

TECHNICAL BULLETIN

WET AREA INSTALLATION



AUGUST 2024

INTRODUCTION

This bulletin is intended to give guidance on the use of Kopine particleboard flooring in designated wet areas such as bathrooms, laundries, kitchens and toilets to meet the requirements of the New Zealand Building Code.

CODEMARK

The use of Kopine Flooring Systems in residential and commercial buildings is supported by a CodeMark Certificate, which certifies that the Kopine Flooring System conforms with the New Zealand Building Code B1 Structure, B2 Durability and F2 Hazardous Building Material.

The CodeMark Certificate also confirms that the Kopine flooring system is suitable for use in wet areas subject to the following conditions and limitations specifically regarding those areas:

“The flooring must be protected by a membrane or other impervious finish when installed in wet or splash areas.”

A copy of the latest CodeMark Certificate can be viewed or downloaded [here](#).

NZBC CLAUSE E3 INTERNAL MOISTURE

The functional and performance requirements for wet areas are set out in Clause E3.

E3.3.3 states: floor surfaces of any space containing sanitary fixtures or sanitary appliances must be impervious and easily cleaned.

Approved impervious finishes are stated in E3/AS1 3.1.1 Floors (Amendment 7) and include a) integrally waterproof vinyl with sealed joints and sealed or coved edges and b) ceramic or stone tiles with less than 6% water absorbency laid over a continuous impervious membrane and c) a polished or steel trowel finish on a slab-on-grade concrete floor.

Other floor finishes may also meet the performance requirements for impervious and easily cleaned providing there are no gaps or cracks, the edges are sealed and the surface is coated with a suitable durable coating however such finishes are outside the scope of E3/AS1 and compliance must be demonstrated via an Alternative Solution.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Kopine particleboard flooring is manufactured to AS/NZS 1860 and is not required to be treated as shown in NZS 3602:2003 Table 1 Ref 1E.7 and is therefore suitable for installation in designated water splash areas such as laundries, bathrooms, kitchens and toilets when protected by a membrane or other impervious finish.

Internal wet area membrane systems must comply with AS/NZS 4858:2004 and be installed in accordance with E3/AS2 which references the Waterproofing Membrane Association Incorporated (WMAI) Code of Practice for Internal Wet Area Membrane Systems (IWAM).

As with most wood-based products, short term or occasional wetting will not unduly affect the integrity of particleboard, provided it can dry. However, long term moisture inclusion will ultimately have significant effect and needs to be considered in the design stages of a project.

It is the designer's or end user's responsibility to ensure that the product is fit for purpose and meets the requirements of the applicable provisions of the New Zealand Building Code.

For further information please contact Kopine.

This document was updated in August 2024. Please ensure that you are using the latest version by contacting Kopine or downloading the latest version from www.kopine.co.nz

Kopine, a business unit of New Zealand Panels Group, reserves the right to make changes to this publication without notice.