

# Tech Hotline

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## “Paintable” Pecora Sealants and Sto Coatings

Many sealants are said to be paintable, the most common being two part urethane sealants. Silicone sealants, on the other hand, are not known to be paintable because most water-based paints will not adhere to them. Exceptions to these general rules may exist, so it is always best to investigate the compatibility of a particular paint with a sealant. This Tech Hotline discusses some of the pros and cons of painting over sealants and presents testing of selected Sto Coatings over Pecora polyurethane sealants. The testing does not pertain to Sto textured finishes which are NOT RECOMMENDED to be applied over sealants.

Painting over sealants has both advantages and disadvantages. One of the pros is that paint will protect the sealant from UV degradation and can prolong its life. Paint is also generally available in a much wider range of colors than sealant and paint can be applied continuously across the sealant without having to start and stop the paint application. The negatives include that testing is needed to verify paint adhesion to the sealant, and the paint can split, crack and peel as the joint sealant ages and undergoes normal cycles of expansion and contraction. Some specifiers and engineers believe the extended service life of the sealant provided by a top coat of paint outweighs the risk of cracking and peeling that may occur. Some building owners expect that the paint over the sealant will weather and perform the same as on other parts of the wall, which may not be the case. Whatever one's opinion on this topic, important questions to ask when deciding to paint over sealant include:

- Does the sealant manufacturer claim that the sealant is paintable?
- What types of paints does the sealant manufacturer recommend or caution against using?
- What other restrictions, warnings, or limitations does the sealant manufacturer post if the sealant is painted?
- Has the sealant ever been used or tested with the specified paint before and, if so, were the results acceptable?

- How long does the sealant have to dry or cure before it can be painted?

Pecora Corporation has tested adhesion of popular Sto coatings over two Pecora polyurethane sealants and found adhesion to be satisfactory. See Table 1.

Table 1: Adhesion of Sto Coatings to “Paintable” Pecora Sealants (modified ASTM C 1135 test)

Pecora Sealant	Sto Coating	Extension %	Failure
Dynatrol II (2 part polyurethane)	StoColor Lastic	50	None
	StoColor Silcolastic	50	None
	StoColor Acryl Plus	50	Nominal adhesive failure. Slight cracking at 28°F
	StoColor Acryl	50	Adhesive failure, alligator cracking
Dynatrol 1-XL-516 (1 part polyurethane)	StoColor Lastic	25	None
	StoColor Silcolastic	25	None
	StoColor Acryl Plus	25	None
	StoColor Acryl	25	None

Note: test results based on modified ASTM C 1135 with 5 cycles at room temperature and at 28°F. No failure means no adhesion loss of coating, peeling, cracking or splitting of coating observed.

The final decision on whether to paint over the sealant should be made by the building owner or owner's representative after taking into account all of the relevant issues. Sealant manufacturers' instructions, specifications and details for the application and use of their sealants should always be followed and sealant manufacturers should always be contacted in the event there are questions.