THREAD SEALANT METHODS

We have tested and recommend the following thread sealing methods for Tru-Design fittings:

Teflon tape

Teflon tape is a traditional method which provides a good seal when applied correctly, however in some cases if the position or tightness of the Ball Valve or Skin Fitting is incorrect, it has to be unscrewed and more tape applied, slowing the construction process. Additionally, the fitting can sometimes be turned by hand after being installed.

Sikaflex 291i

Takes approximately 2 hours to cure, then hoses can be attached. Full cure takes 24 hours. The Skin Fitting is not able to be turned after cure but can be undone with the use of a larger spanner. The nut does not crack open easily and has to be unscrewed the whole way by spanner which shows how well it has adhered and sealed the joint. Colour = Black.

3M Fast Cure 5200

Takes slightly less than 2 hours to cure, then hoses can be attached. Full cure takes 24 hours. The Skin Fitting is not able to be turned after cure but can be undone with the use of a larger spanner. The nut does not crack open easily and has to be unscrewed the whole way by spanner which shows how well it has adhered and sealed the joint. Colour = White.

Locktite 55 Thread Cord

This is a coated multifilament thread designed as a faster method than Teflon tape to seal threaded pipes and fittings. The main advantage is that a Ball Valve for example could be screwed down, then screwed back a turn to suit positioning whilst maintaining a tight seal. This eliminates the need to remove the entire Ball Valve and apply more tape as with traditional Teflon tape. Colour = White.

Instructions for Sikaflex 291i, 3M Fast Cure 5200, and Locktite 55 Thread Cord products are shown on their individual packaging.

TAPERED THREAD VS PARALLEL BSP THREAD

Note: Do not use with tapered thread valves or fittings.

The thread type on all Tru-Design Skin Fittings is a British Standard Pipe Parallel thread (BSPP & NPS). The thread is a mechanical fastening with sealing provided by tape or one of the above sealant methods. These methods give a secure mechanical joint between the Skin Fitting and connected components such as Ball Valves. A tapered thread cannot provide this strong connection. Mixing tapered and parallel threads can result in damage to either of the components.