

## "The Anatomy of Sealants and their Relative Performance with Building Materials in Different Environments"

Henry C. Ashton  
 Director of Product Development  
 Henkel Consumer Adhesives, North America

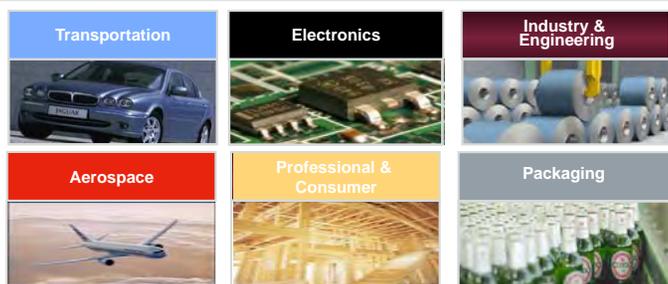


Slide 2 August 3, 2012 Anatomy of Sealants – Henry Ashton, Henkel Consumer Adhesives



## World's Largest Adhesive & Sealant Company

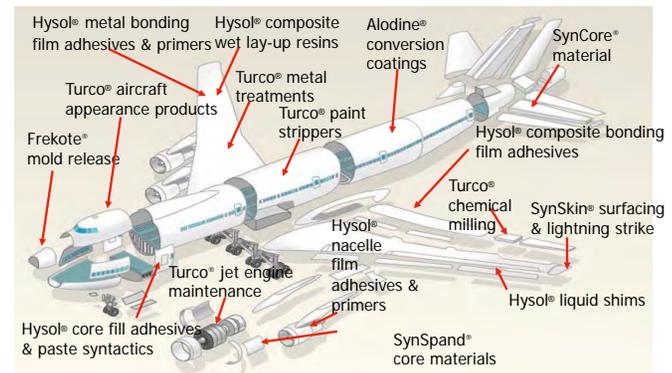
North American Adhesive Market Segments



Slide 3 August 3, 2012 Anatomy of Sealants – Henry Ashton, Henkel Consumer Adhesives



## Aerospace Example



Slide 4 August 3, 2012 Anatomy of Sealants – Henry Ashton, Henkel Consumer Adhesives



## Presentation Outline

- Sealant physical (movement) properties and chemistry.
- Types of Joint
- Thermo-mechanical Effects
- Sealant Use Considerations
- Sealant Failure Modes

Slide 5 August 3, 2012 Anatomy of Sealants – Henry Ashton, Henkel Consumer Adhesives



## Building Idioms Change Over Time

**6-9<sup>th</sup> Century AD**

- Exterior (walls 1.2 meters thick)



- Interior



**21<sup>st</sup> Century AD**

- Exterior



- Interior




Slide 6 August 3, 2012 Anatomy of Sealants – Henry Ashton, Henkel Consumer Adhesives



## Sag in wall –

Likely caused by harsh prevailing winds. Structure deformed over time to alleviate applied stress.  
High mass allows for high energy dissipation. **Lack of elasticity leads to permanent deformation.**



Slide 7 August 3, 2012 Anatomy of Sealants – Henry Ashton, Henkel Consumer Adhesives



