

AS 3740:2021



Waterproofing of domestic wet areas



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- Australasian Concrete Repair and Remedial Building Association
- Australian Building Codes Board
- Australian Industry Group
- Australian Institute of Building Surveyors
- Australian Institute of Waterproofing
- Australian Tile Council
- Better Regulation Division
- CSIRO
- Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia
- Housing Industry Association
- Institute of Building Consultants

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Preface

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee BD-038, Wet Areas in Buildings, to supersede AS 3740:2010.

The objective of this document is to set out the criteria for waterproofing wet areas within domestic buildings. It gives minimum requirements for materials, designs and installations.

The objective of this revision is to bring this document in line with the current waterproofing practices in the building industry.

Changes from the previous edition include the following:

- (a) Restructure for useability.
- (b) Addition of figures with examples of application.
- (c) Addition of information on risk levels of different areas.
- (d) Inclusion of appropriate details for various risk levels.
- (e) Clarification of usage definitions.
- (f) Increased ease of reference for varying conditions.
- (g) Revision of design and installation techniques.
- (h) Expansion of information on shower and bath scenarios.
- (i) Inclusion of informative integrity testing.

The role of waterproofing is to install waterproofing systems as a combination of waterproof and water-resistant materials in order to retain water within the designated wet area and exclude water from non-water-resistant building elements. It is intended that water be managed to an outfall at surface and substrate. Systems are intended to accommodate expected service conditions of the wet area to prevent damage by water and accumulated moisture to building elements.

This document is not to be interpreted as preventing the use of materials, systems or methods that meet the design and installation criteria set out in this document, but are not specifically referred to herein (alternative solution).

Additional requirements may need to be considered for wet areas intended for use by people with disabilities.

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The terms “normative” and “informative” are used in Standards to define the application of the appendix to which they apply. A “normative” appendix is an integral part of a Standard, whereas an “informative” appendix is only for information and guidance.

Contents

Preface	ii
Section 1 Scope and general	1
1.1 Scope.....	1
1.2 Normative references.....	1
1.3 Terms and definitions.....	2
Section 2 Design	7
2.1 Design principles.....	7
2.1.1 General.....	7
2.1.2 Material selection.....	7
2.2 Shower classification.....	7
2.2.1 Enclosed showers.....	7
2.2.2 Unenclosed showers.....	7
2.3 Requirements for fall.....	8
2.3.1 Falls in substrate.....	8
2.3.2 Falls in shower area floor finishes (Category 1).....	8
2.3.3 Falls in wet area floor finishes adjacent to shower area where there is a floor waste (Category 2).....	8
2.3.4 Falls in wet area floor finishes where there is no floor waste (Category 3).....	8
2.3.5 Whole of bathroom designed as an unenclosed shower.....	9
Section 3 Materials	10
3.1 Scope of section.....	10
3.2 Compatibility.....	10
3.3 Materials.....	10
3.3.1 Waterproof.....	10
3.3.2 Water-resistant substrates.....	10
3.3.3 Water-resistant surface materials.....	11
3.4 Preformed, prefinished shower bases and enclosures.....	11
3.5 Sealants.....	11
3.6 Fastenings for substrate sheet linings.....	12
3.7 Adhesives.....	12
Section 4 Installation	13
4.1 Scope of section.....	13
4.2 Membrane installation for tile bed or screed.....	13
4.3 Membrane to drainage connection.....	13
4.3.1 Leak control flanges.....	13
4.3.2 Linear drainage connections.....	15
4.4 Surface preparation.....	16
4.4.1 Surface preparation.....	16
4.4.2 Requirements for fall in substrate.....	16
4.4.3 Moisture content of substrates.....	17
4.4.4 Wall sheeting preparation.....	17
4.4.5 Render preparation.....	17
4.5 Membrane application.....	17
4.5.1 Installation of an external membrane.....	17
4.5.2 Curing of membranes.....	17
4.5.3 Membrane inspection.....	18
4.5.4 Additional continuity testing.....	18
4.6 Membrane termination.....	19
4.6.1 Termination of membranes at shower recess waterstops.....	19
4.6.2 Termination of membranes at showers with hobs.....	19
4.6.3 Vertical membrane termination.....	20
4.7 Hob construction.....	20
4.8 Waterstops.....	20

