



# Shower and Water Closet Compartments Floor and Wall Finishes

## BLDG-8-1

The purpose of this Technical Bulletin is to establish acceptable floor and wall finish materials in showers and water closet compartments.

Section 1210.2 of the California Building Code addresses requirements for surface materials on the walls and floors in toilet and bathrooms.

### I. FLOOR FINISH MATERIALS

The following are examples of acceptable floor finish materials:

- A. Portland cement
- B. Concrete (troweled smooth)
- C. Ceramic tile (glazed or unglazed)
- D. Terrazzo (cement base)
- E. Marble blocks or slabs
- F. Sheet vinyl with fully-coved or top-set base
- G. Magnetite composition
- H. Approved prefabricated shower pans or stalls

### II. WALL FINISH MATERIALS

The following are examples of approved wall finish materials:

- A. Concrete or concrete block covered with waterproof paint or plastic.
- B. Portland cement plaster on metal lath, wire lath, or wire fabric, troweled smooth and painted.
- C. Prefabricated metal toilet compartment partitions (painted) or approved prefabricated shower stalls.
- D. Glass mat water resistant gypsum backing panels (CBC 2509.2).
- E. Ceramic, plastic or enamel finish metal tile.
- F. Marble or simulated marble slabs or blocks.
- G. Stainless steel.
- H. Tempered masonite with factory-applied baked paint or plastic.

### III. SHOWERS

Shower compartments and walls above bathtubs with installed shower heads shall be finished with a smooth, non absorbent surface to a height of 70" for commercial showers (72" for single family homes and duplexes).

### IV. BACKING METHODS

The following backing methods are acceptable for installation of wall finish materials listed in Section II, Items D through H:

### Documents Referenced in this Technical Bulletin

- 2013 California Building Code, (CBC)

- A. Portland cement plaster applied to framing in accordance with applications for exterior plaster. Note that this is preferred material.
- B. Three-eighths (3/8") inch exterior grade plywood (Grade C-C) minimum, or interior grade plywood with exterior glue applied to framing as a backing. All joints must be caulked.
- C. Walls in bathroom other than walls surrounding showers and bathtubs may use water resistant board (i.e. green board).

### V. WATER CLOSET COMPARTMENTS

When separate water closet compartments are not provided, the required protection shall extend 24 inches on each side of the fixture and 24 inches beyond the front portion of the fixture and shall be finished to a height of 48 inches.

All wall surfaces not specifically requiring protection against water intrusion as outlined in Sections 1210.2 and water splash may be finished with gypsum lath and gypsum plaster, troweled smooth and painted. Water-resistant gypsum backing board may be applied as a base for tile or wall panels in water closets in accordance with American Society for Testing and Materials (ASTM) C840 or Gypsum Association (GA)-216 (CBC2509.2).

See Section 2510.6 for restrictions on the use of wood based sheathing as a backing for plaster.

### VI. UNACCEPTABLE MATERIALS

Typical materials which are not acceptable for use as a finished surface are:

- A. Asphalt or vinyl tile.
- B. Wood or wood products (exception: tempered masonite).
- C. Gypsum board of any type including wallboard, sheathing, and gypsum lath.
- D. Gypsum plaster, including Keene's cement plaster.

### VII. INSPECTIONS

At the time of drywall inspections, the sealing of all cut edges, utility holes and joints will be inspected.