## Types of Sealant Joint Movement

**Sealant extension:**  
Usually as temperatures drop materials shrink.

**Sealant compression:**  
Usually as temperatures rise materials lengthen or swell.

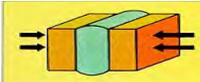
**Total movement Comparison:**

**Sealants: up to 25 %**

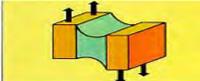
**Mortar: up to 0.4 %**



Extension



Compression



Shear -vertical



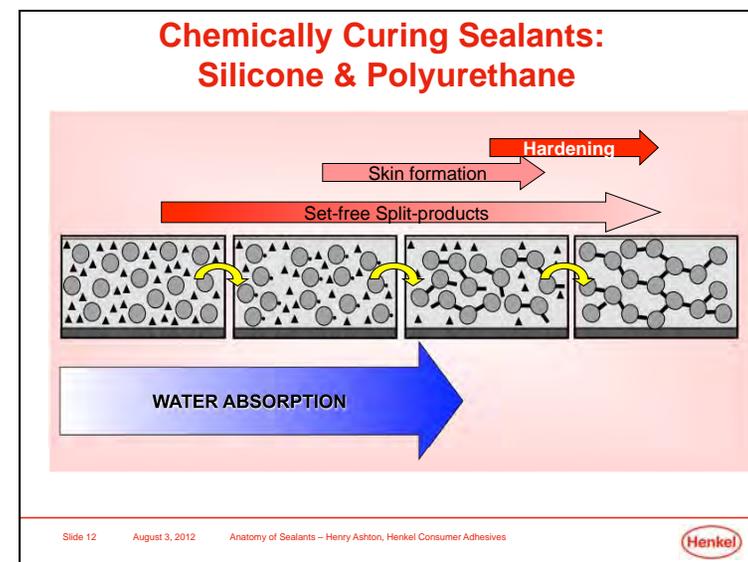
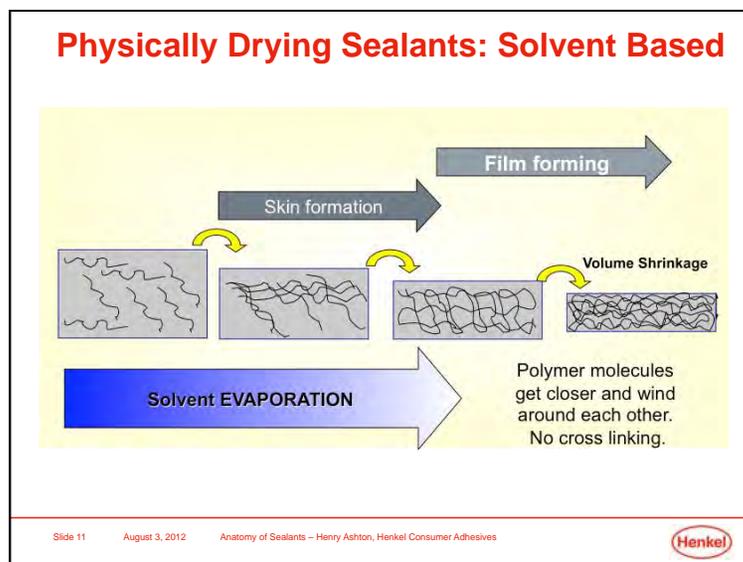
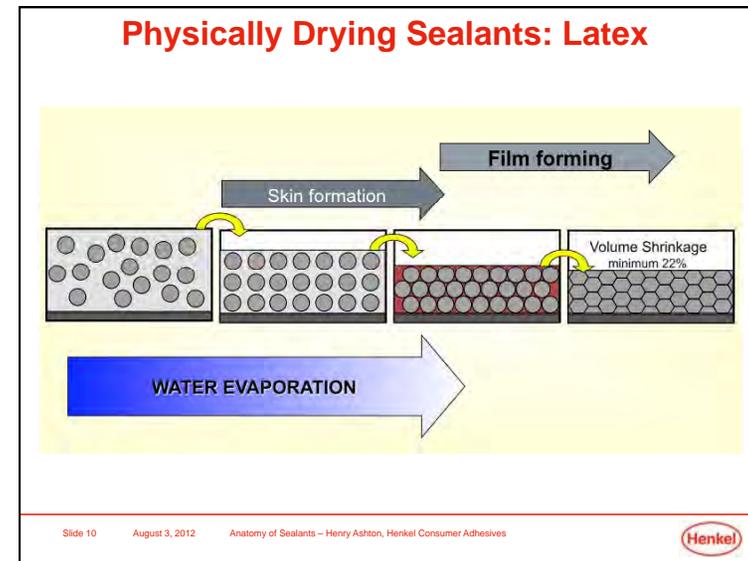
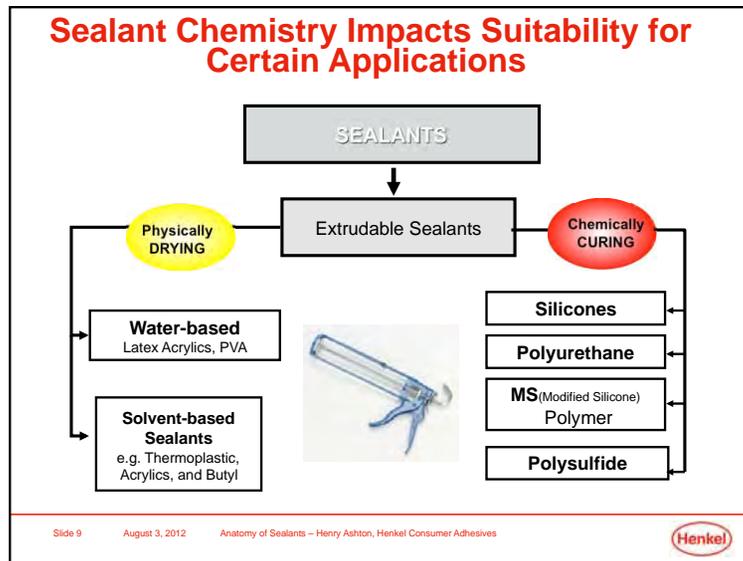
Shear -horizontal

