

A residential **soffit** is a horizontal surface outside, on the underside of the **eaves**. The **eave** is an area of the roof that overhangs the exterior walls.

Properly installed and braced soffits resist wind forces and keep water out when the wind drives rain against the outside walls and up into the attic of your home. Soffits are a common failure point in high winds, especially hurricanes, so take these affordable DIY steps to ensure that soffits stay in place when it matters most.

Assemble Your Tools and Hardware

- What you will need for this project:
- Caulking/sealant material
- Caulking applicator (gun)



Instructions for Strengthening Your Soffits

1. Caulk the bottom of the trim piece at the intersection of the soffit and wall to strengthen the connection to the house and prevent the trim piece from moving. (*Black caulk is shown here for contrast only.*)
2. To hold the soffit panels in place, squirt a marble-sized dab of caulk into the V-shaped hole formed by the intersection of the soffit panels and the trim. This will tie the soffit panels to each other, as well as the trim.
3. To ensure that the marble-sized dab forms an adhesive contact with both the soffit panels and the trim, push the point of the caulk tube into the joint until you hit the back of the trim.
4. Squirt sealant into the opening until it nearly starts falling out of the opening. Slowly continue inserting the sealant while simultaneously withdrawing the tip.
5. Once you are finished inserting the sealant, quickly remove the tube.

