



# TTA TOP TIP

## Tiling a Shower or Wetroom



Tiles from The Tile Warehouse

British Standard BS5385 is the Code of Practice for fixing wall and floor tiles. Part 4 of the Standard offers advice on fixing tiles in particular situations including wet areas such as in showers.

First check with your tile supplier that the tile is suitable for use in a shower and/or bathroom.

Part 4 of British Standard BS5385, the Code of Practice for fixing wall and floor tiles offers advice on fixing tiles in particular situations including wet areas such as in showers. BS5385 states "It is **essential** to tile onto an already water resistant background. Sand/cement render, dense concrete or water resistant tile backer

board are ideal backgrounds. Plaster, plasterboard, timber and timber-based products such as MDF or plywood are absorbent and should be made waterproof by the use of a waterproofing or tanking system."

We have underlined the word essential as failure to do this is currently the most common cause of tiling failures in domestic bathrooms. Tiling onto non water-resistant backgrounds is therefore in breach of the British Standard BS5385

An alternative to plasterboard or timber based products is tile backerboard which is an inert water resistant product.

Waterproofing systems can be painted on to or applied to an absorbent background.

Most tile adhesive producers have a range of waterproofing systems that coordinate with the tile adhesives and grouts in their product ranges.

The tile adhesive should be a water resistant polymer enhanced adhesive meeting the requirements of BS EN 12004 for a D2 dispersion adhesive or C1 or C2 for a cementitious adhesives and the tile grout should be water resistant, meeting the requirements of BS EN 13888.

Tiles should be fixed using the solid bed method, i.e. ensuring that there are no voids beneath the tiles. The joints between the tiles should be filled using a water resistant grout.

Special attention should be paid to sealing the gaps between the base of the tiling and where the tiling joins the base of shower units or bath and penetrations in the tiling (e.g. shower fittings), using a good quality anti-fungicidal silicon sealant or a proprietary manufactured sealing strip specially designed for the purpose.

The shower should not be put into use until it has

cured and is adequately dry.

For more information on using tiles go [www.tiles.org.uk](http://www.tiles.org.uk). It is the website of The Tile Association which represents all aspects of the wall and floor tile industry in the UK, from manufacture to installation.

There you can download a copy of the DIY guide "Tile it Right", find a reputable tile supplier and find a reliable and experienced tile fitter.

Alternatively you can phone 020 8663 0946 or email [info@tiles.org.uk](mailto:info@tiles.org.uk)

[Illustrations—you will find the contact details for the companies in the directory on the website at \[www.tiles.org.uk\]\(http://www.tiles.org.uk\)](#)

Tiles from Reed Harris



# www.tiles.org.uk

The Tile Association, forum Court, 83 Copers Cope Road, Beckenham, Kent, BR3 1NR  
Tel: 020 8663 0946. Fax: 020 8663 0949. email: [info@tiles.org.uk](mailto:info@tiles.org.uk)