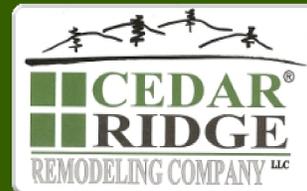


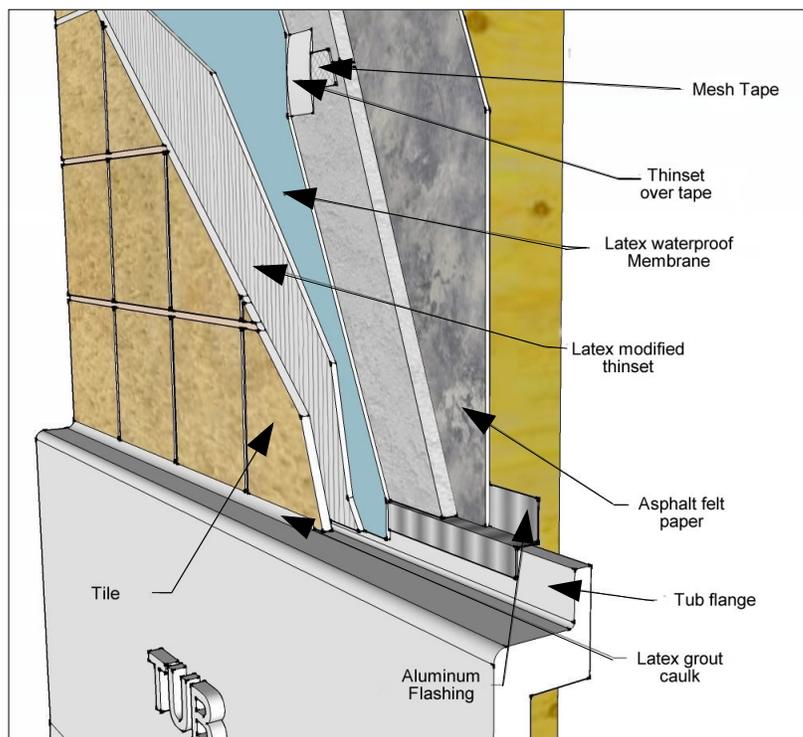
# TILE TUB AND SHOWER SURROUND INSTALLATION — HAVE IT INSTALLED IT RIGHT!



*Let us turn your house, into your Dream home.*

## ***Sure your tile your tile looks great, but was it installed to last?***

If your thinking of having a tile surround installed or replaced in your bathroom here is what you need to know about the process. Knowing what to ask could save you a lot of money, trouble and hassle in the future. Also, we want to make sure that no matter who you choose for your project that you will be well informed. Remember your tile should not only look great when it is installed, but it should preform and look great for years to come.



- **Aluminum Flashing** – Flashing is used to provide a channel to overt water away from a joint where two materials meet, in this case where the cement board and the tub flange are joined.

- **Asphalt felt paper** – This is the same “tar-paper” that is installed on roofs before installing shingles. In this application the idea is the same to provide a water and vapor barrier as a final stop for any moisture.

- **1/2” cement backer board** - Cement backer board is mainly used as a sub-surface for tiling. The great value of cement board is does not rot, warp, grow mold, or deteriorate, when subjected to water or moisture. Green board which is commonly use by other for this applications, which is just a more hardy type of drywall, is not recommended for places with constant water usage, such as showers. Cement backer board is made up 90% percent portland cement and ground sand. HardieBacker board scores a 0 (best possible score) on the ASTM G21 for mold resistance and a 10 (best possible score) on the ASTM D3273 test against mold growth.

- **Mesh Tape** - Mesh tape is use to reinforce joints where two cement boards meet. It helps to prevent cracks along joints. The tape is then covered with a layer of thinset to fill in gaps between adjoining backer boards

- **Latex membrane** – This is a latex membrane that is applied with a brush, it provides a waterproof barrier between the backer board and the tile. It is applied to the backer board after the joints have dried. It is latex based and has the ability to stretch and flex without affecting it's waterproofing properties even if small cracks form in the joints where the mesh tape has been applied.

