
Building Codes Division**Statewide Code Interpretation**

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to ensure safe building
construction while
supporting a positive
business climate.*

March 7, 2007**No: 2004 OSSC 1307.1.7.2
2004 Oregon Structural Specialty Code**

Code Section: 1307.1.7.2**Code Edition:** 2004 Oregon Structural Specialty Code (OSSC)**Date:** Original: 4/29/94 Updated: 3/07/07**Subject:** Acceptable window and door sealing methods.**Question:** What are acceptable methods of sealing between the wall cavity and window or door frames?**Answer:** There are many products that satisfy this requirement. Sealants may be acrylic, latex or silicon caulking; foam backer-rod; oakum; non-expanding foam or other acceptable material.**Analysis:** It is important that sealants be resilient to accommodate building expansion and contraction. Sealants must be forgiving to expand and contract with the building while maintaining adhesion to the building components being sealed.

Voids between the top of a window or doorframe and the rough opening cannot have a solid, non-resilient material that can transfer header loads onto windows and doors. There are non-expanding, sprayed-in-place foams that are resilient that can be used when load transfer is an issue. When a header has been used, load transfer is not an issue.

Fiberglass insulation stuffed-in-place and oil based sealants shall not be an acceptable sealant when used by itself. Fiberglass fill covered with acceptable caulking is an acceptable method of sealing.

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