



Application Guide

Blue Max Tile & Floor

General Guidelines

- Blue Max Tile & Floor meets requirements of ANSI 118.10 and Uniform Plumbing Code to waterproof shower enclosures. Since Blue Max Tile & Floor is part of a series of components making up a shower, ensure all current local plumbing codes and regulations in your area are met.
- Perform a spot adhesion test after cleaning and surface preparation is complete to verify dis-bonding issues do not exist and conditions are correct to proceed with installation.
- Material performance can be determined by proper film thickness, do not forget to check application rates with film thickness gauge between each coat. If material is under applied, the waterproofing system will have insufficient film build to perform properly. If material is over applied, material will dry more slowly and extend recoat times.

Application Temperatures

- Coordinate application prior to high heat of the day. Best temperature range for application is 50° - 90°F (10° - 32°C).
- When working in cold temperatures, apply a test patch to observe maximum millage that can be applied per coat without sagging.
- Minimum temperature of 40 °F (5 °C) and rising before applying.
- Product should be dry after 24 hours. Low temperature and high humidity can delay start times and increase drying times.
- Material is dry and ready for subsequent coats when it turns dark blue, is firm to the touch and is slightly tacky.

Step 1: Surface Preparation & Detail Work

Initial Cleaning

Remove dirt, contaminants, and other loose debris from surfaces with a stiff bristle broom, vacuum, or other means unless the build-up is severe.

Inspection of Substrates

Identify and communicate any substrate issues to the project supervisor, architect, or customer, and to Ames Technical Service Department for personalized recommendations.

Substrate conditions are specific to the type of surfaces. Incorrect conditions can cause installation deficiencies that could affect the performance of your waterproofing installation. Inspect for:

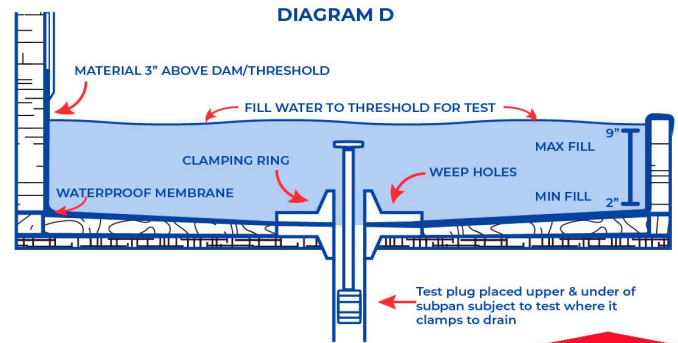
- Protruding or missing fasteners
- Loose or broken backer board
- Excessive gaps between backer board panels
- Excessive gaps at intersections of backer board to other adjacent items
- Excessive gaps at cutouts for water pipes, shower heads
- Rough sharp ridges in mortar sloping material
- Dried crumbs of mortar slag on the surface of the shower base.
- Mortar blocking mounting holes between Drain Base and Clamping Ring
- Presence of mold or mildew on walls or sheathing due to extended exposure to the elements or other pre-existing conditions.
- Wood Moisture content should be at or below 20% as tested at core of substrate. This will typically be a consideration when the floor sheathing has been properly pre-sloped and is the intended substrate for the Blue Max Tile & Floor.
- For remodeling projects, aged materials must be inspected for possible repairs or replacement before proceeding. Structural and environmental integrity in the underlying material is crucial since it is the base for the new Ames Waterproofing System.

Application Detail Work

Alert project supervision and Ames Research Technical Service Department to any physical conditions of the jobsite that are not defined in architectural details, Ames Details, or details that create uncertainty in proceeding.

Details Available

The following detail calls out typical code requirements for shower base construction and testing.



Procedures For Completing Detail Work

Blue Max Tile & Floor, Blue Max Caulk, Blue Max Trowel Grade, and Ames Poly-Bridge Reinforcing Fabric will be needed to complete detail work. Additional reinforcing of the Blue Max Waterproofing System is recommended at:

- Joints
- Penetrations through the walls
- Raised threshold openings or curbs
- Inside and outside corners
- Transitions to dissimilar materials
- Drain base flanges
- Any other similar conditions that may exist on your project

Wall Penetrations Detail

- Pre-fill gaps around items penetrating from the wall then embed a piece of fabric into a wet layer of Blue Max.
- Around a round pipe, a slight curve can be cut into one side of the fabric to allow contact between both the pipe and the wall while being embedded.
- Overlay the fabric with additional pieces as needed for a full seal. The intent is to create a tight seal between the wall and the item penetrating the wall – such as a shower head pipe or trim rings at rough-in plumbing flanges.
- If fabric does not lay flat, snip the fabric with scissors, pull out the wrinkles from the outside edges of the fabric or pull off the fabric completely and re-position while wet.

Backer Panel Joints Detail

- Prefill joints and voids over 1/8", and minor overcuts around wall penetrations with Blue Max Trowel Grade or Blue Max Caulk.

