

Australian Standard™

**Waterproofing of wet areas within  
residential buildings**

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 20 February 2004 and published on 15 April 2004.

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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 Consumers Association  
Australian Institute of Building Surveyors  
Building Industry Authority NZ  
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Australian Standard™

**Waterproofing of wet areas within  
residential buildings**

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## PREFACE

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee BD-038, Wet Areas in Buildings, to supersede AS 3740—1994.

The objective of this Standard is to set out the criteria for wet areas within residential buildings. It gives minimum requirements for materials, designs and installations. It is noted however, that other forms of construction may be equally satisfactory, providing they demonstrate equivalence with the criteria set out in the Standard.

This Standard will be referenced in the Building Code of Australia in BCA 2004 to be published in May 2004.

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 1994, it has become increasingly apparent that various methods for design and installation of waterproofing systems outlined in the document no longer represent minimum acceptable standards and a further review was required. In this document the Committee has attempted to address these shortcomings.

The topics that have been addressed 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.

This revision is intended to cover the treatment of wet areas within residential 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:

- (i) Workmanship.
- (ii) Understanding of material technology/properties.
- (iii) Applicator skills and competence.
- (iv) Application to a variety of use situations.
- (v) Changes in design trends.
- (vi) Quality control including supervision, inspection and testing.
- (vii) Maintenance of waterproofing medium when disturbed.
- (viii) Fixture of fittings after waterproofing and tiling.
- (ix) Professional attitude and a desire to continuously improve without compromising quality, performance and contractual obligations (where they exceed minimum requirements).

## STANDARDS AUSTRALIA

**Australian Standard**  
**Waterproofing of wet areas within residential buildings**

## SECTION 1 SCOPE AND APPLICATION

**1.1 SCOPE**

This Standard sets out requirements for materials and minimum design and installation criteria for the waterproofing of wet areas within residential buildings. It includes typical details of construction materials and methods. It does not cover situations where flooding of the wet areas occurs through overflowing of vessels and showers or plumbing failures.

## NOTES:

- 1 Appendix A provides guidance on means for compliance with this Standard.
- 2 Appendix B provides design considerations for wet area waterproofing.

**1.2 APPLICATION**

This Standard applies to all residential buildings and is intended for use by building regulators, designers, builders, waterproofing contractors and associated trades.

NOTE: This Standard may also apply to other buildings where the use of wet areas is similar to that in residential buildings.

**1.3 NEW MATERIALS AND METHODS**

This Standard shall not 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.

**1.4 REFERENCED DOCUMENTS**

The following documents are referred to in this Standard:

## 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: Cyclonic areas   |
| 1684.4 | Part 4: Simplified—Non-cyclonic areas                                    |
| 1860   | Installation of particleboard flooring                                   |
| 2334   | Steel nails—Metric series  |
| 2870   | Residential slabs and footings—Construction                              |
| 2924   | High pressure decorative laminates—Sheets made from thermosetting resins |
| 2924.1 | Part 1: Classification and specifications                                |
| 3566   | Self-drilling screws for the building and construction industries        |
| 3566.1 | Part 1: General requirements and mechanical properties                   |
| 3566.2 | Part 2: Corrosion resistance   |
| 3600   | Concrete structures  |
| 3700   | Masonry in buildings   |