

## TECHNICAL BULLETIN

### APPLICATION OF DUNLOP WATERPROOFING MEMBRANES ON PRE-EXISTING INTERNAL TILED SURFACES

#### INTRODUCTION & SCOPE

In some situations installers may not want to remove a tile bed to re-instate a waterproof membrane. In this case the installer will wish to apply a new membrane over the old tiles prior to laying the new tile bed.

Whilst technically feasible there are a number of issues that need to be considered before carrying out this procedure and the following bulletin briefly examines them.

#### THINGS TO CONSIDER

This procedure is only recommended in the internal applications where membranes are placed in shower recesses, bathroom or laundry floors. However, where timber hobs are in place they must be removed as per the NCC/BCA\* and Australian Standard on waterproofing AS3740-2010/12 which will effectively require a re-instatement of the floor system.

*It is not a recommended practice in external situations or commercial applications, and is completely unacceptable in pools or ponds.*

If the old installation is removed, then any damage that may have resulted from a leaking membrane can be examined and then rectified. Failure to do this can have dire consequences where structural damage to timber may

have already occurred.

A poorly executed 'membrane-over-tile' installation which leaks, means that any pre-existing damage is not made good, and therefore progressively worsens. This can result in damage to timber floors and wall studs and framing.

The tiles must be in sound condition and securely bonded to the subfloor. If tiles are loose or drummy, then the existing tiles shall be removed and a complete re-installation performed. Installation of an impervious membrane over existing tiles can also de-stabilise the old tiles which may become loose at a later time.

#### APPLICATION

The tiles must be clean and free of contaminants. Wash and scrub the surface down with a film less detergent such as DUNLOP TILE & GROUT CLEANER and rinse thoroughly.

An additional preparation measure can be grinding the glaze on the tile surface to provide a better key. If this is done then the surface must be vacuumed afterwards, and the grinder needs to be fitted with dust extraction (wear safety eyewear, dust masks and hearing protection). Remove any old sealants out of the corners.

With a flat bladed trowel, apply a

skim coat of DUNLOP TILE-ALL tile adhesive to the tile surface which acts a bonding bridge. This skim coat needs to be around 1.0mm thick and cover the full surface and be worked into the grout lines.

After 24 hours curing the DUNLOP UNDERTILE WATERPROOF MEMBRANE or DUNLOP WATERPROOFER RAPID can then be applied over the bonding bridge surface as per the product instructions.

All detailing required for the installation as per the product datasheet must be followed.

#### NOTES

Always refer to the product data sheets for specific usage details.

The information contained herein is to the best of our knowledge true and accurate.

No warranty is implied or given as to its completeness or accuracy in describing the performance or suitability of the product application.

It is the responsibility of the users to confirm that all products are suitable for the application and system, and are compatible with products in the application.

More detailed technical advice can be obtained by ringing DUNLOP on free call using the numbers shown below or via email from the contact us page at the

## TECHNICAL BULLETIN

DUNLOP DIY website.

Users are asked to check that the literature in their possession is the latest issue.

ARDEX AUSTRALIA PTY LTD,  
ABN 82 000 550 005, 7/20 Pow-  
ers Road, Seven Hills, NSW.  
2147.

### GLOSSARY

#### **Australian/New Zealand Stand- ard**

##### **AS3740-2010/2012-**

Waterproofing of domestic wet  
areas.

**AS4858-2004-**Wet area mem-  
branes.

**Bonding bridge-**A material which  
provides adhesion between the  
original surface and the new ma-  
terial being applied on top. Often

the new material being applied  
may not bond well without the  
bridge in between.

**Impervious-**Not allowing fluid to  
pass through.

**Film less detergent-**A cleaning  
chemical (detergent) which does  
not leave any residues on the sur-  
face when it is washed off with  
water.

**Grinding-**A form of mechanical  
surface preparation where an  
abrasive such as carborundum or  
diamond discs attached to an an-  
gle grinder are passed over the  
surface.

**NCC/BCA—**The National Con-  
struction Code, previously called  
The Building Code of Australia.  
This document specifies design  
and construction criteria in Aus-

tralia.

**Skimcoat-**The skim-coat ap-  
proach, involves the application  
of a single, 1mm thick continuous  
layer of the compound over the  
entire wall or floor surface.

**Waterproof membrane-**This has  
two separate definitions

*Membrane-*A barrier that is imper-  
vious to moisture

*Waterproof-*The property of a ma-  
terial that does not allow moisture  
to penetrate through it when test-  
ed in accordance with AS/NZS  
4858