Inside & Outside Corner Joint Details

- For inside corners, changes in plane and over open gaps or cracks require embedding 4"-6" polyester reinforcement fabric.
- Once a wet band of Blue Max material is rolled out on each wall or side of a joint/gap, lay in the fabric into the wet material.
- When inside corners are reinforced, it is easiest to embed the fabric on one side of the joint, then wrap the fabric around the joint into the wet material on the second side using a 4" mini roller or a large squeegee.



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- The fabric is quite flexible so it should wrap around the inside and outside corners easily. Once the fabric starts to saturate with Blue Max it becomes limp and flexible.
- When initially placing the fabric; pulling the fabric straight from each end makes the process easier.

Step 2: 1st Coat of Blue Max Tile & Floor

- Coordinate schedule to apply materials in temperatures between 50° - 90°F (10° to 32°C).
- When working in colder temperatures without indoor climate controls, apply a test patch to observe maximum millage that can be applied per coat without sagging.
- Minimum temperature of 40 °F (5 °C) and rising before applying.
- Blue Max Tile & Floor is best applied with spray application for required finished film thickness in fewer coats.
- Rollers can be used but can result in additional coats being required. Ensure a minimum nap of 1".
- Mask and protect adjacent surfaces not intended to be coated.
- Do not block weep holes at plumbing drain flanges.
- Dry times depend on thickness of application, humidity, and weather. Product should be dry after 24 hours. Low temperature or high humidity can increase dry times.
- Apply 1st coat at a rate of 45 - 50 sq. ft./gal (32 - 34 mils wet) and allow to dry a minimum of 24 hours before recoating.

Step 3: 2nd Coat of Blue Max Tile & Floor

- Repeat step 2.

Inspection, Testing and Repair

- Inspect after final coat is dry and repair any obvious deficiencies.
- Take inventory of any remaining product. Excessive material is indicative of insufficient material applied.
- If applicable, apply the remaining balance to your surfaces until the materials are depleted to the amount calculated for your project.
- Assemble documentation of substrate conditions before, during and after your project to meet any required warranty conditions. (See Blue Max Tile & Floor Warranty Instructions)

BLUE MAX® SPRAYER RECOMMENDATIONS

PROJECT		AIRLESS EQUIPMENT SPECIFICATIONS
Blue Max Tile & Floor Projects Only	SMALL PROJECTS <small>OCCASIONAL INSTALLER</small>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Can apply 1 gal per battery charge <i>(example is Graco TC Pro handheld battery powered airless)</i> • 2000 psi • Tip size .412 to .416 • Hose size – this gun has a 32 oz. capacity reservoir and no hose.
	MID-SIZED PROJECTS <small>MORE FREQUENT INSTALLER</small>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flow rate of 0.38 GPM <i>(example is Graco Magnum Pro x19 airless)</i> • 2500 to 3000 psi • Tip size .412 to .519 • Hose size ¼ inch
Blue Max Tile & Floor Projects & All Other Projects	LARGE PROJECTS <small>COMMERCIAL/ PROFESSIONAL APPLICATOR</small>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Flow rate of 1.0 to 2.0 GPM <i>(example is Graco 695 airless)</i> • 2500 to 3000 psi • Tip size .417 to .625 • Hose size ¼ inch to ¾ inch

Spray Application Guidelines

- Consult Ames Tech Services for assistance in determining if your specific airless sprayer is suitable for the project.
- Blue Max Tile & floor may be applied with a wide variety of sprayers such as small handheld sprayers with built-in, detachable reservoirs and electric airless sprayers. The sprayer you select should provide at least 0.20 GPM of material flow up to 1.0 GPM at a range of 2000 PSI to 3000 PSI maximum pressure with a minimum tip size of .015 and a maximum tip size of .021. Maximum tip sizes will vary depending on the size of sprayer you select and are in the specifications for your specific airless. Sprayer sizing can be based on size of project and planned frequency for use of the sprayer.
- Click the links below for helpful sprayer selection charts and advice:
 - [344185EN-B Graco Magnum/TrueCoat 360/TC Pro Brochure](#)
 - [Paint Sprayer Tip Selector | Graco Homeowner](#)
- If your spray pattern is erratic or fingering tails along the outside of the pattern the primary causes would be that the pressure is inadequate on your spray rig, or your gun or machine filter is clogging. You could also have a worn-out tip, or a tip sized too large for the capacity of your pump. Instead increase the spray pressure or change spray rigs so an even pattern is sprayed. Fingers and tails in the spray pattern caused by inadequate atomization of the material can result in excessive buildup of material on the wall which can sag. Sagged material takes longer to cure and looks unsightly although performance is not reduced.

Clean-up, Storage & Disposal

- Water clean-up should be performed immediately after use on all tools, equipment, hands, etc.
- Store unused product in the original container tightly sealed
- Dispose of this product in accordance with local, state, or federal requirements
- Protect from freezing

Cautions

- Do not take internally
- Keep out of reach of children
- Avoid contact with skin and eyes
- Use hand and eye protection when using this product
- Wash with soap and water after contact with skin
- If eye-contact occurs rinse with clean water and seek medical advice if symptoms continue