

Australian Standard<sup>®</sup>

## Waterproofing of domestic wet areas



This Australian Standard® was prepared by Committee BD-038, Wet Areas in Buildings. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 9 September 2010. This Standard was published on 5 November 2010.

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The following are represented on Committee BD-038:

- Architectural Aluminium Fabricators Association (NSW)
  - Australian Building Codes Board
  - Australian Chamber of Commerce and Industry
  - Australian Consumer Association CHOICE
  - Australian Institute of Building Surveyors
  - Australian Institute of Waterproofing
  - Australian Tile Council
  - Building Research Association of New Zealand
  - Business New Zealand
  - CSIRO, Manufacturing and Infrastructure Technology
  - Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia
  - Federation of Wall and Ceiling Industries Australia and New Zealand
  - Housing Industry Australia
  - Institute of Materials Engineering Australasia
  - Master Builders Australia
  - Planning South Australia
  - South Australia Housing Trust
  - TAFE NSW
  - Timber Queensland
- 

This Standard was issued in draft form for comment as DR 09057.

Standards Australia wishes to acknowledge the participation of the expert individuals that contributed to the development of this Standard through their representation on the Committee and through the public comment period.

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## Waterproofing of domestic wet areas

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## PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee BD-038, Wet Areas in Buildings, to supersede AS 3740—2004, *Waterproofing of wet areas within residential buildings*.

*This Standard incorporates Amendment No. 1 (December 2012). The changes required by the Amendment are indicated in the text by a marginal bar and amendment number against the clause, note, table, figure or part thereof affected.*

The objective of this Standard 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 Standard in line with the current waterproofing practices in the building industry.

Changes to the previous edition include the following:

- (a) Risk levels of different areas.
- (b) Appropriate details for various risk levels.
- (c) Clarification of usage definitions.
- (d) Increased ease of reference for varying conditions.
- (e) Revised design and installation techniques.

A1 | Additional change to the previous edition is the inclusion of Appendix C, which provides guidance on the extent of waterproofing for wet areas.

This Standard is not to be interpreted as preventing the use of materials, systems or methods that meet the design and installation criteria set out in the Standard, 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.

The term 'informative' has been used in this Standard to define the application of the appendix to which it applies. An 'informative' appendix is only for information and guidance.

Statements expressed in mandatory terms in notes to tables and figures are deemed to be requirements of this Standard.

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## FOREWORD

Since the last edition of this Standard was published in 2004, it had become increasingly apparent that various methods for design and installation of waterproofing systems outlined in the document no longer represented minimum acceptable standards and a further review was required. In this document, the Committee has attempted to address these shortcomings.

This revision is intended to cover the treatment of wet areas within domestic buildings in a form that makes the application of accepted methods more relevant to the various risk levels, while presenting typical detail diagrams relevant to those applications.

Problems with waterproofing defects relate to a number of fundamentals, including the following:

- (a) Workmanship.
- (b) Understanding of material technology/properties.
- (c) Applicator skill and competence.
- (d) Application to a variety of use situations.
- (e) Changes in design trends.
- (f) Quality control, including supervision, inspection and testing.
- (g) Maintenance of waterproofing medium when disturbed.
- (h) Fixture of fittings after waterproofing and tiling.
- (i) Professional attitude and a desire to continuously improve without compromising quality, performance and contractual obligations (where they exceed minimum requirements).

This Edition of the Standard differs from the 2004 edition in that the Design Section has been removed and included in the Building Code of Australia (BCA).

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**Australian Standard**

**Waterproofing of domestic wet areas**

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SECTION 1 SCOPE AND GENERAL

**1.1 SCOPE**

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

The Standard does not cover situations where flooding of the wet areas occurs through overflowing of vessels and showers or plumbing failures and excludes concrete admixtures or penetrant sealers or similar and decorative coatings.

NOTE: Appendix A provides design considerations for wet area waterproofing.

**1.2 APPLICATION**

This Standard applies to wet areas in Class 1, Class 2 and Class 4 buildings as defined in the BCA. It also applies to wet areas within other buildings with a similar level of use including sole-occupancy units within a Class 3 building.

NOTE: This Standard is not intended to apply to communal or group wet areas such as shower areas as in swimming pool complexes, sporting facilities and similar situations.

**1.3 NORMATIVE REFERENCES**

The following are the normative documents referenced in this Standard:

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

**AS**

- |               |  |
|---------------|--|
| 1566          | Copper and copper alloys—Rolled flat products                            |
| 1684          | Residential timber-framed construction                                   |
| 1684.2        | Part 2: Non-cyclonic areas   |
| 1684.3        | Part 3:  |
| 1684.4        | Part 4: Simplified—Non-cyclonic areas                                    |
| 1860          | Particleboard flooring   |
| 1860.2        | Part 2: Installation   |
| 2870          | Residential slabs and footings—Construction                              |
| 2924          | High pressure decorative laminates—Sheets made from thermosetting resins |
| 2924.1        | Part 1: Classification and specifications                                |
| 3600          | Concrete structures  |
| 3700          | Masonry structures   |
| <br>          |  |
| <b>AS/NZS</b> |  |
| 1170          | Structural design actions  |
| 1170.1        | Part 1: Permanent, imposed and other actions                             |
| 1170.2        | Part 2: Wind actions   |
| 1860          | Particleboard flooring   |
| 1860.1        | Part 1: Specifications   |

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