

Pynefloor™ Particleboard in Wet Area Floors



Introduction

The purpose of this literature is to provide guidance on how to adequately protect Pynefloor™ particleboard flooring products that form platform floors in wet areas, in structures designed and built within the scope limitation of NZBC Acceptable Solution E2/AS1 Paragraph 1.1.

Failure to provide adequate protection in wet areas could result in reduced performance of the Pynefloor™ products for which The Laminex Group™ will not be responsible.

Wet Area Applications

Definition:

A wet area referred to in this document, is any area within a building which is supplied with water from a water supply system. Examples are kitchens, bathrooms, toilets, shower rooms, laundries, changing rooms, ensuites etc.

Situation:

The long term performance of Pynefloor™ particleboard flooring will be adversely affected if exposed to on-going moisture contact after building occupation. It is therefore essential that the surface of the Pynefloor™ panels in wet areas are covered with a material that is impervious (i.e. does not allow the passage of moisture).

Although Acceptable Solution E3/AS1 3.1.1 provides a list of finishes that meet the requirements of the NZBC, The Laminex Group™ believe that the laying of an **integrally waterproof sheet material** (e.g. polyvinylchloride) with sealed joints, or the installation of an **appropriate⁽¹⁾ wet area membrane** are the only acceptable methods to ensure the Pynefloor™ remains dry during its intended life.

An integrally waterproof sheet material (sheet vinyl) shall be installed with heat welded joints. The vinyl shall be covered at the wall/floor intersection in accordance with NZBC Acceptable Solution E3/AS1 Figure 1 (a). The vinyl shall be covered at the wall/floor intersection between the floor and any fixtures (cabinet/shower/bath etc.) and shall be continued under any floor fixed toilet pan. Where covering at the intersection of the floor and fixture is considered undesirable, the vinyl shall be installed prior to the installation of the fixture. In these instances the vinyl shall be covered at the wall/floor intersection behind/under all fixtures.

The installation of an appropriate⁽¹⁾ wet area membrane shall be in accordance with the manufacturer's recommendations. As with the vinyl covering, the membrane shall be returned up the wall at least 75mm. Where appropriate, the membrane shall return up the vertical front face of any fixture. If not appropriate, the membrane should continue under the fixture and return up the wall at the room perimeter.

It is strongly recommended that floor drains be installed where ever possible to control the affect of any accidental flood. Critical areas for the inclusion of a floor drain include: under dish washers, in laundries and where spa baths are installed.

Care must be taken to ensure that any pipes or penetrations through the vinyl or wet area membrane are fully sealed to eliminate any water seepage through to the particleboard substrate.

All subsequent floor coverings laid over the wet area membranes must be compatible with the membrane and must have fixing systems that do not penetrate the membrane in any way.

BRANZ Appraised Wet Area Membranes:

Flexi-Seal® Interior Waterproofing System

Flexco (NZ) Ltd.
Appraisal #474 (2005)
www.flexiseal.co.nz

tel
09 268 6970

Superflex™ Wet Area Membranes

Ardex New Zealand Ltd.
Appraisal #472 (2005)
www.ardex.co.nz

tel
03 384 3029

Duroset™ & DuroQik™ Wet Area Membranes

Waterproofing Systems Ltd.
Appraisal #470 (2005)
www.waterproofing.co.nz

tel
06 357 9148

Protecto Wrap AFM-WM® Wet Area Membrane

Marshall Waterproofing NZ/AUS Ltd.
Appraisal #461 (2005)
www.protectowrap.co.nz

tel
07 543 0948

The Wet-Seal System Waterproofing Membrane

(A1 2001) Wet-Seal New Zealand Ltd.
Appraisal #372 (2000)
www.wet-seal.com.au

tel/fax
09 486 6301

Mapegum WPS and Mapelastic Wet Area Membranes

Mapei New Zealand Ltd.
Appraisal #484 (2005)
www.mapei.it

tel
09 921 1994

(1) An appropriate wet area membrane is one that complies with AS/NZS 4858 or which carries a current BRANZ Appraisal (see BRANZ website www.branz.co.nz for the current list of appraised wet area membranes).

While wet area membranes or correctly installed vinyl flooring are recommended as the acceptable solutions to protect particleboard in wet areas, The Laminex Group™ is not responsible for the performance of the system selected. Designers/decision makers must satisfy themselves that the system selected will meet the performance requirements of NZBC Clause B2 Durability and E3 Internal Moisture. Suppliers/manufacturers of the system chosen must be contacted for details of application and maintenance of the system.

Impervious Coatings (Polyurethane/Paint): While historically polyurethane coatings have been an acceptable finish for particleboard, The Laminex Group™ believe these finishes do not provide the necessary medium or long term protection to ensure all requirements of the NZBC are met. Therefore they are not acceptable finishes on the particleboard or any other material which is fixed directly to the particleboard substrate in wet areas.

Please note: It is not the intention of this document to provide short or long term protection against all accidental plumbing leaks, therefore even where a fixture is correctly sealed against vinyl or a wet area membrane, there could be sections of particleboard that may get wet if plumbing faults occur. It is the responsibility of the plumbing installer to ensure plumbing faults are eliminated.

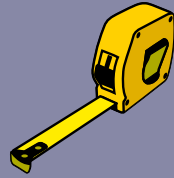
Liability

This Technical Bulletin must be read in conjunction with the current Pynefloor™ Technical Manual and Pynefloor™ brochure from The Laminex Group™. If there is any inconsistency between this Technical Bulletin and the other literature, the information in this bulletin will prevail.

The Laminex Group™ will not be liable to any person for product failure if the conditions as to storage, handling, use, installation, and maintenance of Pynefloor™ particleboard outlined in any current literature relating to Pynefloor™ is not complied with. It is the responsibility of the installer of Pynefloor™ products to convey the information contained in the relevant Pynefloor™ literature including this Technical Bulletin, to the owner/occupier of the structure.

The various wet area membrane systems listed in this document for use in conjunction with Pynefloor™ particleboard are not manufactured by The Laminex Group™. They must be installed, used and maintained in accordance with the instructions of the manufacturer of the membrane system. The Laminex Group™ accepts no liability whatsoever for any failure of the wet area membrane systems listed, or any other membrane system used in conjunction with Pynefloor™.

Nothing contained in this Technical Bulletin or other current technical literature affects any rights a person who is a consumer may have under the Consumer Guarantees Act 1993.



Technical Support

As not all product use options can be described in this Technical Bulletin, additional end use and specifying information is available as a complimentary service. The information contained in this Technical Bulletin must not be reproduced or published in whole or in part without the prior consent of The Laminex Group™. The Laminex Group™ reserves the right to revise without notice any information contained in this Technical Bulletin. Please contact The Laminex Group™ Customer Services Department to check the currency of information contained in this Technical Bulletin, or visit the website:

www.thelaminexgroup.co.nz

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