

Making a Silicone mold from Clear 100% Silicone Caulk

Pro's: Fast, cheap in comparison to other mold systems, effective when procedures are followed, these molds can be used to cast wax, plaster, plastics, concrete and more

Con's: Strong Vinegar odor (Acetic Acid), small margin of error (won't work if you don't follow directions carefully), detail is limited in comparison to other silicone mold systems

1. Prepare your model with water based clay on a plywood board (Some oil based clays will work with this method depending on their sulfur content and various other chemical reactions that can occur). Our models are for a one part mold but multiple part molds can be made with some advanced study in mold making technique. Make sure the surface of your model is finished to your liking. A firm, "leather hard" surface is desirable.
2. Brush Vaseline on the base/plate about an inch or two inches around the perimeter of the model so that the silicone will not stick to it. The silicone will not stick to the clay so it is not necessary to brush Vaseline over your model (though I sometimes do a little for good measure).
3. Prepare your tools. Things may happen quicker than you expect so plan the materials you will need all the way through the process and have them at hand. Cover your work surface with newspaper. **Wear rubber or latex gloves.** Place the caulk tube in the caulking gun, slice the pointed nozzle of the tube and insert a long nail or skewer into the nozzle to puncture the foil seal. Keep a rag or paper towel nearby. Don't wear nice clothes-Silicone is permanent.
4. Depress the plunger of the caulk gun and empty the entire tube of silicone into your disposable quart sized mixing container.
5. Add about the same amount of cornstarch as there is silicone and mix thoroughly into a white paste.
6. Add small amounts of mineral spirits and continue to mix. Continue doing so until the consistency is loose enough to spread like frosting
7. Use the mixing stick and your gloved hands to smear the mixture into the crevices of your design. Avoid trapping air between the clay and the silicone.
8. Be sure that you have a thick covering around the sides and bottom of the piece, all the way to the base. You should not see clay through the silicone. Use the mixing stick to smooth the surface and make a flat top.
9. Once you have the silicone in place-STOP TOUCHING IT. Leave it to cure overnight or until the next class. Successful completion of this project means that your mold does not leak, the mold material sets and is not goeey inside, the mold comes cleanly away from the clay model.
10. Wash the fully cured mold with soap and water and your stiff paintbrush.
11. Position your mold so that it sits level. You may need to set it on a rag or in some sand.
12. Pour wet plaster into the mold and allow it to set undisturbed.

DO NOT MOVE YOURS OR ANYBODY ELSE'S MOLD WHILE THE PLASTER IS WET OR SLUSHY