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TILE BACKER BOARDS: INTALLTION TIPS

INSIDE TILE INC

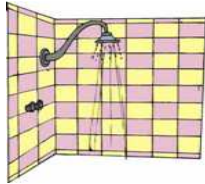
PRODUCT SPOTLIGHT:

*SCHLUTER KERDI-SEAL-PS.

Prefabricated seal with an over molded rubber gasket that is used to seal pipe intrusions. To be used with KERDI waterproofing membrane.

*SCHLUTER KERDI-SEAL-MV

Prefabricated seal with an over molded rubber gasket used to create a watertight seal at the mixing valve. To be used with KERDI waterproofing membrane.



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OR contact Julie at Tile Inc.

The test is tentatively scheduled for **OCTOBER**. The cost is \$195 per person,



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Today there are many types of tile backer boards available. However, we will discuss a little further the two boards that have dominated the market the last 20 years: Cementious Backer Units (CBU) and Fiber Cement Boards (FCU).

Cementious Backer Units (CBU) is available under numerous brand names. They range in sizes from 3x5 feet to 4x8 feet with thickness ranging from 1/4" to 1/2" to 5/8". With proper installation, these boards have a high compressive strength, and are suitable for most residential and light commercial tile installations. CBUs are unaffected by exposure to moisture or water, but some may not be suitable for exterior applications. The composition of some CBUs is extremely hard, making them difficult to snap-cut cleanly. CBUs can be installed with either hot-dipped galvanized roofing nails, or backer board screws; Electro-galvanized roofing nails, ring shank nails, drywall screws, and narrow-head construction screws **should never be used** to install CBUs. All board edges must be supported and fastened according to each manufacturer's instructions, with special consideration given to how close to the edge each brand can be safely fastened. This tile board should be appropriately waterproofed when used in a wet area.

Fiber Cement Boards (FCU) is available in 3x5 and larger panels 1/4"- to 1/2"-thick. This type of board also has a high compressive strength and is appropriate for residential and light commercial tile installations. The fine-grain composition of this type of board makes it relatively easy to cut and fabricate using score-and-snap methods. FCBs have the same fastener restrictions as CBU's. A big difference is that a FCU surface is a thirsty one. It requires a quick once over with a sponge prior to thinset mortar application. This will prevent loss of bond. Like CBUs, fiber cement boards require a complete waterproofing system when used in wet areas.

INSTALLTION TIPS:

1. Don't forget the joint between the walls and floor of a shower. Fasteners always leave a pathway for moisture to reach the structure behind the tile boards. All wet-area backer board installations should be covered with a proper surface-applied membrane system.

2. On floor installations, backer board fasteners should be long enough to grip the backer board to the sub-flooring. Fasteners should not be long enough to tie the backer boards to joists.

3. Fasteners should be the type that is made specifically for the brand of board being installed, **not** drywall screws or ring shank nails.

4. On floor installations for all types of board, it is **MANDATORY** to put a support bed of thinset mortar spread on the subfloor. The support bed of thinset is required to minimize air space beneath the boards that can significantly reduce a floor's compressive strength.

5. On floor installations, make sure the tile board is free and clear of construction adhesives, dabs of sealant or any other contaminate that will alter the bonding surface.

6. Installation of all backer boards should be delayed until just before they are needed. This approach ensures that the usual job site environment won't contaminate the good bonding surfaces of the board.

As always, check manufacturer's recommendations with whatever board you use. If you have any questions, please call your tile friends here at Tile Inc!

Byrne, Michael. "Selecting and Installing Tile Backer Boards." *Tile Magazine*. 11 APR 2009.

Byrne, Michael. "Selecting and Installing Tile Backer Boards Part 2." *Tile Magazine*. 2 JUN 2009.