

Subject: Silicone Joint Sealing Compound

Date: 7/22/02

Distribution: IQ/Anvilane/Anvilane Pro Lane Customers

Letter No. CEB02-4

One of the key elements of a synthetic lane installation is the proper sealing of the gaps or “joints” between each of the lane panels. A proper seal prevents dirt, water, lane conditioner and lane cleaner from flowing into the area between two lane panels. This protection is important! Excessive exposure to liquids may cause lane panels to swell, and that swelling may lead to problems with lane surface topography.

When Brunswick and DBA synthetic lanes are installed, the panel joints are sealed with silicone. Silicone is an ideal compound for this purpose because it adheres well to the adjoining panels and it maintains flexibility, allowing it to move when necessary as the panels move due to changes in temperature and humidity. (All lane panels have some capacity for swelling or shrinking due to changes in temperature and/or humidity and from exposure to moisture.)

After Brunswick or DBA synthetic lanes have been installed, it is important for the bowling center to do periodic inspections of the panel joints to ensure they are properly sealed. During each inspection the center personnel should check for the following:

1. ***Silicone that has swelled above the surface of the lane.*** If a center experiences a significant, sustained increase in its humidity level, its lane panels may expand to the point that the silicone sealant is “squeezed” until it rises above the lane surface. Bowling balls and lane machines will then contact the silicone and leave traces of it on either side of each lane panel joint. Since silicone repels oils, the center will eventually notice a wicking effect on the lane surface. Even after a fresh application of lane conditioner, a 1-2 inch area on either side of the panel seams will remain dry.

To resolve this problem, use a razor blade to trim the silicone sealant so that it is flush with the lane surface. Next, use an effective lane cleaner (we suggest Brunswick Invincible) to remove any silicone that has been deposited on the lane surface. If necessary, apply undiluted lane cleaner directly to the lane surface with a clean towel. Note: When using any lane cleaner, always follow directions for use as printed on the label.

2. ***Silicone that has deteriorated and left visible gaps between lane panels.*** If silicone deterioration occurs, the panel joint must be completely cleaned and the old silicone removed. Carefully use a utility knife to remove the old silicone, taking extra caution to be sure that you do not scratch or harm panel surfaces.

After the panel joint has been cleaned, protect the surface of each lane panel by applying a strip of 1” masking tape on either side of the panel joint, across the full width of the panels. The tape should be applied so that the joint is exposed and accessible, but the panel surface is covered. Apply a new bead of silicone across the entire width of the joint. Use the following Brunswick components:

84-200430-000

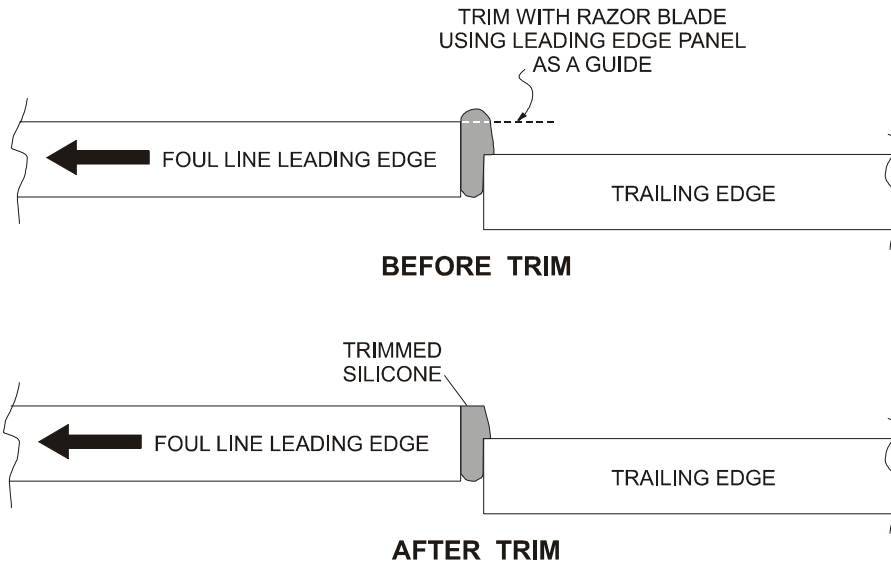
SILICONE

84-200431-000

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Before the silicone has fully set up and is still pliable, use a razor blade to trim the silicone so that it is flush with the leading edge panel surface.

IMPORTANT! Refer to the figure below for the correct razor blade trimming procedure. It is extremely important to use the "leading edge" panel as a guide for the razor blade in order to prevent panel damage.



Tom Lehmkuhl
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