Heating / Cooling Effects

Heating / Cooling Effects  
Load bearing differences  
External mechanical forces - wind

Slide 8 August 3, 2012 Anatomy of Sealants – Henry Ashton, Henkel Consumer Adhesives





## What is a Sealant?

- A sealant is a material that has the adhesive and cohesive properties to form a seal between surfaces while permitting limited movement of the substrates
- Flexible material, polymer based
- Installed in a "wet" or soft form
- Fills gaps
- Compensates for movements between different elements of the construction
- Provides airtight joint, protects against wind.
- Waterproofs joint
- Prevents ingress of microorganisms, pollutants, smoke, fire
- Improves building aesthetics
- Helps dampen noise

Slide 13 August 3, 2012 Anatomy of Sealants – Henry Ashton, Henkel Consumer Adhesives



## Types of Joints

### Expansion Joints:

- Connects large construction elements i.e. Facade coverings, building extensions like garages or balconies
- Sealant requires a high degree of elasticity



### Sanitary Joints:

- Sealing of bathtubs and showers, sinks, tiled walls and floors
- The joints are attacked by water, cleansers and mechanical loading.



### Glass Joints:

- Sealing, supporting glass to window frames
- Sealant requires high durability in terms of UV and temperature resistance



### Connecting Joints:

- Connection of construction elements, such as bricks, siding, stairs, decking as well as window frames/doors
- Minimal movement.



Slide 14 August 3, 2012 Anatomy of Sealants – Henry Ashton, Henkel Consumer Adhesives



## Thermomechanical Effects

### Coefficients of Thermal Linear Expansion (CTLE) of Building Materials

| Building Material (m/m °C x 10-6)      | Building Material (m/m °C x 10-6) |
|--|-----------------------------------|
| • Acrylic glass 80                     | • Sand lime brick 8.5             |
| • Aluminum 24                          | • Tiles 6                         |
| • Concrete / concrete steel 11         | • Copper 16.5                     |
| • Glass 8.5                            | • Brass 18.4                      |
| • Wood, lengthwise to the fiber 7      | • Polyester 25 - 40               |
| • Wood, crosswise to the fiber 40 - 50 | • PVC - windows 78                |
| • Brick 5                              | • Steel 12                        |

Mismatched CTLE's, particularly of contacting materials in a structure, can lead to development of deforming strains upon heating.

The temperature of application of a sealant (the temperature at which an interface is developed between different materials) can have a profound impact on performance

Slide 15 August 3, 2012 Anatomy of Sealants – Henry Ashton, Henkel Consumer Adhesives



## Sealant Use Considerations

### Ease of Extrusion at Various Temperatures:

- As the product temperature is dropped extrusion can become very difficult. This may require heating of the product.
- At higher temperatures the sealant consistency may become too sloppy resulting in poor control by the applicator.





ASTM D2202 Standard Test Method for Slump of Sealants

### Sagging and Leveling:

- In vertical and over head joints the product must not sag after application. This affects aesthetics of the job and the performance of the sealant.
- Higher temperatures will tend to increase sag.
- In horizontal butt joints (pavement seams), a sealant that flows to form a level surface is desirable. This type of sealant is not suitable for vertical and over head applications.

Slide 16 August 3, 2012 Anatomy of Sealants – Henry Ashton, Henkel Consumer Adhesives



## Sealant Use Considerations

### Skinning and Skin Formation Time:

As a sealant dries or cures it develops a dried film on the outside before the inside material dries out or cures. Skinning minimizes dirt pickup. The time to achieve this property is the skin formation time. Excessively fast skinning impedes tooling should tooling be required.

(Typical value -10 to 20 minutes)

### Curing Speed:

Indicates the amount of time that a sealant layer requires to reach its intended performance properties. Refers to both chemically reactive and physically drying sealants. The speed depends on sealant chemistry, cure temperature and relative air humidity.

