

## SEAM SEALING

All seams in Congoleum resilient sheet products must be sealed. Seam sealer fuses the wearlayer of the seamed sheets together and locks soil and water out. Seams that have been properly cut, properly adhered to the subfloor with the recommended adhesive, and properly sealed will maintain their original appearance and integrity for the life of the floor covering.

Congoleum has four types of seam sealers. The type used will depend on the composition of the wearlayer. **They are not interchangeable.**

### **⚠ WARNING**

**CONGOLEUM SEAM SEALERS (SU80, SU92, SU102 AND SU106) ARE EXTREMELY FLAMMABLE. AVOID OPEN CONTAINERS. DO NOT SMOKE, EXTINGUISH ALL FLAMES OR OTHER SOURCES OF IGNITION IN AREA. AVOID PROLONGED CONTACT WITH SKIN. PROVIDE ADEQUATE VENTILATION. KEEP AWAY FROM CHILDREN. CAREFULLY READ ALL LABELS ON CANS OR BOTTLES BEFORE USING.**

Lighter fluid, mineral spirits, and lacquer thinner are referenced in this section for various uses:

### **CAUTION**

*Lighter fluid, mineral spirits, and lacquer thinner are flammable materials. Read and follow cautionary instructions on the labels of these products.*

### **A. SU80 AND SU92 SEAM SEALERS**

Use SU80 or SU92 Seam Sealer for sealing seams on products with vinyl resin composition, i.e. non-urethane, wearlayers, plus Specifications and Foundations. SU80 and SU92 are identical seam sealers. The only difference is the method of packaging, as shown at right (Figure 1).

1. SU80 Seam Sealer is a complete kit. It contains a TO70 applicator nozzle with cleaning wire, plastic squeeze bottle, and 2 ounces of seam sealer in a glass bottle.
2. SU92 Seam Sealer is packaged in an 8-fluid-ounce metal can (TO70 Applicator Kit is required for sealing seams).

### **B. TO70 SEAM SEALER APPLICATOR KIT**

This kit is required when using SU92 Seam Sealer. It contains two 6-ounce plastic squeeze bottles, two TO70 applicator nozzles, two cleaning wires and instructions (Figure 2).

### **C. SU102 SEAM SEALER**

SU102 is recommended for high-gloss urethane wearlayers on products with a vinyl cushion layer. This seam sealer is a two-part mixture. Fluid labeled Part A and Part B are included in each kit. The entire contents of both bottles must be mixed together prior to use. The kit comes complete with an applicator nozzle, plastic squeeze bottle, and seam sealer.

One kit will be required for each installation with seams; excess seam sealer cannot be saved for reuse.



Fig. 1. SU80 and SU92 Seam Sealers.



Fig. 2. TO70 Seam Sealer Applicator Kit



Fig. 3. SU102 High-Gloss Urethane Seam Sealer Kit

### **D. SU106 SEAM SEALER**

SU106 Seam Sealer (Figure 4) is recommended for sealing seams in all products with a satin-gloss urethane wearlayer, including Xclusive with Scotchgard™ Protector. SU106 contains seam sealer and an abrasive pad for pre-treating the seams on Xclusive. **Pre-treating seams on Ultima is not required or recommended.**

**Note: SU106 Seam Sealer replaces SU105 Seam Sealer**



Fig. 4. SU106 Seam Sealer Kit

## E. CHARACTERISTICS OF SEAM SEALERS

### 1. SU80 AND SU92 SEAM SEALERS

- Shake the seam sealer one-half hour before use to mix components within the sealer and allow air bubbles to completely disappear. Failure to do so will result in a seam sealer bead that is higher in gloss than the floor covering.
- SU80 and SU92 Seam Sealers will be dry to the touch in 20-25 minutes after application; however, they should be **allowed to dry for at least one hour before foot traffic is permitted on the seam.**
- In times of extremely high humidity, the seam sealer bead can turn hazy after application. The haze will clear up after exposure to normal or low humidity conditions. Another method is to apply a bead of lacquer thinner to the seam sealer bead with a cotton Q-Tip® (as close as possible to the same width as the seam sealer bead). Allow the lacquer thinner to evaporate and the seam sealer bead will clear

up. **NOTE:** Do not apply lacquer thinner unless the seam sealer bead is completely dry.

