

Using lead wool correctly

Lead wool is suitable for sealing joints of all sizes. It can be ideally combined with masonry or other metals such as aluminium, copper, titanium zinc or stainless steel, for example.

Before applying lead wool, check to see if the underlying material is sufficiently stable, otherwise damage or shifting may result. A rule of thumb for ensuring a sound joint is that a caulked joint should always be twice as deep as it is wide, but it should be at least 25 mm deep.

Since the joint must always be laid from one hank, it is important to calculate the required quantity carefully in advance. Material introduced later on does not bond well with the layer underneath that has already been caulked, and may fall out again after a while.

For a joint 100 cm long, 1.5 cm wide and 3 cm deep, for example, approx. 2 kg of lead wool is required. The material is laid out, twisted to form a hank of the required thickness, inserted into the joint and then caulked. Suitable tools for caulking are a hammer and blunt chisel, mortise chisel or helve picker that will compact the lead without damaging it.