(Typical value - Latex Acrylics per 5 mm = Approx. 2 days)

### Adhesion to Different Substrates:

Certain sealant chemistries have inherently poor adhesion to certain substrates or under certain conditions, i.e. Acetoxy silicones because of the acetic acid by product during cure show poor long term adhesion to substrates such as cement and concrete.

Long term adhesion can be affected by  
 (1) water, (2) plasticizer migration from  
 (2) substrates, fatigue  
 (3) from repeated movement,  
 (4) effects of sunlight,

Various sealant types and formulations will show different bonding characteristics to various substrates. (Measured by peel strength)



Slide 17 August 3, 2012 Anatomy of Sealants - Henry Ashton, Henkel Consumer Adhesives



## Tips for Sealant Application

### Application Environment: Temperature

- Apply sealant in moderate temperatures between 41°F (5°C) and 86°F (30°C). When this is not possible changes in application method, joint design or sealant choice may be required.
- Applying sealant to joints at temperature extremes – either high or low – will reduce the joint movement capability.
- Low temperatures will prevent proper curing (coalescence) of water based sealants.
- Excessively hot weather may accelerate the sealant cure time resulting in bubbling and shortened working life and tooling time. It may also cause sagging.



Slide 18 August 3, 2012 Anatomy of Sealants - Henry Ashton, Henkel Consumer Adhesives



## Sealant Failure Factors

### Surface Condition & Preparation:

- Application surface not clean
- Coatings completely dry before sealant (i.e. paint, primers)
- Coatings may interfere with sealant adhesion
- Release agents (bath tubs and tub surrounds), surface sealers and coatings (water proofing compounds)
- Raw wood not sealed. Raw wood expands and contract due to moisture changes - probably more than the sealant can handle
- Application substrate was not sound – i.e. rotten wood, crumbling concrete



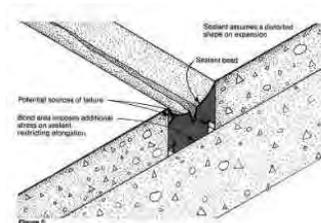
### Weather Factors:

- Applying latex sealant in cold weather – will not cure properly
- Sealant is too cold to flow
- Not enough moisture in air (hot and dry or cold and dry) for sealant cure
- Applying at extremes of temperature range results in loss of movement capability
- High temperatures may result in sagging or may cause premature skinning of the sealant resulting in blistering
- Applying to wet or frozen surfaces
- Exposure to water too soon after application (i.e. rain or from shower). Latex sealant will wash away

Slide 19 August 3, 2012 Anatomy of Sealants - Henry Ashton, Henkel Consumer Adhesives



## Sealant Failure Factors



### Poor Joint Design:

- Joint too narrow (less than 1/4"): Expansion of substrate causes the joints to close too much forcing the sealant out of the joint
- Joint was too wide (greater than 1-2 inches depending on the sealant):
  - Sealant may sag out of the joint
  - A joint that is too wide requires a deeper sealant bead to avoid cohesive failure at the substrate. For example: Two rubber bands of the same length but one is thin and one is thick. The thicker one will not stretch as easily
  - If the sealant bead is too thick it will take a very long time to dry. Joint movement before sealant is cured may cause adhesion failure

### Incorrect Sealant Selection:

- Sealant lacks sufficient movement capability for intended use
- Incompatibility between sealant and substrate, i.e. staining or etching of the substrate, negative effects on the sealant due to migration from substrate, i.e. discoloration
- Poor adhesion to substrate, i.e. acetoxy silicone to concrete or galvanized metal



Slide 20 August 3, 2012 Anatomy of Sealants - Henry Ashton, Henkel Consumer Adhesives

