

Waterstop Streamline – The new industry standard for shower construction

Innovative product addresses one of the BSA's consistently listed top ten defects.



A product born from necessity, the idea was spawned after witnessing a large project builder become completely frustrated by the never cycle of call-backs to fix leaking showers.

Leak testing undertaken by the builder involved plugging the waste with an inflatable bladder and filling the recess with water from another source. The recess would hold water, indicating that the membrane was sound.

The builder would then call the plumber who would pressure test the pipework and find no leaks.

This cycle would repeat itself over and over until the builder, out of sheer desperation, called on the industry to find out why the leaks were occurring and to come up with a more reliable method of sealing a shower.

Australian manufacturing firm Gleda Pty Ltd recognised the need and began a detailed examination of current methods and designs.

Exhaustive testing was undertaken to establish exactly where and how these leaks were occurring. These tests began to show a common thread across numerous shower designs. Whether the shower utilised a tiled hob, a recessed substrate or a flow-through design with a submerged angle, any sealing of the screen was reliant on a silicon joint between the screen and the tiles. Over a time span much less than the warranty period, the silicon joint was degrading and causing the integrity of the seal to be compromised. Secondly, models using dyed water showed that even while the silicon remained intact, grout, being porous, was allowing water to seep down below the tiles and into the glue cavity between the membrane and the tiles. Expansion and contraction resulting from the cycles of heat and cold was "pumping" water over the hob or angle to escape the enclosure entirely. Once this process was understood, it became clear that for any design to be successful, it would have to incorporate a method to seal the screen directly to the membrane.

A group of professionals consisting of Water-proofers, Tilers, Screen-Installers, Building Supervisors and Certifiers were called

together to look closely at the current methods and list in detail, the issues they saw as being important to their respective tasks.

From this list, a series of requirements were drawn up which would address each issue and provide the design parameters for a new method of shower construction.

The design parameters were:

- A positive connection between the water-proofing membrane and the screen, with a failsafe incorporated to prevent leaks due to time-induced silicon failure. Any seal was NOT to be reliant on a silicon joint between a screen and tiles.
- One piece design to minimise potential leak points
- Correct and sufficient fall to waste
- Compatibility with modern, liquid membranes
- Minimal tile cutting
- Ease of screen fitment
- Minimum footprint to maximise available floor space
- Full compliance with Australian Standards
- Aesthetic traits to be adaptable across a wide range of bathroom styles and price points
- As close to cost-neutral as possible

Prototypes were developed, tested, refined and tested again until eventually a system was developed which encompassed all of the design requirements.

A small production run was undertaken and the showers were installed in the field with feedback from each trade closely monitored. Once approval was received from all parties, the dies were cut and Gleda set about tooling up their 1500 square metre factory for production.

The frustrated builder became Gleda's first customer and is still a customer nine years later. So great has been the market acceptance that almost 56 000 showers have now been produced and installed right across the country.

Gleda Managing Director, Brett Krey explains "In the finished product, the input given by Water-proofers, Tilers and Screen Installers comes through strongly in the ease at which each trade completes their respective processes. In fact, most of our new business is a result of referrals from these three trades."

"Waterstop Streamline is fast to install, seals the screen directly to the membrane and provides a fail-safe in the event of silicon failure. It also incorporates a template for the tiler so that fall to waste is ensured and screen fitment is simple. Tiling costs are significantly reduced and it doesn't rely on an exposed and vulnerable bead of silicon to prevent the screen from leaking."

"We now have testimonials from water-proofers, tilers, major screen manufacturers and builders recommending Waterstop Streamline as their preferred method of shower construction."

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Are your showers ticking time bombs?

Despite builders best efforts, leaking showers are consistently listed in the BSA's top ten defects.

Sadly, sometimes this is due to sub-standard workmanship, but most of the time it is the design of the shower itself which is creating the potential for disaster.

Most contractors are at a complete loss as to why, but detailed testing has shown how, by the action of expansion and contraction, water is "pumped" along glue cavities to escape the shower enclosure, no matter how well it is water-proofed.

The best way to prevent the problem is to seal the screen directly to the membrane, and NOT to the tiles.

Waterstop Streamline provides:

- Positive connection between screen and membrane
- Maximises floor area
- Provides a template for following trades
- Ensures correct fall to waste
- Complies with and exceeds AS3740
- Modern, cost effective, one-piece design
- 20 different shapes and sizes
- Minimum change for maximum benefits

My business has expanded rapidly since we started using the Waterstop Streamline hob and I now have tilers recommending the Waterstop Streamline system - and me - to other builders. Everyone that uses it loves it.

Mr Fred Meddings, Managing Director
Watertight Australia (Water-proofers)

By using Waterstop Streamline I know the shower will be perfect every time. It has to be, because this product is designed to dictate placement of all of the other components to make up a complete shower. It's virtually impossible to stuff it up.

Mr Glen Whitehead, Managing Director
BJM Developments

**Remove the doubt. Fit Waterstop Streamline
... and forget about leaking showers.**

