

WET AREA SHOWERS (Information Sheet)

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 sheetings under tiles. Framing sizes should be larger than typical floors required 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 Council ask for details of testing of these products to prove that they will comply with the New Zealand Building Code. A good list of products tested in New Zealand can be obtained from the BRANZ website (www.branz.org.nz).

These types of showers can cause real problems in the future if they are not properly detailed and constructed.

A Building Consent must be obtained for the work before you start.

The publication *Customer Guide to the Building Consent Process* outlines in detail the information required by Council to process a Building Consent Application.

Glossary of Terms:

- DBH – Department of Building and Housing
- LIM – Land Information Memorandum
- PIM – Project Information Memorandum
- Ecan – Environment Canterbury
- NZBC – New Zealand Building Code
- LBP – Licensed Building Practitioner
- OSH – Occupational Safety and Health
- BRANZ – Building Research Association of New Zealand

Useful step-by-step guides can be found at www.consumerbuild.org.nz which can help you to understand the processes required.

More User Guides in this series are:

- Customer Guide to the Building Consent Process – IS-000
- Accessory Buildings – IS-103
- Demolition – IS-106
- New Dwelling / Residential Buildings – IS-108
- Transportable Buildings – IS-110
- Fire Code Requirements for SH Purpose Group – IS-112
- Building Code Clauses – IS-114
- Amusement Device – IS-116
- Fencing your Swimming Pool – IS-119
- Fees & Charges – IS-101
- Change of Use – IS-105
- Effluent Disposal – IS-107
- Relocating a Dwelling / Building – IS-109
- Domestic Smoke Alarm Systems for Dwellings – IS-111
- Wet Area Showers – IS-113
- Accessible Facilities – IS-115
- Extension of Time – IS-118
- Solid Fuel / Liquid Fuel Heating Appliance – IS-120

Otherwise visit your friendly Customer Services Officer at Timaru District Council.