- Small quantities of dried SU80 and SU92 can be removed from the flooring surface with lacquer thinner. Wet a clean, white cloth with lacquer thinner and rub the dried sealer in a circular motion. Turn the cloth frequently. Use a clean place on the cloth each time that has been freshly wetted with lacquer thinner until the sealer is removed.
- The flooring surface will be dulled, but the luster can be restored by using BonAmi® Polishing Cleanser or Soft Scrub® Cleanser on a wet cloth or sponge. After the lacquer thinner has dried completely, rub the dull spot in a circular motion. Rinse the cleanser from the floor covering with clean water, dry the area, and buff with a soft cloth to restore luster.
- SU80 and SU92 Seam Sealers will thicken when exposed to freezing temperatures. The seam sealer is undamaged, and the viscosity can be returned to normal by allowing it to adjust to room temperature.
- Any leftover SU80 or SU92 Seam Sealer can be saved for reuse. However, it should be stored in its original container and not in the plastic squeeze bottle because it will gradually thicken and eventually harden. The plastic bottle and TO70 nozzle should be thoroughly rinsed with lacquer thinner to remove all traces of the seam sealer. Insert the cleaning wire in the nozzle slot to keep it open for future use.
- Do not use SU80 or SU92 Seam Sealers on high-gloss or satin-gloss urethane wearlayers. They will not satisfactorily bond to the flooring and will peel off.

### Seam Sealer Recommendation — Resilient Sheet Flooring

| Seam Sealer        | SU92 (Liquid Only)  | SU80 (Kit)  | SU102 (Kit)   | SU106 (Kit)   |
|--------------------|---|---|---|---|
| <b>Use</b>         | Seal seams on:<br>Pacesetter<br>Concept<br>Prelude<br>Flor-Ever Plus<br>Specifications<br>Foundations | Seal seams on:<br>Pacesetter<br>Concept<br>Prelude<br>Flor-Ever Plus<br>Specifications<br>Foundations | Seal seams on:<br>Highlight   | Seal seams on:<br>Xclusive<br>Ultima<br>Bravada                           |
| <b>Tack Free</b>   | 20 minutes  | 20 minutes  | 2 hours   | 2 hours   |
| <b>Set-up Time</b> | 2 hours   | 2 hours   | 16 hours  | 16 hours  |
| <b>Coverage</b>    | 200 lin. ft.  | 50 lin. ft./kit   | 70 lin. ft./kit   | 70 lin. ft./kit   |
| <b>Cleanup</b>     | Wet: Blot with cloth dampened with mineral spirits<br>Dry: See procedure above                        | Wet: Blot with cloth dampened with mineral spirits<br>Dry: See procedure above                        | Wet: Blot with cloth dampened with mineral spirits<br>Dry: Not removeable | Wet: Blot with cloth dampened with mineral spirits<br>Dry: Not removeable |
| <b>Shelf Life</b>  | 1 year if unopened  | 1 year if unopened  | 1 year if unopened  | 1 year if unopened  |
| <b>Sizes</b>       | 8 fl. oz. can<br>(48 cans/ctn.)   | 2 fl. oz. per kit<br>(12 kits/ctn.)   | 2 fl. oz. per kit<br>(12 kits/ctn.)                                       | 2 fl. oz. per kit<br>(6 kits/ctn.)  |

## 2. SU102 AND SU106 SEAM SEALERS

- Mix the full contents of Part A and Part B in the plastic squeeze bottle. Use the seam sealer within 2 hours.
- After application, the seam sealer bead will be tack-free in about 2 hours; however, it should be protected from any disturbance such as foot traffic, dust, or dirt for at least 16 hours.
- **Any accidental spillage of SU102 or SU106 Seam Sealer must be cleaned up immediately with a cloth or paper towel dampened with lighter fluid or mineral spirits. They cannot be removed after it dries.** Do not use alcohol, lacquer thinner, or any other strong solvent, because these materials can damage or dull the wearlayer of the flooring product.
- Part B of SU102 and SU106 Seam Sealers will become cloudy and thick in cold and freezing temperatures. The seam sealer will not be damaged. Allow the seam sealer to adjust to room temperature prior to use.
- After all seams have been sealed, the remaining seam sealer should be emptied from the plastic applicator bottle into the original glass bottles and disposed of in a safe place. Do not save the mixture for further use.

## F. DIRECTIONS FOR SEAM SEALING

### 1. SEAM SEALING XCLUSIVE

- Seams in Xclusive **must** be prepared prior to applying seam sealer by lightly abrading the seam area with the 3M Scotch-Brite® pad and dowel pin found in the SU106 Seam Sealer Kit.
- Remove any adhesive in the seam area.
- Place the dowel pin at the center of the nylon pad and fold the edges up to cradle the pin. Hold the pad above the pin firmly between the thumb and forefinger. Start at one end of the seam, apply moderate pressure and rub the seam evenly with 4 back and forth strokes. (Figure 5). Work in small sections (approximately 2 feet long) overlapping each section as you continue down the grout line.



