

Taken from an e-mail message written by Don Deese (Catalina 27 Owner)

Gary,

Another way to seal the windows is to use butyl tape (butyl tape is available at an auto glass replacement shop; locally, a 3/8 inch x 10 foot roll was \$11.00). This is the material used to replace car windshields. It is an excellent adhesive, it remains pliable, and it seals very effectively (you don't see too many car windows leaking and they are exposed to all sorts of weather). The butyl tape idea appeared on this list some time ago.

The problem I had with caulk was getting the window back into the opening. My windows fit snugly into the opening. Unfortunately, trying to fit the windows into their opening resulted in my getting caulk all over everything. I cleaned up the caulk, but (alas) ended up with parts of the windows that were not properly caulked (that is, there were voids through which water "poured" into the boat). I redid the caulking job this year, using butyl tape. I was not happy (major understatement) at having to redo the windows, but I had serious leaking and I was installing new cushions and carpeting. So I bit the bullet, ripped out the windows, followed the prep procedures you outlined, but used butyl tape rather than caulk. The procedure was to apply the butyl tape around the window frame. (The tape comes in a roll of round "tape" that is coiled up with wax paper separating the coils.) I then inserted the window into the opening, and tightened the screws to their final setting (you do not have to worry about a "setting up" interval, as butyl tape does not set). I used a razor blade to carefully trim off any tape that had oozed out from around the frame. I have found that the butyl tape works GREAT - it is easy to use, and there has been no subsequent leaking. Considering that I've had car windshields replaced and they have never leaked, I am confident that the butyl tape will be watertight.

To whoever posted the original idea about butyl tape: THANKS!

Regards,

Don Deese