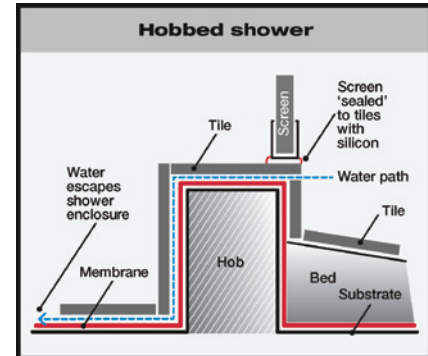
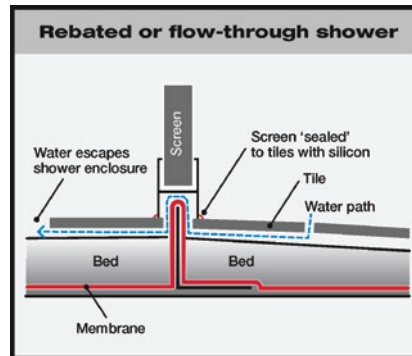
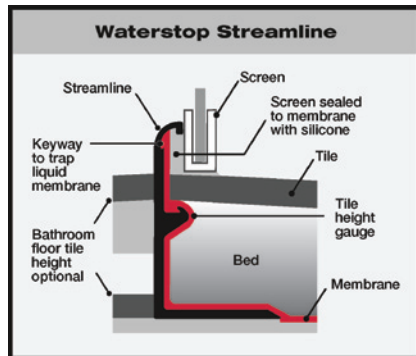


advertorial PROFILE WATERPROOFING



Waterstop Streamline is rapidly becoming the new industry standard method of shower construction.

DESIGNED TO address one of the BSA's consistently listed top ten defects, the initial idea was spawned as a result of witnessing a large builder becoming increasingly frustrated by the never-ending cycle they found themselves in when trying to solve the problem of showers leaking within the warranty period.

Leak testing involved plugging the waste with an inflatable bladder and filling the shower recess with water obtained from another source. The shower would hold water, indicating that the membrane was sound. The builder would then call the plumber who pressure tested the pipework and found no leaks. Becoming increasingly frustrated, the builder would call out the only contractor left, the screen installer, who would check the installation, find all of the silicon sealant correctly applied and intact.

After extensive testing, it was eventually found that these leaks were the result of a simple flaw in the shower design itself, and not to faulty workmanship as first thought.

Whether the shower utilised a tiled hob, a recessed substrate, or a flow-through design with a concealed angle, a common design flaw was present. In all of these cases, the shower screen is sealed to the tiles using silicon. The problem with this approach is that grout, being porous, allows water to seep through into the glue cavity under the tiles. Once here, water is "pumped" via expansion and contraction, underneath the tiles and above

the membrane to escape the shower enclosure entirely. Once this was understood, it became clear that for any design to be successful, it must incorporate a method to seal the screen directly to the water-proofing membrane and not to the tiles.

From the results of these tests, lengthy consultation with industry ensued and a list of requirements was drawn up for a new system which would address the issues faced by water-proofer, tilers, shower-screen fitters and builders, and would ensure compliance with AS3740.

THE REQUIREMENTS WERE SET AS FOLLOWS:

- One piece construction to minimise potential leak points
- Ensure the screen can be sealed directly to the water-proofing membrane
- Minimum footprint to maximise available floor area
- Provide a screeding/tiling gauge to ensure correct fall to waste
- Compatible with modern, liquid membranes
- Sleek, modern design
- Built in failsafe in case of silicon failure
- Minimum cost differential compared to current methods

After many designs, prototypes, tests and redesigns, Waterstop Streamline was born and in eight years has grown from concept to more than forty-five thousand installations Australia wide, giving hundreds of builders peace of mind.

For more information visit www.waterstopstreamline.com.au or call (07) 5426 3700