



**THE TILE ASSOCIATION**  
**FORUM COURT, 83 COPERS COPE ROAD**  
**BECKENHAM**  
**KENT BR3 1NR**  
**TEL 020 8663 0946**  
**FAX 020 8663 0949**  
**E-MAIL [info@tiles.org.uk](mailto:info@tiles.org.uk)**  
**WEBSITE [www.tiles.org.uk](http://www.tiles.org.uk)**

## **Tiling the bathroom in your home**

British Standard BS5385 is the Code of Practice for fixing wall and floor tiles. Part 4 of the Standard offers advice on fixing tiles in particular situations including wet areas such as in showers.

When planning the tiling in your shower it is essential to tile onto an already water resistant background. Sand:cement render, dense concrete or water resistant tilebacker board are ideal backgrounds. Plaster, plasterboard, timber and timber-based products such as mdf or plywood are absorbent and should be made waterproof by the use of a waterproofing system (or tanking system).

Waterproofing systems can be painted on to the background. Most tile adhesive producers will have a range of waterproofing systems that coordinate with the tile adhesives and grouts in their product ranges.

Check with your specialist TTA showroom that the tile is suitable for use in a shower and/or bathroom

The tile adhesive should be a water resistant polymer enhanced adhesive meeting the requirements of BS EN 12004 for a D2 dispersion adhesive or C1 or C2 for a cementitious adhesives and the tile grout should be water resistant, meeting the requirements of BS EN 13888.

The tiles in showers should be fixed using the solid bed method, i.e. ensuring that there are no voids beneath the tiles. The joints between the tiles should be filled using a water resistant grout.

Special attention should be paid to sealing the gaps between the base of the tiling and where the tiling joins the base of shower units or bath and penetrations in the tiling (e.g. shower fittings), using a good quality antifungicidal silicon sealant. or a proprietary manufactured sealing strip specially designed for the purpose.

The shower should not be put into use until it has cured and is adequately dry.

If you wish to engage a professional installer always use a TTA registered tile fixer (see our website for details of contractors in your area), alternatively the Tile Association has published a DIY guide which is available free of charge from TTA or can be downloaded from our website.