

Making Simple Repairs: Bathtub and Shower Cracks¹

Mary N. Harrison²

Cleaning mildew, replacing tile, repairing wood rot behind the tub or shower wall all can cost you money from your security deposit. Avoid this loss with a few simple precautions.

Supplies Needed:

- Waterproof grout – powder form
- Plastic sealer – pre-mixed

How To Fix

Prepare the Surface

1. Remove the old crack filler from the crack. Use a knife, small flat-head screwdriver, or grout remover.
2. Wash the surface to remove soap, grease, and dirt.
3. Dry the surface well before making repairs.

Using Grout

- Put a small amount of grout in a bowl.

- Slowly add water and mix until you have a thick paste.
- Put this mixture in the crack with a putty knife or similar tool.
- Press the grout into the crack.
- Smooth the surface with your finger or a small cloth.
- Wipe excess grout from the wall and tub with an old cloth or sponge before it gets dry.
- Let the grout dry well before anyone uses the tub. (The grout will last much longer and resist mildew better if it is sealed.) To seal paint the grout with a grout sealer after it has dried. For best results use two coats of grout sealer.

Using Plastic Sealer

You may use a plastic sealer instead of grout in the crack between the tub and wall. Plastic sealer comes in a tube ready to use.

- Squeeze the sealer from the tube in a small ribbon along the crack.

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2. Mary N. Harrison, professor, Department of Family, Youth and Community Sciences, Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida, Gainesville, 32611.

- Use a putty knife or spatula to press the sealer down to fill the crack.
- Smooth the surface. Work fast, the sealer dries quickly. You can use the shower or tub almost immediately after finishing.
- Keep the cap on the tube when youre not using it.

Your Reward

- A better looking bathroom.
- Prevention of water damage to wall structure.
- Helps prevent mildew.
- Good maintenance will help you get your security deposit refund when you leave.