



## The Finer Points of Application

**C**aulk is typically applied in one of two ways: The seams are taped prior to caulking (pictured here), allowing removal of excess caulk by pulling up the tape, or the seams are “flooded” and the decks sanded down afterward to remove excess caulk once cured.



Taping takes longer, but is neater—flooding the seams can be a real mess—and a lot easier on the deck. A teak deck can last the lifetime of a boat, but not if exposed to the excessive sanding that invariably results from the flooding method. Flooding and sanding can remove a lot of wood from the deck, particularly if you have grooves or weathered wood where the caulk can get into the cracks, and you have to sand it out. When taping, be sure to tape slightly outside the seams (to ensure the integrity of the seam edge when removing the tape) and remove the tape prior to the caulk skinning over, or your freshly payed seam could be damaged.