- **Thin-set** – This is the glue that holds the tile to the backer board. In most cases a polymer modified form of thin-set is used. Polymer modified thin-sets provide better adhesion for wall tiles and allows for more flex then traditional thin-set.

- **Tile, grout and caulk** – Wall tile ranges in sizes 4x4, 6x6, 3x6 and 6x8 and may also include decorative borders. In most caes it is best to use something 6x6 or smaller, as lager tile can sag before the thin-set dries. **Grout** is what fills in the gaps between the tile. It comes in many different colors. Most are polymer modified and also can contain stain and mildew resistant additive. After the grout is installed it is sealed with grout sealer. Unlike ceramic tile which has a non-porous glazed surface, grout will absorb water. So to prevent this the grout is sealed three times with grout sealer. **Caulk** provides the final defense against any pesky water. It fills the gaps where the tile meets the tub or shower pan. Polyblend sanded varieties work best because of their ability to stretch and flex, and because they can be matched to the grout color.

## Tile surround Q&A

**Q:** Why do you use asphalt felt paper apposed to plastic sheet?

*A: We find that felt paper is just easier to work with when installing it. It is thicker and heavier the plastic sheeting and it can be folded neatly at the corners making for an easier installation. Using plastic sheeting as a vapor is perfectly acceptable, but it tends to tear when the backer board is installed leaving holes. And having holes in a vapor barrier just doesn't do the job.*

**Q:** What is cement backer board

*A: Cement board is a combination of cement and reinforcing fibers formed into 4 foot by 8 foot sheets (or 3 foot by 5 foot sheets), 1/4 to 1/2 inch thick that are typically used as a tile backing board. Cement board can be nailed or screwed to wood or steel studs to create a substrate for vertical tile and attached horizontally to plywood for tile floors. Cement board adds impact resistance and strength to the wall surface as compared to water resistant gypsum boards. Cement board is also fabricated in thin sheets with polymer modified cements to allow bending for curved surfaces*

**Q:** Why do you use cement backer board? I heard of contractors using “green board” what is the difference?

*A: Well, Greenboard is like traditional drywall the difference being it's green covering which is resistant to water. This makes greenboard ideal for situations where there will be high humidity or water being “splashed”. It's good for bathroom and kitchen walls and other damp damp applications like basements. However, it has to be emphasized that it's only good for damp applications and not wet applications. You can not use greenboard for shower walls even with tile on top. If the green covering becomes soaked, water will seep through into the gypsum and it will disintegrate. Now as for cement board it is made of 90% portland cement and will not take on water, the same portland cement that is used to make concrete. It will not disintegrate, grow mold and mildew and is humidity and water stable.*

**Q:** What exactly is polymer modified thin-set?

*A: Thin-set cement, to which polymers have been added, is commonly called latex-modified mortar. In fact, this term is a bit of a misnomer. The original polymers used to modify thinset were based on latex and the term originates from their use, but now these polymers are mostly acrylics. The use of these polymers allows specific properties to be imparted to the cement - commonly, freeze/thaw resistance, improved flexibility, and improved adhesion. There are also polymers used to make the cement waterproof or sufficiently elastic so that it acts like an anti-fracture membrane.*

For any other questions feel free to contact us at:

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### OTHER RESOURCES

**Cement backer board:** [http://www.jameshardie.com/homeowner/products\\_backerboard\\_halfInch.shtml](http://www.jameshardie.com/homeowner/products_backerboard_halfInch.shtml)

**Grout:** <http://customgroutsolutions.com/AboutGrout>

**Latex membrane:** [http://c-cure.com/doc/ds/ds\\_prored.pdf](http://c-cure.com/doc/ds/ds_prored.pdf)

**RedGuard Waterproofing and Crack Prevention Membrane**

**Thinset:** Pre-Mixed Stone, Porcelain, and Ceramic Tile Thin-Set Mortar

**Grout sealer:** TileLab® Grout & Tile Sealer