Fig.5.

- Clean the seam with a damp, clean white cloth and dry completely prior to applying seam sealer.

## 2. GENERAL INFORMATION

- **Seal all seams immediately after they have been completed. Never leave a seam unsealed over night.**
- The seam cut and surrounding area must be clean, dry, and free of adhesive.
- The TO70 nozzle (Figure 6) must be used for applying Congoleum seam sealers. It has a slotted fin to apply the seam sealer and two side fins to aid in keeping the slotted fin vertical during seam sealing.



Fig. 6. TO70 Seam Sealer Application Nozzle.

- Prepare the recommended seam sealer in the plastic squeeze bottle according to directions. Screw the applicator on tightly to prevent leakage. Check the flow of seam sealer on a scrap of flooring to assure that the nozzle is clear and the sealer flows evenly.
- A seam where the wearlayers are not level (e.g., not leveled with a steel hand roller) will affect the application of seam sealer. In many cases, the bead will flow to the low side and there will be no sealer on the opposite side of the seam. The combination of uneven wearlayers and an inadequate weld will contribute greatly to the possibility of a seam failure.
- Seam sealer is not a filler. It will not bridge gaps or openings. Therefore, good seam cutting techniques are required for effective seam sealing.
- Provide good lighting for seam sealing. Since the liquid is clear, it is difficult to judge the volume applied in poor lighting.
- Excessively wide seam sealer beads should not be applied. As a general practice, the maximum width of the bead centered on the seam cut should never exceed 1/4" (6.4mm) for SU102 and SU106, and 1/8" (3.2mm) for SU80 and SU92. A wide, thick bead detracts from the appearance and will take much longer to dry. Additionally, a bead wider than 1/4" (6.4mm) can delaminate the wearlayer at the seam, causing permanent damage to the floor.
- The seam sealer bead must be protected from dust, dirt, and foot traffic until it has cured. One method that can be used to warn against walking on fresh sealer is to tape the trimmed off selvage on the floor, back side up, parallel with the seam. Where traffic, dust or dirt cannot be controlled, the seam

should be completely covered using a cardboard core. Cut the core in half, lengthwise, and position it centered over the seam sealer bead. Tape the core in position.

### 3. SEAM SEALING PRODUCTS WITH A VINYL CUSHION LAYER

- Seams in most Congoleum floors are sealed by applying seam sealer throughout the entire thickness of the seam cut, with a 1/8" (3.2mm) to 1/4" (6.4mm) bead centered over the seam. (See Top Sealing Method For Through-Chip Inlaid Products at right.)
- Insert the slotted fin of the TO70 nozzle into one end of the seam (Figure 7) and apply light constant hand pressure on the applicator bottle to control the flow. The bottle and nozzle should be at an approximate 45° angle to the surface of the floor covering. Move slowly, with as few interruptions as possible, and apply a bead of seam sealer 1/8" (3.2mm) wide centered on the seam cut. When sealing, do not exert excessive downward pressure (so as to compress the vinyl cushion) on the side fins against the floor covering.



Fig. 7. Insert slotted fin into seam cut.

- If it is necessary to remove the nozzle from the seam cut while sealing, do not release pressure while the slotted fin is inserted in the seam; release pressure gently after the bottle has been tipped upward and the seam sealer has flowed

away from the nozzle opening. This will prevent the possibility of large air bubbles being pulled into the barrel of the nozzle. Any bubbles will be forced out into the seam sealer bead when sealing is continued. If this should occur, the bubbles should be broken with the cleaning wire.

### 4. TOP SEALING METHOD FOR SEALING PRODUCTS WITH THROUGH-CHIP INLAID WEARLAYERS

The seam sealer application for products with a through-chip inlaid wearlayer (Specifications, and Foundations) will vary from other Congoleum products.

- Because of the wearlayer thickness on through-chip inlaid products, only top sealing is required. **Do not attempt to insert the applicator tip into the seam cut.**
- Hold the applicator nozzle perpendicular to the seam cut (Figure 8) with the tip, lightly riding on the surface of the flooring material. Starting at one end of the seam, move slowly applying light, constant pressure on the squeeze bottle and apply a bead of seam sealer 1/8" to 1/4" wide (3.2mm to 6.4mm) centered over the seam cut.



Fig. 8. Hold applicator bottle perpendicular to seam cut.

**NOTE: Seam sealer applied to only one edge can result in seam failure. Check seams for proper seam sealer application.**