



## BRANZ Appraised

Appraisal No. 372 [2016]

## WET-SEAL FIBRECOAT WET AREA WATERPROOFING MEMBRANE

Appraisal No. 372 [2016]

This Appraisal replaces BRANZ  
Appraisal No. 372 [2000].



### BRANZ Appraisals

Technical Assessments of products for  
building and construction.



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## BRANZ

### BRANZ

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## Product

- 1.1 Wet-seal Fibrecoat Waterproofing Membrane is a reinforced, liquid-applied, resin based waterproofing membrane for use under ceramic or stone tile finishes in internal wet areas.

## Scope

- 2.1 Wet-seal Fibrecoat Waterproofing Membrane has been appraised for use as a waterproofing membrane for internal wet areas of buildings, within the following scope:
  - on floor substrates of concrete, flooring grade particleboard, plywood, compressed fibre cement sheet and fibre cement sheet tile underlay, and on wall substrates of concrete, concrete masonry, wet area fibre cement sheet lining systems and wet area plasterboard lining systems; and,
  - when protected from physical damage by ceramic or stone tile finishes; and,
  - where floors are designed and constructed such that deflections do not exceed 1/360<sup>th</sup> of the span.
- 2.2 The use of Wet-seal Fibrecoat Waterproofing Membrane on concrete slabs where hydrostatic or vapour pressure is present is outside the scope of this Appraisal.
- 2.3 Building structural movement and control joints in the substrate must be carried through to the tile finish. The design and construction of the substrate and movement and control joints are specific to each building, and therefore the responsibility of the building designer and building contractor and are outside the scope of this Appraisal.
- 2.4 Ceramic or stone tile finishes are outside the scope of this Appraisal.
- 2.5 The membranes must be installed by Wet-seal Trained and Approved Applicators.

## Building Regulations

### New Zealand Building Code (NZBC)

- 3.1 In the opinion of BRANZ, Wet-seal Fibrecoat Waterproofing Membrane if designed, used, installed and maintained in accordance with the statements and conditions of this Appraisal, will meet the following provisions of the NZBC:

**Clause B2 DURABILITY:** Performance B2.3.1 [b] 15 years. Wet-seal Fibrecoat Waterproofing Membrane meets this requirement. See Paragraph 9.1.

**Clause E3 INTERNAL MOISTURE:** Performance E3.3.6. Interior wet area floors and walls incorporating Wet-seal Fibrecoat Waterproofing Membrane will meet this requirement. See Paragraphs 11.1-11.7.

**Clause F2 HAZARDOUS BUILDING MATERIALS:** Performance F2.3.1. Wet-seal Fibrecoat Waterproofing Membrane meets this requirement and will not present a health hazard to people.

## Technical Specification

- 4.1 Materials supplied by Wet-seal are as follows:
- **Wet-seal Fibrecoat Waterproofing Membrane** – is a fibre glass reinforced, polyester resin based waterproofing membrane. It is coloured amber and supplied in 20 litre pails.
  - **Topcoat 300** – is a two-part epoxy topcoat used to complete the Wet-seal Fibrecoat Waterproofing Membrane system. It is supplied as a Part A and B, in 10 litre containers, coloured jade green.

## Handling and Storage

- 5.1 All materials must be stored inside, up off concrete floors, in dry conditions, out of direct sunlight and out of freezing conditions. The membrane products have a shelf life of 12 months from date of manufacture in the original unopened packaging. Once opened, the products must be used within 3 months.

## Technical Literature

- 6.1 Refer to the Appraisals listing on the BRANZ website for details of the current Technical Literature for the Wet-seal Fibrecoat Waterproofing Membrane. The Technical Literature must be read in conjunction with this Appraisal. All aspects of design, use, installation and maintenance contained in the Technical Literature and within the scope of this Appraisal must be followed.

## Design Information

### General

- 7.1 Wet-seal Fibrecoat Waterproofing Membrane is for use in buildings where an impervious waterproof membrane is required to floors and walls to prevent damage to building elements and adjoining areas.
- 7.2 The membrane must be protected from physical damage by the application of ceramic or stone tile finishes.
- 7.3 Movement and control joints may be required depending on the shape and size of the building or room, and the tile finish specified. Design guidelines can be found in the BRANZ "Good Practice Guide Tiling".
- 7.4 Timber framing systems must comply with NZS 3604, or where specific engineering design is used, the framing shall be of at least equivalent stiffness to the framing provisions of NZS 3604, or comply with the serviceability criteria of AS/NZS 1170. In all cases framing must be provided so that the maximum span of the substrate as specified by the substrate manufacturer is met and all sheet edges are fully supported. Timber framing systems supporting the substrates must be constructed such that deflections do not exceed 1/360<sup>th</sup> of the span. Where NZS 3604 is used, the allowable joist spans given in Table 7.1 shall be reduced by 20%.

