



TECHNICAL BULLETIN – TB122

APPLICATION OF MEMBRANES ONTO EXISTING TILES

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INTRODUCTION & SCOPE

In some situations, installers may not want to remove a tile bed to reinstate a waterproof membrane. In this case, the installer will wish to apply a new membrane over the old tiles before laying the new tile bed.

Whilst technically feasible, several issues need to be considered before carrying out this procedure, and the following bulletin briefly examines them.

THINGS TO CONSIDER

- This procedure is only recommended for internal applications where membranes are placed in shower recesses, bathroom, or laundry floors. Where timber hobs are in place, they must be removed as per the NCC and Australian Standard on waterproofing AS3740, which will effectively require a reinstatement. It is not a recommended practice in external situations or commercial applications. It is not recommended in pools or ponds.
- If the old installation is removed, any damage that may have resulted from a leaking membrane can be examined and 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 that leaks means that any pre-existing damage is not made good and progressively worsens.
- The tiles must be sound 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-stabilize the old tiles, which may become loose later.

APPLICATION

The tiles must be clean and free of contaminants. Wash and scrub the surface with a detergent that leaves no film and rinse thoroughly.

An additional preparation measure is grinding the glaze on the tile surface to provide a better key. If this is done, the surface must be vacuumed afterward. Remove any old sealants from 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, cover the full surface, and be worked into the grout lines.

After 24 hours of curing, the ARDEX WPM002 or WPM155 Rapid Plus membrane can be applied to the surface as per the product instructions and detailing methods.

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

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