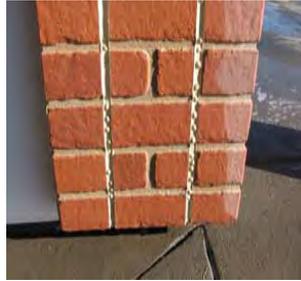


### Thermomechanical Effects – Sealant Deformation

Apparatus designed to measure pressure required to deform a sealant -> bubble



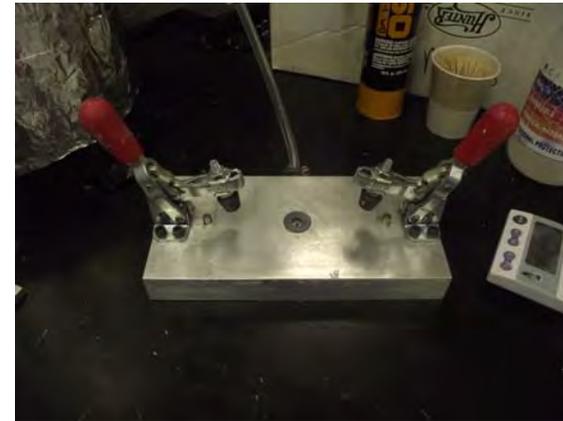
Deformation Example



Slide 21 August 3, 2012 Anatomy of Sealants – Henry Ashton, Henkel Consumer Adhesives



### Sample Holder for Bubble Measurement



Slide 22 August 3, 2012 Anatomy of Sealants – Henry Ashton, Henkel Consumer Adhesives



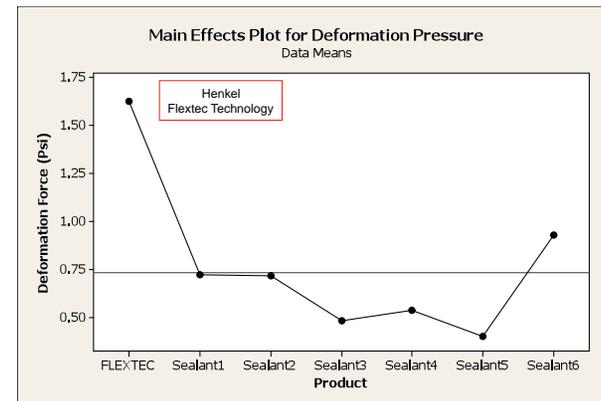
### Examples of holes where vapor exits – blowing out sealant



Slide 23 August 3, 2012 Anatomy of Sealants – Henry Ashton, Henkel Consumer Adhesives

