



## Care & Maintenance Instructions

### For Bath Concepts (Formerly BCI) DuraFlex Silicone Sealant

Congratulations on the purchase of your new acrylic bath enclosure! DuraFlex's exclusive color matched silicone sealant will provide protection against water penetration for many years if it is cared for properly. The silicone is designed with a fungicide that provides mold and mildew resistance. To ensure top performance out of DuraFlex silicone sealants, please follow the care and maintenance instructions below.

Below is a list of chemicals, materials and environmental factors which may discolor silicone sealant from its original color:



1. **Cleaning products that contain ammonia**
2. **Elevated levels of bleach – continuous exposure or submersion**
3. **Chlorinated cleaning solutions**
4. **Denatured alcohol cut with water, which has a high iron oxide level, may turn the sealant red.**
5. **Petroleum solvent**

6. **High temperatures above 400 F**
7. **Paint fumes (enamel or solvent)**
8. **Mildew Growth. The most common color of mold is black. Bead of silicone must and should be cleaned and maintained on a weekly basis. Build-up of spores will create mold.**

**NOTE: There is no sealant (hybrid, silicone, polyurethane, or acrylic) that is 100% mildew proof.** Most sealant manufacturers (i.e., Dow Corning, GE, OSI, Dap, Red Devil and even Bath Concepts) claim their products are mildew resistant. The key word here is “resistant” not “proof”.

When human and food spores are exposed to moisture and humidity the sealant becomes an ideal place for mildew to grow. Mildew often appears as a black, white or pink substance and can emit a foul odor. It's important to clean mildew quickly before it spreads behind the sealant. If that happens, the sealant may need to be replaced.

**There are four contributing factors that create the perfect setting for mildew to develop and spread at a quick rate. They are:**

1. **High humidity and moisture**
2. **Very little air movement**
3. **Very low UV light exposure**
4. **Poor sanitary conditions.**



**To prevent and lessen the chance for mildew to develop, we recommend the following mold prevention tips:**

- **Roll Up The Welcome Mat.** Make an environment unfavorable for mold growth. Mold thrives on moist surfaces, especially dark warm crevices. Start by letting some light into your bathroom. Open the curtains if there is a window. If there is no window, you can leave a light on now and then – preferably one that is energy efficient or has the full spectrum of light similar to natural sunlight.
- **Control Humidity and Ventilate** to prevent bathroom mold. Opening a window to allow fresh air in helps. However, if you happen to live in a humid climate, such as Florida, it may be wiser to simply turn on the air conditioning and make use of fans. Good ventilation is required to control bacteria growth. When you take a shower, steam accumulates on the surfaces throughout the bathroom. A bathroom fan helps draw excess steam out of your bathroom. If you don't have a fan and keep the door shut while showering, the steam has nowhere to go. Condensation collects on the mirror, ceiling and shower walls. This invites mold spores to grow.
- **Keep It Dry.** After showering, use a squeegee to wipe excess water off your shower walls. Towel dry surfaces with excess moisture such as floors, walls, and even the ceiling (Tip: Put a towel on the end of a broom for better reach).
- **Less Clutter.** Keep fewer products in your bathtub for mold to grow on. Shampoo & conditioner bottles, body wash, razors, shaving gel, bath salts, washcloths, loofah sponges, cups, toys and other items left in and around your bathtub provide convenient crevices for mold spores to grow and hide behind. These items should be limited in a mold prone bathroom, and the ones you do leave in your bathroom should be cleaned with a mold removal product and dried thoroughly.
- **Wash Bathroom Rugs** frequently to prevent bathroom mold from growing.
- **Clean Curtains.** Use a mildew-resistant shower curtain or wash shower curtains a couple times per year in the washing machine, or replace it as needed.
- **Clean Towels.** A moldy towel will smell sour or stale. You can add vinegar to the wash to help freshen them. Never throw wet towels in a hamper or on the floor. Always hang towels up to dry. If your bathroom is prone to mold, it might help to hang your towels up outside to air dry.
- **MOST IMPORTANTLY, Clean Your Bathroom** regularly with products that will not endanger your family's health or the environment. Beware of abrasive products. Abrasive cleansers and scrubbing products can cause bathroom surfaces to wear out more quickly which makes the bathroom more susceptible to mold growth.

With no current panacea formula available, Bath Concepts strongly encourages the prevention tips mentioned above as the best methods to fight against mold growth.

**If you have any further questions, feel free to contact a friendly Bath Concepts Dealer Support Representative at: 800-963-8827 or [orders@bathconcepts.com](mailto:orders@bathconcepts.com)**