufacturer's instruction thoroughly.



Step 3:

Apply the sealant

To reseal the shower tray, you will need a sealant gun. Start by inserting a new tub of neutral cure anti-fungal sealant into the gun. Cut the top at a 45-degree angle and 5-6mm hole. Make sure you don't cut too much off.

Next, place the masking tape above and below where you will be applying the sealant. You should leave a 3-4mm gap on either side. This will help you achieve a straight, even line and avoid any mess.

Start in the inner corner and apply pressure gently to trigger the sealant gun and work towards the front of the shower tray in a continuous movement. The sealant should be applied evenly around the shower tray – you can come back and apply more if needed. If you apply too much all at once, it can be difficult to remove. The amount of silicone sealant should be enough to cover any gaps.

Once you've applied the sealant, release pressure from the sealant gun and wipe any excess from the nozzle and place the lid back on.

Next, you'll want to ensure that there's an even, smooth line of sealant around the shower tray. You can use a silicone sealant smoothing tool and gently apply pressure, pulling the tool along the tray to remove any excess. Alternatively, you can simply moisten a cloth and use your index finger to run along the sealant bead. The curve of your finger tip will ensure a perfect finish.

To finish, remove the masking tape before the silicone sets. This will result in a watertight seal that's free from blemishes. We recommend leaving the shower for 24 hours before using it.

[Take a look at our range of shower trays here](#)

