

AS 3740:2021



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Waterproofing of domestic wet areas

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AS 3740:2021

This Australian Standard ® was prepared by BD-038, Wet Areas In Buildings. It was approved on behalf of the Council of Standards Australia on 7 July 2021.

This Standard was published on 23 July 2021.

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Association of Wall and Ceiling Industries of Australia
Australasian Concrete Repair and Remedial Building Association
Australian Building Codes Board
Australian Industry Group
Australian Institute of Building Surveyors
Australian Institute of Waterproofing
Australian Tile Council
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CSIRO
Engineered Wood Products Association of Australasia
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This Standard was issued in draft form for comment as DR AS 3740:2020.

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ISBN 978 1 76113 435 7

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Origin: technicals AS 3740—1989.
Previous edition AS 3740—2012.
Fifth edition AS 3740:2021.

Standards Australia Ltd 2021

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Preface

This Standard was prepared by the Standards Australia Committee BD-038, Wet Areas in Buildings, to supersede AS 3740:2010.

The objective of this document is to set out the criteria for waterproofing wet areas within domestic buildings. It gives minimum requirements for materials, designs and installations.

The objective of this revision is to bring this document in line with the current waterproofing practices in the building industry.

Changes from the previous edition include the following:

- (a) Restructure for useability.
- (b) Addition of figures with examples of application.
- (c) Addition of information on risk levels of different areas.
- (d) Inclusion of appropriate details for various risk levels.
- (e) Clarification of usage definitions.
- (f) Increased ease of reference for varying conditions.
- (g) Revision of design and installation techniques.
- (h) Expansion of information on shower and bath scenarios.
- (i) Inclusion of informative integrity testing.

The role of waterproofing is to install waterproofing systems as a combination of waterproof and water-resistant materials in order to retain water within the designated wet area and exclude water from non-water-resistant building elements. It is intended that water be managed to an outfall at surface and substrate. Systems are intended to accommodate expected service conditions of the wet area to prevent damage by water and accumulated moisture to building elements.

This document is not to be interpreted as preventing the use of materials, systems or methods that meet the design and installation criteria set out in this document, but are not specifically referred to herein (alternative solution).

Additional requirements may need to be considered for wet areas intended for use by people with disabilities.

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The terms “normative” and “informative” are used in Standards to define the application of the appendix to which they apply. A “normative” appendix is an integral part of a Standard, whereas an “informative” appendix is only for information and guidance.

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Waterproofing of domestic wet areas

Section 1 Scope and general

1.1 Scope

This document sets out minimum requirements for the materials, design and installation of waterproofing for domestic wet areas.

This document applies to internal wet areas as defined in the National Construction Code (NCC).

NOTE 1 [Appendix A](#) provides design considerations for categories of wet area waterproofing.

The following are excluded from the scope of this document:

- (a) Situations where flooding of the wet areas occurs through overflowing of vessels or plumbing failures.
- (b) Concrete admixtures or penetrant sealers or similar.
- (c) Decorative coatings.
- (d) Communal or group wet areas such as shower areas in swimming pool complexes, sporting facilities, steam rooms, and similar situations.

NOTE 2 A suggested checklist of items to be reviewed following installation of waterproofing is provided in [Appendix D](#).

NOTE 3 A method to determine whether the subfloor moisture content is suitable for the installation of waterproof membranes is provided in [Appendix F](#).

1.2 Normative references

The following documents are referred to in the text in such a way that some or all of their contents constitutes requirements of this document:

NOTE Documents referenced for normative purposes are listed in the Bibliography.

AS 1288, *Glass in buildings—Selection and Installation*

AS 1566, *Copper and copper alloys—Rolled flat products*

AS 1684.2, *Residential timber-framed construction, Part 2: Non-cyclonic areas*

AS 1684.3, *Residential timber-framed construction, Part 3: Cyclonic areas*

AS 1684.4, *Residential timber-framed construction, Part 4: Simplified—Non-cyclonic areas*

AS 3884, *Floor coverings—Resilient sheet and tiles—Installation practices*

AS 3870, *Residential slabs and footings*

AS 3500.2, *Plumbing and drainage, Part 2: Sanitary plumbing and drainage*

AS 3588, *Shower bases and shower modules*

AS 3600, *Concrete structures*

AS 3700, *Masonry structures*

AS/NZS 1170.1, *Structural design actions, Part 1: Permanent, imposed and other actions*