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## Silicone Tape One of the Best Kept Secrets of Hotel Maintenance

The night clerk wakes you from a dead sleep. They have discovered a severe leak and it needs attention right away. When you get to the hotel, you stare at a repair that can't be fixed because it is more severe than anticipated and will require a contractor. If you're lucky, you can shut off the source without customers knowing—but what if you're not? What if it's a hot water line servicing part of the building? That could lead to annoyed guests.

As important as it is to have the front of the house picture perfect for your guests, sometimes it's the things that they can't see that could affect their stay the most. These are the things that you are personally responsible for overseeing.... a hole in the sprinkler system, leaking pool fittings, or even unsightly rust on things like golf carts or deck furniture. All of these can influence a visitor's stay and adversely affect their opinion of your facility. It is paramount to have every tool in your arsenal available to you and your team.

That is why something as simple as a roll of silicone tape is such a versatile tool to have. Non-adhesive, self-fusing silicone tape is used in hotels across the country. Silicone Tape can withstand temperatures over 500°F and remains flexible to -80°F, which means a roll of tape can repair a damaged water heater pipe in a humid boiler room or assist freezer in repairing connections in the kitchen. Self-amalgamating tape has no adhesive which means it won't leave a sticky residue on what it is applied to and is even easier to remove. So whether you are using it to reinforce a connection or secure a temporary item, removal is a snap.



With many older facilities doing remodels, you may run into issues with connecting PVC and copper lines together. Silicone tape is a perfect addition to help ensure a water tight connection. Of course the issues that hotels deal with in Nebraska are different from those in Florida. However, adding a product like this into your tool box can not only extend the life of your equipment, but also assist in preventative maintenance.

## **Lodging Engineer**

The list of uses for this product is endless. Have a roll of white handy for those quick room repairs when you have a full house and every space is needed. If you don't have time to repair that leaking P-Trap in a room, send your team member up to wrap the connection with the tape. It will buy you the time needed to get through the rush and prevent customer complaints due to leaks or water damage.

If your facility is near the ocean, you likely deal with rust on outdoor equipment including pool & spa connections, water lines, or even Utility Vehicle parts. In fact, you may even base your budget on what needs to be replaced because of what the unsightly rust does to the property's equipment.



Silicone tape is available in numerous colors, so finding a color to wrap around your outdoor equipment is easy. Wrapping silicone tape around these parts protects the metal from the elements, prevents the start or spread of rust, and if you purchase more than one color, allows you to quickly identify equipment.

The tape can be purchased virtually anywhere, including most big box retailers. However, in order to ensure the freshest tape possible, it is always beneficial to go directly to the manufacturers of the product. The tapes typically have a 5-year shelf life if stored in a sealed bag in a cool dry place. However, to receive the best adhesion possible it is beneficial to get tape less than one year old. Companies like X-Treme Tape focus on this type of silicone tape specifically, which means that their product is consistently turning over. You know that when you purchase a roll, it's the freshest available.

Purchasing tapes can differ among companies as can the product's specifications and benefits also differ. Products made in America typically shorter shelf life have а than foreign competitors. Finding a silicone tape on the 'play,' market that has allowing you to reposition a wrap without tearing or to damaging the property's equipment, can be hard to find. This reposition or 'play' allows you to get that perfect wrap, no matter what. Silicone tape that is available perforated on the roll is especially helpful if you require tape for specific applications that require a consistent length of tape; cutting down on waste and saving you money.



**S** ilicone tapes are also available as UV resistant. If you need bright colors like red, orange or yellow, you can rest assured that the color won't fade at all. To showcase the durability of this product, a nut was put on a piece of pipe and thrown in the ocean. After 2 months of complete submersion during high tide and air exposure during low tide, the tape was removed and it was discovered that the nut still moved freely around the pipe.

Before:



After:



Barnacles and rust covered the entire pipe, including over the tape. When the tape was removed, it was as though it had never been subjected to the ocean or salt. The UV light from the Florida sun didn't fade the tape or compromise the integrity of the wrap. As you can see in the 'after' photo, there is a sharp contrast between where the tape covered the pipe and where it did not. Now imagine that kind of protection on your equipment! I highly encourage you to put silicone tape to the test at your property.

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