

## COMPATIBILITY OF ADHESIVES WITH MIRRORS

We do not directly carry out any compatibility testing for any specific adhesives. We, instead, rely on a large body of information from our customers, who regularly use adhesives to install our mirrors. The adhesives most commonly used by our customers to install our mirrors are the mirror mastics manufactured by Palmer and Gunther and the neutral-cure silicone adhesives manufactured by companies such as GE and Dow-Corning. Based on the vast quantities of our mirror installed with the above-mentioned adhesives over several decades, we are comfortable in calling all these adhesives "compatible" with our mirrors. Compatibility notwithstanding, we feel it important to remind you that there do remain risks in applying any adhesive to a mirror backing. These risks fall into three main categories.

- 1) CHEMICAL LEACHING from adhering mirrors to unsealed substrates
- 2) INCOMPLETE SOLVENT EVAPORATION from solvents trapped in the center of applied adhesive
- 3) EXCESSIVE SOLVENT quantity/concentration found in certain batches of adhesives

In order to guard against these risks, we recommend that the following important precautions always be taken when installing mirrors with adhesives.

- Never install mirrors on new plaster, new masonry or on a freshly painted wall without proper sealing. Also, do not install in any new construction area where airborne solvents or heavy-duty cleaners or chemicals are in the air.
- When adhesives are used, do not apply dollops of material. When placed against a wall they will flatten to a larger, pancake-size diameter. Perimeters or diameters will dry relatively fast. This normally causes solvent or curing additives to be trapped centrally. As well as potential chemical attack of the mirror, this can detract from overall adhesive strength.
- Adhesives should be applied in a straight line with 10mm to 12mm beads. Beads should be vertical when installed. Do not loop or crisscross beads. Looping or crisscrossing causes entrapped areas that prevent venting. Vertical application assures that either heavier than air or lighter than air fumes can escape.