

TECHNICAL BULLETIN

WET AREA INSTALLATION



MAY 2019

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 as flooring is supported by a CodeMark Certificate, (Refer Certificate Number AQ-220917-CNNZ), which certifies that the Kopine Flooring System conforms with the Building Code of New Zealand for B1 Structure, B2 Durability and F2 Hazardous Building Material.

The CodeMark Certificate confirms that the Kopine flooring system is suitable for use in wet and splash 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.”

COMPLIANCE DOCUMENTS

Wet area durability and protection from moisture are covered in B2/AS1 and reference's both E3/AS1 (Internal Moisture) NZS 3602:2003 (Timber and Wood-Based Products used in Building) and NZS3604.

E3/AS1 3.0 refers to “Watersplash” areas.

E3/AS1 3.1.1

The following linings and finishes to floors satisfy the performance for impervious and easily cleaned surfaces in areas exposed to watersplash:

(f) A timber or timber-based product such as particleboard sealed with waterproof applied coatings.

NZS 3602 Table 1 E.7 states that: Timber and wood-based products used for interior flooring does not require treatment.

NZS 3602 110.3.1 States that: Flooring in “wet areas” such as laundries, bathrooms, kitchens and toilets shall be as set out in E3/AS1. Where maintenance of an impervious coating cannot be assured in wet areas, plywood flooring treated to a minimum H3 should be used.

CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS

Kopine Particle Board is suitable for installation in designated “wet splash” areas such as laundries, bathrooms, kitchens and toilets when coated with an impervious coating or waterproof membrane.

Suitable coatings and membranes include a full polyurethane coating system, impervious vinyl floor covering with welded joints or a waterproof membrane complying with AS/NZS 4858.

Where permanent fixtures and fixture occur, waterproof membranes should be continuous under such fixtures.

Where Kopine flooring is used in a designated shower or on floors adjacent to showers not fully enclosed, a waterproof membrane must be used.

Where vinyl floor coverings are used it is recommended that coving is applied up the walls to a height of 150mm and where accidental flooding of wet areas might occur a floor waste should be installed in accordance with E3/AS1.

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 a 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.