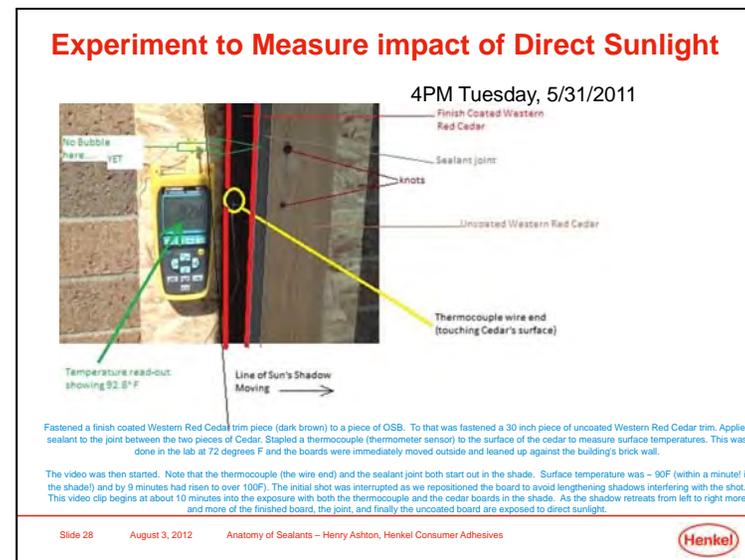
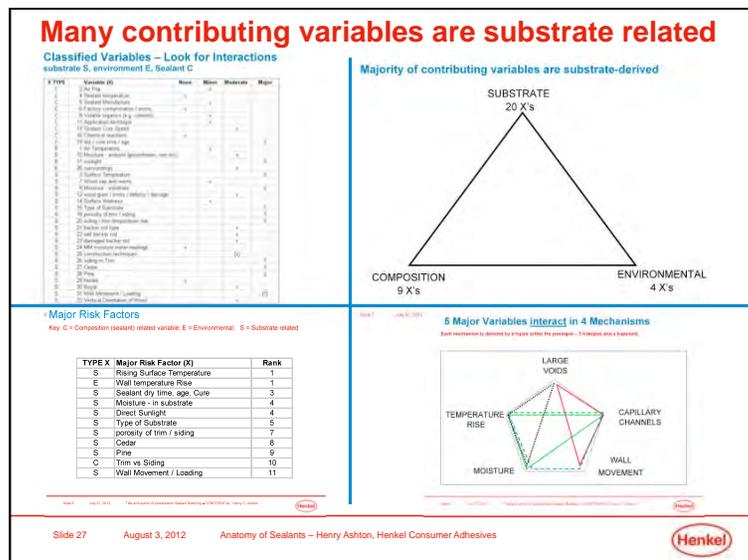
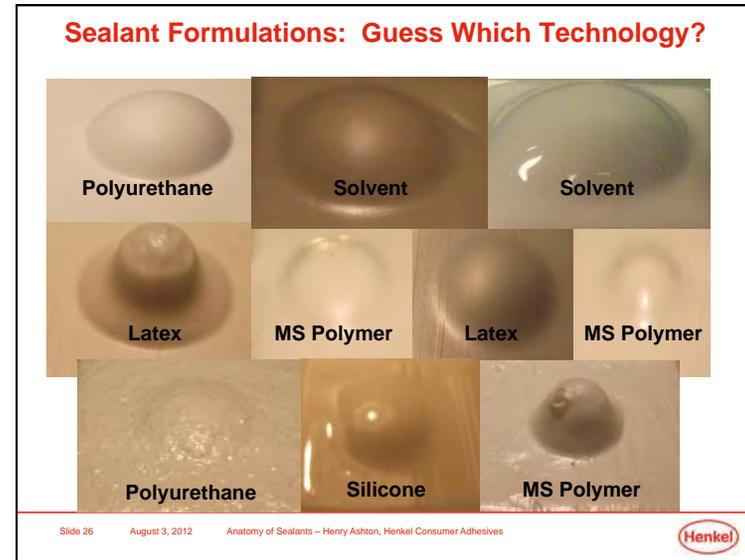
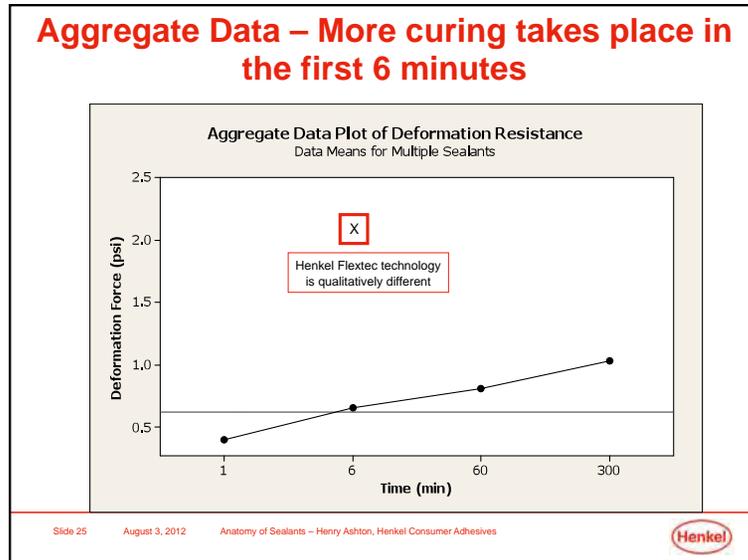


