

# TECHNICAL BULLETIN – TB122

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

17 July 2013

### 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 BCA and Australian Standard on waterproofing AS3740-2010 which will effectively require a re-instatement. 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.

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 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. Remove any old sealants out of the corners.

With a flat bladed trowel, apply a skim coat of ARDEX OPTIMA tile adhesive to the tile surface. 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 Ardex WPM001, WPM002 or WPM155 membrane can then be applied over the surface as per the product instructions.

#### **IMPORTANT**

This Technical Bulletin provides guideline information only and is not intended to be interpreted as a general specification for the application/installation of the products described. Since each project potentially differs in exposure/condition specific recommendations may vary from the information contained herein. For recommendations for specific applications/installations contact your nearest Ardex Australia Office.

#### **DISCLAIMER**

The information presented in this Technical Bulletin 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 a product for a particular application. Users are asked to check that the literature in their possession is the latest issue.

#### **REASON FOR REVISION**

24 month review. Addition of WPM002

#### **REVIEW PERIOD**

24 months from issue

NSW 02 9851 9100, QLD 07 3817 6000, VIC 03 8339 3100, SA/NT 08 8406 2500, WA 08 9256 8600

New Zealand (Christchurch) 64 3384 3029

Web: <http://www.ardex.com> email: [technicalservices@ardexaustralia.com](mailto:technicalservices@ardexaustralia.com)

