



Waterproof Wall Finishes Around Bathtubs

The Building Standards Department issues Builder Tips as part of our customer service program. They are designed to provide an improved understanding of the Building Code and to reduce the costs associated with correcting infractions. Please contact your area building inspector for further information or call the Building Standards Department at 905.475.4848 extension 2189

9.29.2. Waterproof Wall Finish

9.29.2.1. Where Required

- (1) Waterproof finish shall be provided to a height of not less than
 - (a) 1.8 m (5 ft 11 in) above the floor in shower stalls,
 - (b) 1.2 m (3 ft 11 in) above the rims of bathtubs equipped with showers, and
 - (c) 400 mm (15³/₄ in) above rims of bathtubs not equipped with showers.

9.29.2.2. Materials

- (1) Waterproof finish shall consist of ceramic, plastic or metal tile, sheet vinyl, tempered hardboard, laminated thermosetting decorative sheets or linoleum.

9.29.10.4 Moisture Resistant Backing

- (1) Ceramic and plastic tile installed on walls around bathtubs or showers shall be applied over moisture-resistant backing.

OBJECTIVE

The use of ceramic and porcelain tile in today's homes has become the most common materials used to waterproof walls around bathtubs. When ceramic or porcelain tile is used around bathtubs, without a shower nozzle, the tile must be applied over a water-resistant gypsum board backing or another suitable water resistant board and must extend at least 400 mm (15³/₄ in) above the rims of the bathtub. Refer to the illustration below for details