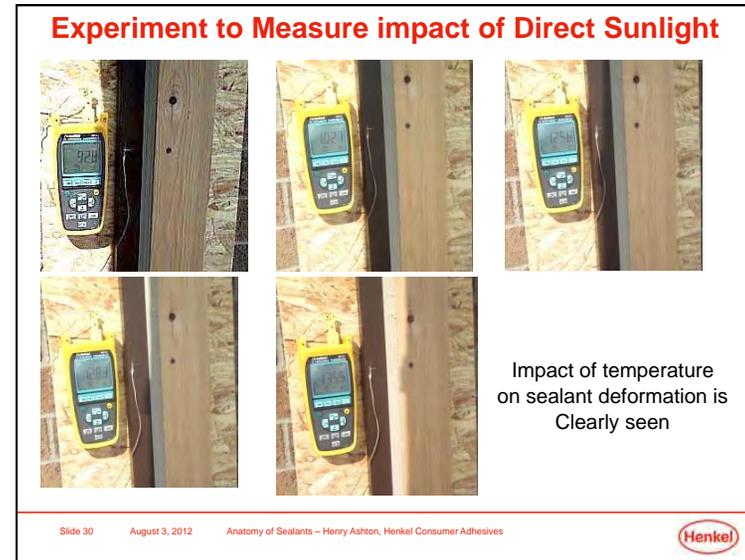
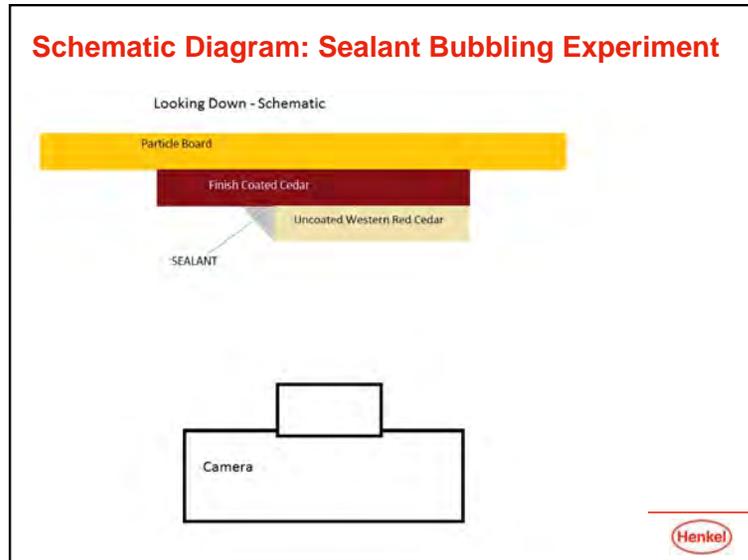
### Flextec Technology Has Superior Deformation Resistance



Slide 24 August 3, 2012 Anatomy of Sealants – Henry Ashton, Henkel Consumer Adhesives







### Sealant Deformation and Bubbling: Cause, Effect, and Recommendations

**Summary:** *What Do We Know? What Have We Learned? What Can We Do?*

**Resources:** R&D + QC + Engineering + Technical Services + Sales/Marketing + Building-Industry Scientists + Forensic Building Consultants

**Test/Sample Environments:** Field + Job-Site + Laboratory/Technical

**Conclusions:**

- 1) There is No Single Cause of Deformations.
- 2) All Sealants Experience Deformation.
- 3) Major Job-Site/Environmental Variables Must Occur.
- 4) Solutions are Complex -- because Substrates, Material Composition, and the Environment Interact and Change.

Slide 31 August 3, 2012 Anatomy of Sealants – Henry Ashton, Henkel Consumer Adhesives

### Sealant Deformation: FAQs and Points of Interest

**Is There a “Silver Bullet” Sealant Solution?:**

- All Sealant Technologies Bubble
  - ✓ Some are Slightly More “Resistant” (Dry, Cure Faster)
- Manufacturing Issues are Negligible
  - ✓ Bubbles aren’t “pre-loaded” into a tube of sealant
- Formulation Changes? ...
  - ✓ VOC formulations show no meaningful difference
- Thermoplastics, MS Polymers, Polyurethanes, etc. ALL BUBBLE

**The Role of Sealants:**

- “Resistance” to Bubbling Builds Over Time (Due to Drying and Curing)
  - ✓ **300 minutes** builds good resistance (over 1 PSI resistance) for most technologies
  - ✓ Thermoplastics (both “regular” and VOC formulations) take longer to dry and cure, which may leave them more vulnerable to **immediate** bubbling pressures
  - ✓ MS Polymers and Polyurethanes show slightly more resistance due to faster drying and curing times, but **aren’t significantly better solutions**
- Only ONE Current Sealant Formulation Showed Significantly Better Resistance to Bubbling vs. Any Other Sealant Formulation
  - ✓ Henkel’s FlexTec Technology (Proprietary)

Slide 32 August 3, 2012 Anatomy of Sealants – Henry Ashton, Henkel Consumer Adhesives

### Sealant Deformation: Understanding Risk-Factors



**“Other” Variables Include:**

- Substrates**
  - ✓ 20 Types of Contributing Substrates Currently Identified
- Compositions (of Sealant)**
  - ✓ 9 Types of Composition Factors Currently Identified
- Environmental**
  - ✓ 4 Types of Environmental Factors Identified

- Again – No Single “Smoking Gun”
- It is the **Interaction** of these Variables that Matters

