



TECHNICAL BULLETIN

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Green Board: Using it the Correct Way

In 2005 the building code began to limit the use of water resistance board “Green Board” in showers and tub surrounds. That language has become more limiting in the International Building Code and California Building Code. The model code language is as follows; water-resistant gypsum board i.e. green board shall not be used in the following locations:

1. Over a vapor retarder in shower or bathtub compartments.
2. Where there will be direct exposure to water or in areas subject to continues high humidity.

Over the last few years the above described modifications has also developed misconceptions of the code language. The first misconceptions is that green board is not allowed in bathrooms, this is not the case, the code only mandates the use of materials other than green board in shower and tub surrounds locations know as “wet areas” in bathrooms. Tiled locations, other than those at the shower surround and tub surround may still use green board as a tile backer. The language of the code does not define continues high humidity and this is where the misconceptions happen. In a normal bathroom such as a residential bathroom, green board shall be allowed as a tile backer in all areas except “wet areas”, in bathrooms that have gang showers or steam rooms such as health clubs green board should not be used as a tile backer do to the continues use.



Correct use as a tile baker in non wet



Incorrect use in a wet area