

Tikalflex TSC | White and Grey | Important Notes

Due to differences in the pigmentation formula of the **white** and **grey** versus the **black Tikalflex TSC** products, we would like to recommend some procedures slightly different for application, cure time, sanding, and general maintenance when these products are used.

The lighter coloured caulks will give the same great results that have come to be expected from Tikalflex TSC, but it should be recognized that being lighter coloured they are not as “forgiving” as the black caulk and also subject to environmental staining.

Applicators' instructions:

These notes are supplemental to general technical Datasheets and do not replace them.

Special care must be taken to properly prepare and clean the seams prior to caulking.

Final sanding of the seam walls with a Tikal Seam Sander or similar tool should fair the seam's surface, rough up remaining mill marks or saw 'polishing' and also remove any wood grain filaments.

Thorough cleaning with a vacuum or air blower is a must to remove any sawdust or other contaminants and then the seams must then be carefully cleaned with clean cotton rags and acetone. Any contaminants left in the seam may show within the cured caulk product whereas it would not be noticeable in black caulk.

Do not use any type of wood primers intended for other caulk products. This will defeat the adhesion of the product, void the warranty, and may cause staining within the cured caulking. We recommend use of a bondbreaker tape in the base of the seam.

It is important to slightly *overfill* the seams with **Tikalflex TSC** so that when it is pulled back along the seam with a flexible putty knife, it will remain proud of the deck surface and cure in this manner.



The caulking should never cure lower than the surrounding deck where it may trap contaminants within the curing material.

In deeper seams (5mm +) it is especially important to make sure the caulk is all the way to the bottom of the seam, and some caulk is left proud of the seam surface.

Pinch the tube or attached nozzle to facilitate filling the seam from the bottom up.

Cure time and sanding:

Cure time is a function of the cross-sectional dimensions of the seam and the ambient temperature and humidity of the work area.

Conditions of cold or very dry air increase cure time.

Generally, the caulking cures from the top down at a rate of about 1 to 2 millimeters per day.

A seam of 5 x 6mm under normal conditions (estimating around 23°C @ 50 – 70% relative humidity) will be ready for sanding in 4-5 days.

When using white and gray **Tikalflex TSC**, allowing additional drying time is always helpful if the situation permits. For larger seams or colder, dryer conditions, a minimum 7 days, up to ten days cure is recommended.

Problems Caused by Premature Sanding of Caulk Seams:

Premature sanding of not fully cured caulking can also result in deformation, and 'dragging' or wrinkling of the caulk surface.

If this is observed, then wait an additional appropriate period of time before resuming to sand. Trying to sand the newly caulked decks before complete curing must be avoided, as any uncured caulking will absorb the sanding dust as well as other contaminants, causing discoloration as well as possibly compromising the seam.



When sanding the white and gray caulk, we have found that it is helpful to start with 80 grit and then 'finish sand' the seams with 100 or 120 grit sandpaper.

This 'fine sanding' helps to smooth the caulk out, and will assist in preventing contaminants from accumulating in the small crevices.

Caulk Maintenance, Repairs, and Cleaning:

The light coloured deck caulking should be treated like any other light coloured accessory - such as boat cushions and upholstery.

That is to say that dirt and contaminants will show more against a lighter background.

Regular maintenance and cleaning must be done on a reasonable schedule, including a periodic sanding (yearly, or dependent on use & conditions) of the teak deck to smooth ridges which will actually increase the deck's lifespan.

It should also be noted that oils, sealers, and other coatings will show more against our light colored **Tikalflex TSC**.

Note: Varnish will **NOT** stick to **ANY Tikalflex TSC** teak deck caulk!

Soot or oily stains if left on a deck for extended periods of time may leach into the caulking and cause staining and discoloration. If normal cleaning does not remove a stubborn stain, try a light sanding of the seam with 100 grit sandpaper.

If a particularly stubborn stain cannot be removed, or if the caulk is gouged/damaged, it is easy to cut a small amount of caulk out in a 'vee' and the tape and re-caulk the problem area. **Tikalflex TSC** will stick to itself so well that it will be impossible to separate the old and new areas when it is cured. Lightly sand the repaired area to blend in.

TDC Liquid is designed to be used as often as the crews require, and are both *U.S. Clean Marina* and *MARPOL* compliant for safe discharge into any waterway or marina.

When possible, we recommend that our cleaners are used with a white "Scotchbrite" type scrubbing pad, which will safely clean and also help to smooth the deck. Problematic stains such as diesel, wine, fish blood, etc. must be cleaned immediately with TDC Liquid.