**Risk-Factors, Force-Ranked: Which Matter Most?**

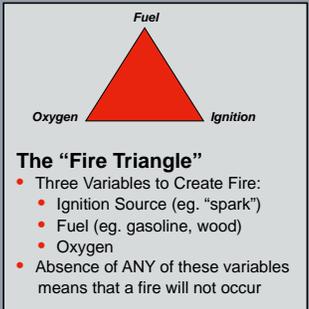
- Rising Surface Temperature
- Environmental/Job-Site Presence of Water
- Rising Wall Temperature
- Moisture in Substrate
- Direct Sunlight
- Type of Substrate
- Sealant: Dry Time, Aging, Curing
- Porosity of Siding and/or Trim
- Cedar Surface
- Pine Surface
- Siding and Trim Interaction
- Wall Movement and Loading
- Damaged Backer Rod

- Moisture and Direct Sunlight Can Cause Certain Risk-Factors to Move Up in Rank

Slide 33 August 3, 2012 Anatomy of Sealants – Henry Ashton, Henkel Consumer Adhesives



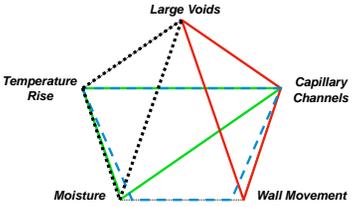
### Sealant Deformation: Major Variables Must Interact



**The “Fire Triangle”**

- Three Variables to Create Fire:
  - Ignition Source (eg. “spark”)
  - Fuel (eg. gasoline, wood)
  - Oxygen
- Absence of ANY of these variables means that a fire will not occur





**The “Bubbling Pentagon”**

- Five Major Variables to Create Bubbling
- **Four Primary Combinations of Variables:**
  1. Temperature Rise + Capillary Channels + Moisture
  2. Large Voids + Capillary Channels + Wall Movement
  3. Capillary Channels + Wall Movement + Temperature Rise
  4. Moisture + Temperature Rise + Large Voids
- If Any of Four Primary Variable Combinations is Existent, Bubbling Can Occur
- Issue: Detection of Primary Combinations

Slide 34 August 3, 2012 Anatomy of Sealants – Henry Ashton, Henkel Consumer Adhesives



### The FlexTec “Intel Inside”



**Henkel FlexTec Advantages:**

- **Henkel’s Flextec Resists Bubbling After 6 Minutes as Well as ANY OTHER Sealant Technology Resists Bubbling After 300 Minutes**
- In addition to drying and curing capability, Henkel’s FlexTec proprietary formulation has built-in properties to resist deformation and bubbling
- **Not “fool-proof”... Remember that All Sealants can Bubble**
  - Henkel Technology offers over twice the resistance to bubbling vs. any other sealant

**Recommended Steps for Bubbling Remediation:**

- Allow for Drainage Plain Behind Cladding
- Time of Day for Application
  - Avoid direct sunlight, if possible
  - Screen from sunlight, if possible
- Control (if Possible) Moisture on Substrate
- Control (if Possible) Temperature on Substrate
- Avoid Tooling or Thinning Thermoplastics
- If Painting with Latex – Wait 3-7 Days for Sealant to Dry and Cure
- Avoid Installing Damaged Trim
- Avoid Installing Damaged Backer Rod
- Create a Capillary Interruption Between the Foundation and the Wall

- **Henkel technology constantly improves the property balance of sealant materials**

Slide 35 August 3, 2012 Anatomy of Sealants – Henry Ashton, Henkel Consumer Adhesives



### Summary: What Do We Know? What Else Can We Learn?



**Henkel/OSI Commitment:**

- Henkel/OSI is committed to delivering home system solutions
  - ✓ Even when the research and the solutions are difficult
- More Detailed Information is Available from Henkel
  - ✓ Testing Procedures/Results
  - ✓ Current R&D Efforts
  - ✓ Customer/Alliance Partner Joint Projects
  - ✓ Industry Collaborative Efforts

**Industry Education:**

- Water Management
- Heat/Sunlight Impact
- Substrates and Materials Impact
- Composition (of Sealant) Impact

- Combination of Variables
- Risk Factors
  - ✓ Continued Study and Remediation
- Integrated Solutions
  - ✓ With Customers
  - ✓ With Manufacturers
  - ✓ With Alliance Partners
- Building Science
  - ✓ Industry Expertise
  - ✓ Full Engagement and Transparency/Visibility

Slide 36 August 3, 2012 Anatomy of Sealants – Henry Ashton, Henkel Consumer Adhesives



**Thank You**

