

# a streamline approach

Necessity really is the mother of invention. *Housing* takes a look at a product that has revolutionised shower construction.

**A**bout eight years ago a large residential building company became so frustrated by the never-ending call-backs for leaking shower screens that they called on the industry to come up with a method of shower construction that would actually outlast the warranty period.

In response, a group of industry professionals consisting of building supervisors, waterproofers, tilers, shower screen fitters and building certifiers gathered to look closely at current methods and list in detail the common problems that these methods generated.

From this, a list of requirements was drawn up for a new system that would prevent these problems from occurring.

The requirements were:

- Positive connection between the shower screen and the waterproofing membrane to prevent leaking screens, with a failsafe design in the event of time-induced silicon failure.
- One-piece design to minimise potential leak points.
- Ensure correct fall to waste.
- Compatibility with modern, liquid membranes.
- Provision of a template for the following trades to minimise potential for mistakes.
- Minimum footprint to utilise as much of the available floor area as possible.
- Modern, sleek design adaptable across a range of bathroom styles and price points.
- Full compliance with Australian Standards.
- As close to cost-neutral as possible.

Many ideas were generated and each trade gave their input into making the product efficient for them. Prototypes were developed, tested, refined and then tested

again, until eventually a system which met all of the criteria came to fruition.

The requirements were strict and wide ranging, and while the solution looks elegantly simple, the design, prototyping and testing phase was far from it.

In the finished product, the input given by waterproofers, tilers, screen installers and building supervisors comes through strongly in the ease at which each trade completes their process.

For a builder, once a call-back issue is resolved, the most important issue remaining is the cost. Large, well known project builders have reported that using Streamline is close to, or is, cost-neutral as the initial cost of the Streamline product is offset against not having to pay for a brick hob or recessed slab, and 20 or so tiles cut and glued to cover the hob. Waterproofing, tiling and screen fitting times are all reduced, and the lack of call-backs for leaking screens at the five-year mark puts the Streamline system well ahead.

Waterstop Streamline boss, Brett Krey explains: 'A significant percentage of our customers are those targeting first home buyer or first investor markets, and they have told me, point blank, that if the Streamline system cost them any more than their old system, they wouldn't touch it. The fact that they have

been installing Streamline for more than half a decade should tell you something.'

Waterstop Streamline is supplied to waterproofers, tilers, builders and retailers across the nation from the manufacturer, Gleda Pty Ltd.

For more information call 07 54263700 or visit [waterstopstreamline.com.au](http://waterstopstreamline.com.au) **H**

## The Streamline Challenge

Waterstop Streamline is offering project builders, who build more than 10 homes per year, a no-risk way to trial its new method of shower construction.

Switch to Waterstop Streamline for shower installations and if, after completing two houses, you decide to revert back to your previous method Waterstop says it will refund the purchase price on the two Streamline angles, in full.

Managing director of Waterstop, Brett Krey says: 'The concept was borne in response to hearing the same comment from new customers. Even though they have experienced problems with their current method, many express apprehension about changing to a new system ... Eventually they bite the bullet and trial Waterstop Streamline. After completion, they start getting positive feedback.'

Waterstop says experience has shown it that once a builder has completed a couple of bathrooms using its product, they rarely go back to their previous method.

