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INFORMATION SHEET 15

WET AREA SHOWERS

YOUR GUIDE TO SUBMITTING A HASSLE-FREE APPLICATION FOR A WET AREA SHOWER

Wet area showers

Building alterations or new dwellings involving 'no-step' tiled floor wet area showers are becoming increasingly common. These showers must be correctly detailed and constructed to ensure that there are no problems encountered in the future.

Some of the areas that are looked at closely by Council staff are as follows:

- Flooring structure – concrete or timber. New concrete and timber floors can be shaped to fall to drains, good falls in the floor are essential to prevent ponding and possible water problems.
- Timber floors require careful detailing. Using treated timber H3.1 minimum (H4 is recommended) for framing timbers, H4 plywood or fibre cement sheeting under tiles. Framing sizes should be larger than typical floors require in order to reduce deflections and the risk of cracking in tiles.
- A wet area membrane must be applied over all of the area that may be exposed to splashing or water flow. The type and extent of membrane must be shown on Building Consent documents. As new products are introduced to the market regularly you should include full installation details with your application. Don't be surprised if the Council asks for details of testing of these products to prove that they will comply with the New Zealand Building Code. A list of products tested in New Zealand can be obtained from the BRANZ website (www.branz.org.nz)

Showers can cause real problems in the future if they are not properly detailed and constructed. Please remember to get a building consent for the work before you start.

Some key requirements to be aware of

- Completed Online Building Consent Application
- Certificate of Title: Recent search copy less than 6 months old, plus a sale and purchase agreement if not in the applicant's name. A subdivision scheme plan is required for a new site where Title is not yet available
- A copy of drawings and specifications
- Site Plan, showing buildings, ground and floor levels and dimensions
- Outline Floor plans (for all floors)
- Project Information Memorandum (if already issued)
- Plumbing and Drainage Plans
- Cross Sections
- Timber Treatment, Framing & Construction Details
- Internal Waterproofing Details