Sound Solutions Ltd New Zealand

www.soundsolutions.biz

Drysuit Seal Replacement Instructions

Materials Needed:

Drysuit seals
Urethane Repair Adhesive
Sandpaper
Wax Paper or Glossy Strapping Tape
Masking Tape
Duct Tape
Razor blade and/or Scissors
Form
Strong Rubber Band
Clean Lint-Free Rag
Popsicle Stick or Plastic Knife

Caution: New drysuit seals may not be comfortable initially, but will stretch over time. We recommend stretching new seals around something slightly larger than the seal opening overnight. Trimming the seals is not recommended and may cause seal failure. If a seal is trimmed, that seal will no longer be covered under the garment's warranty.

Safety First: Always work in a well-ventilated area. Latex gloves and eye protection are highly recommended.

Step 1: INSPECT THE OLD SEAL

If the existing seal is in good condition, the new seal can be adhered to the existing seal. Make sure you leave approximately 1" of old seal material above the material of the drytop / suit. This will leave plenty of the existing latex to adhere the new seal to.
Note: Do not cut into the actual material of the drytop / suit; only the latex should be cut.
Completely remove the seal if it's dry or cracked, or is not securely attached to the drytop / suit. Using a hair dryer to apply heat to the old seal will weaken the adhesive allowing the seal to be peeled off. You do not need to clean off the old glue; the new glue layer can be applied over the old.

Step 2: INSERT A FORM INTO THE DRYTOP/SUIT

Forms can be coffee cans, pots, buckets or plastic containers. A form can also be made by cutting polystyrene foam to the size and shape you need. Before inserting the form, cover it with wax paper or glossy tape (duct tape) to prevent the glue from sticking to the form. The form should fit tightly inside. In the event that a tight fit is hard to achieve, increase the diameter of the form using duct tape or cardboard.
Note: We do not recommend using cone-shaped forms because they can cause the seal to slide around during the repair.

Step 3: POSITION THE DRYTOP/SUIT

The drytop / suit should be positioned so that 1" – 2" of the form is exposed above the edge of the seal material.

Step 4: STRETCH THE NEW SEAL OVER THE FORM

The new seal should be stretched over the form and pulled down far enough to completely overlap the old seal, or to where the old seal used to be. Place a rubber band over the seal about half way down the form.

Note: Leave the rubber band in place until the seal repair is completed.

Step 5: FOLD THE NEW SEAL OVER ITSELF

Fold the new seal over itself enough to expose the suits' old seal underneath.

Step 6: BUFF BOTH SURFACES

Buff all surfaces to be glued with 150 or 180 grit wet/dry sandpaper. Rough up the area to be glued until the latex loses its shine. Clean with denatured alcohol using a clean lint-free rag.

Step 7: APPLY A THIN LAYER OF ADHESIVE

Apply a thin layer of Urethane adhesive to the old seal (or where the old seal used to be). Applicators can be butter knives, plastic knives, Popsicle sticks, etc…

Step 8: FOLD THE NEW SEAL DOWN

Slowly fold the new seal down onto the old seal. Apply pressure with a roller, around the seal to remove any air bubbles. Roll from the middle and work towards the outer edges. Secure in place with lots of small pieces of duct tape until the glue is dry.

Step 9: MONITOR YOUR REPAIR

For the first hour check the repair occasionally to make sure the seal does not slip and that no wrinkles or air pockets develop.
Note: The optimal climate for repairs is above 15 degrees C and above 50% humidity. Allow 24 hours for curing time in optimal conditions. Drying time will vary with climate conditions.

Step 10: CLEAN UP

Use your applicator to remove any excess adhesive that may have seeped out.

SEAL CARE

Seals are made of latex rubber which is highly susceptible to drying out over time. Regular treatments with "Armour All" protectant can greatly increase the life of your seals.
It's highly recommend that care should be taken to wash out the seals after use in fresh cold water, and towel dry.

Temperature: Storage temperatures should be kept below 26C and the material stored away from heaters.
Humidity: Moist storage conditions should be avoided.
Direct or UV Light: Articles should be protected from prolonged exposure to light, in particular direct sunlight and artificial light with a high U.V. content.
Metals: Avoid contact with copper and copper containing alloys.
Ozone: One of the worst places to store a dry suit/top with latex seals is in the back of a car where high levels of ozone are created locally in hot weather.
Sun Block: Care should also be taken in the application of sun block oils as these products contain agents that can adversely attack the seals.
When using sun block, washing seals with cold water after use is very important.