4.8.1	General	20
4.8.2	Waterstop for unenclosed showers	20
4.8.3	Waterstops for enclosed showers	23
4.8.4	Waterstop for enclosed showers without hobs or set-downs	23
4.8.5	Showers located near exits to wet areas	24
4.9	Door openings	25
4.9.1	Perimeter flashing at floor level openings	25
4.9.2	Protection of door frames and architraves	25
4.10	Fillets and bond breakers — bond breaker installation for bonded membranes	28
4.11	Junctions, transitions, and terminations	29
4.11.1	Types of junctions, transitions, and terminations	29
4.11.2	Vertical flashing for shower wall junctions	30
4.12	Penetrations	30
4.12.1	Shower areas	30
4.12.2	Horizontal surface taps	31
4.12.3	Other penetrations in Category 1 areas	31
4.12.4	Niches, inlaid soap holders, and footrests	31
4.13	Baths and spas	32
4.13.1	General	32
4.13.2	Baths without showers over them	32
4.13.3	Baths with showers over them	35
4.13.4	Freestanding baths	38
4.13.5	Bath end walls abutting a shower	38
4.13.6	Spa baths	38
4.14	Preformed shower bases	39
4.15	Enclosed shower screen placement	41
4.15.1	Showers with hobs	41
4.15.2	Showers with step-downs	41
4.15.3	Showers without hobs or step-downs	41
4.15.4	Bath end walls and nib walls abutting a shower	42
4.16	Vinyl	42
4.17	Polished concrete	45
4.18	Floor heating	45
Appendix A (informative) Design considerations in wet-area waterproofing		46
Appendix B (informative) Falls in floor finishes		54
Appendix C (normative) Membrane continuity testing		55
Appendix D (informative) Suggested installation checklist		57
Appendix E (informative) Compatibility		59
Appendix F (informative) Testing for moisture content in subfloors		62
Bibliography		65

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Waterproofing of domestic wet areas

Section 1 Scope and general

1.1 Scope

This document sets out minimum requirements for the materials, design and installation of waterproofing for domestic wet areas.

This document applies to internal wet areas as defined in the National Construction Code (NCC).

NOTE 1 [Appendix A](#) provides design considerations for categories of wet area waterproofing.

The following are excluded from the scope of this document:

- (a) Situations where flooding of the wet areas occurs through overflowing of vessels or plumbing failures.
- (b) Concrete admixtures or penetrant sealers or similar.
- (c) Decorative coatings.
- (d) Communal or group wet areas such as shower areas as in swimming pool complexes, sporting facilities, steam rooms, and similar situations.

NOTE 2 A suggested checklist of items to be reviewed following installation of waterproofing is provided in [Appendix D](#).

NOTE 3 A method to determine whether the subfloor moisture content is suitable for the installation of waterproof membranes is provided in [Appendix F](#).

1.2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their contents constitutes requirements of this document:

NOTE Documents referenced for informative purposes are listed in the Bibliography.

AS 1288, *Glass in buildings—Selection and Installation*

AS 1566, *Copper and copper alloys—Rolled flat products*

AS 1684.2, *Residential timber-framed construction, Part 2: Non-cyclonic areas*

AS 1684.3, *Residential timber-framed construction, Part 3: Cyclonic areas*

AS 1684.4, *Residential timber-framed construction, Part 4: Simplified—Non-cyclonic areas*

AS 1884, *Floor coverings—Resilient sheet and tiles—Installation practices*

AS 2870, *Residential slabs and footings*

AS 3500.2, *Plumbing and drainage, Part 2: Sanitary plumbing and drainage*

AS 3588, *Shower bases and shower modules*

AS 3600, *Concrete structures*

AS 3700, *Masonry structures*

AS/NZS 1170.1, *Structural design actions, Part 1: Permanent, imposed and other actions*