

Installing and Sealing "U" Channel

"U" channel is often used to secure a fixed glass panel or a bath screen to the wall.

"U" channel adds adjustment flexibility for installation and helps compensate for out of square walls

Sliding the glass into channel can be used for return or inline panels as long as the fixed panels are narrower than the door opening.

Steps In Installing U Channel

1. Determine Channel Position: Mark the tile indicating the centerline of the glass and determine exactly where the channel is going to be installed.
2. Cut the "U" Channel: Using a hacksaw or circular saw with a carbide blade, cut the "U" channel pieces so that they fit the spaces. Sand or file the ends to remove any saw marks.
3. Drill Holes: Drill holes in the channel where desired and use a countersink to rout out the holes so that the #8 x 1 1/2" stainless steel screws sit flush with the bottom of the channel.
4. Secure the Channel: Secure the top, bottom and side U channels with flat head screws.
5. Position Setting Blocks: Using CRL PSB040 1/8" thick clear vinyl setting blocks to fit across the channel width space approximately every 12", or on small panels at least two setting blocks.
6. Insert Glass into Channel: The glass has been sized to account for the thickness of the "U" channel and the 1/8" setting block. Slide the glass into the U Channel from the end and set in the proper place. Check for alignment and be sure that the glass aligns with the end of the U channel.

If the panel is next to the door opening you want to adjust the panel so that when it is installed the door opening is the desired width approx 1/4" – 1/2" larger than the glass door itself. Measure at the bottom and at the top of the door opening. If necessary remove the fixed panel and change the setting block sizes to get the panel to stand with the correct width at the bottom and top.

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Structurally Adhering and Sealing The Glass in the Fixed “U” Channel

Siliconing glass into “u” channel is a two step process:

The first step is to achieve **structural strength** and involves applying a bead of silicone inside the bottom of the “u” channel.

The second step is to provide **waterproofing**. This requires a small bead of silicone to be run around the entire perimeter of the “U” Channel edge where it meets the glass and the tile or marble – inside and out.

Structurally Adhering the “U” Channel

- First cover all screws with a blob of silicone.
- Seal any mitred joints or seams from the inside
- Vertical channel should have a 1/8” bead of silicone running end to end
- Run silicone 1/16” higher than the setting blocks in the bottom channel
- Do NOT silicone over the setting blocks
- Slide in glass panel, gently lowering it onto the setting blocks
- Do final alignment
- Do NOT silicone inside the top channel. A waterproofing cap bead will be applied later

Waterproofing

A bead of silicone needs to be run around the entire perimeter of the “U” Channel edge where it meets the glass

A bead of silicone also needs to be run where the base of the “u” channel meets the tile or marble, inside and outside, as well as any open areas at the end of the channel.

Silicone Cleanup

No matter how carefully the glass is set into the “U” channel, a certain amount of silicone will flow out between the glass and the channel. There are two methods to address this situation:

Preventative: Use Blue Low Adhesive Transfer Tape on the glass and “U” channel to provide an even bead width. First do this where the channel meets the tile or marble. Then do the same where the glass meets the channel. Allow a gap of 1/16”– 3/32” for the silicone.

Corrective: Wait 30 – 60 minutes after siliconing before taking a single edge razor blade to trim excess silicone. Once this is done run your cap bead.