### Substrates

#### Plywood

- 8.1 Plywood must be a minimum of 17 mm thick complying with AS/NZS 2269, CD Grade Structural with the sanded C face upwards and treated to H3 [CCA treated]. LOSP treated plywood must not be used.
- 8.2 The plywood must be laid with the face grain at right angles to the floor joists. Joists must be at 400 mm centres maximum and the edges of the sheets must be supported with blocking or framing. The Plywood must be fixed with 10 g x 50 mm stainless steel countersunk head screws at 150 mm centres on the edges and 200 mm through the body of the sheets.

#### Fibre Cement Compressed Sheet/ Fibre Cement Sheet Tile Underlay

- 8.3 Fibre cement compressed sheet and tile underlay must be manufactured to comply with the requirements of AS/NZS 2908.2 and must be specified by the manufacturer as being suitable for use as a wet area membrane substrate. Installation must be carried out in accordance with the instructions of the manufacturer.

### **Particleboard**

- 8.4 Particleboard must be specified for the end use in accordance with NZS 3602. Installation must be carried out in accordance with the instructions of the manufacturer.

### **Concrete and Concrete Masonry**

- 8.5 Concrete and concrete masonry substrates must be to a specific engineering design meeting the requirements of the NZBC, such as concrete construction to NZS 3101, concrete slab-on-ground to NZS 3604 or NZS 4229, and concrete masonry to NZS 4229 and NZS 4230.

### **Wet Area Wall Linings**

- 8.6 Plasterboard wall linings must be manufactured to comply with AS/NZS 2588 and be suitable for use in internal wet areas.
- 8.7 Fibre cement sheet must be suitable for use in wet areas and comply with AS/NZS 2908.2.
- 8.8 Installation of plasterboard or fibre cement wall linings must be carried out in accordance with the instructions of the manufacturer.

## **Durability**

### **Serviceable Life**

- 9.1 The Wet-seal Fibrecoat Waterproofing Membrane, when subjected to normal conditions of environment and use, is expected to have a serviceable life of at least 15 years and be compatible with ceramic or stone tile finishes with a design service life of 15-25 years.

## **Maintenance**

- 10.1 No maintenance of the membrane will be required provided significant substrate movement does not occur and the tile finish remains intact. Regular checks must be made of the tiled areas to ensure they are sound and will not allow moisture to penetrate. Any cracks or damage must be repaired immediately by repairing the tiles, grouts and sealants.
- 10.2 In the event of damage to the membrane, the tiling must be removed and the membrane repaired by removing the damaged portion and applying a patch as for new work.
- 10.3 Drainage outlets must be maintained to operate effectively, and ceramic or stone tile finishes must be kept clean.

## **Internal Moisture**

- 11.1 Wet-seal Fibrecoat Waterproofing Membrane is impervious to water and when appropriately designed and installed will avoid the likelihood of water penetrating behind linings or entering concealed spaces.
- 11.2 Wet-seal Fibrecoat Waterproofing Membrane is suitable for use to contain accidental overflow to meet NZBC Clause E3.3.2. A means of Code Compliance for overflow is given in NZBC Acceptable Solution E3/AS1, Paragraph 2.
- 11.3 Surfaces must be finished with ceramic or stone tile finishes. A means of Code Compliance to NZBC Clause E3.3.3 and E3.3.4 is given in NZBC Acceptable Solution E3/AS1, Paragraph 3.1.1 [b], 3.1.2 [b] and 3.3.1 [b].
- 11.4 Falls in showers and shower areas must be a minimum of 1 in 50. In unenclosed showers, falls must extend a minimum of 1500 mm out from the shower rose. Floor wastes must be provided and the floor must fall to the outlet.
- 11.5 The waterproofing membrane must completely cover shower bases, and for unenclosed showers it must extend a minimum of 1500 mm out from the shower rose. Further design guidance on waterproofing wet areas, including waterproofing walls and junctions can be obtained from AS 3740, BRANZ "Good Practice Guide Tiling", and flooring and wallboard manufacturers.
- 11.6 Where water resistant wall finishes such as prefinished sheet materials are used; they must flash over the membrane a minimum of 30 mm.
- 11.7 BRANZ recommends the entire floor be covered by a waterproof membrane for bath, shower and spa rooms where timber, plywood or particleboard floors are used. This is also a requirement of particleboard manufacturers.

## Installation Information

### Installation Skill Level Requirement

- 12.1 Installation must always be carried out in accordance with Wet-seal Technical Literature and this Appraisal by, or under the supervision of, a Licensed Building Practitioner (LBP) with the relevant Licence Class.
- 12.2 Installation and finishing of components and accessories supplied by Wet-seal New Zealand Ltd and its approved applicators must be completed by trained applicators, approved by Wet-seal New Zealand Ltd.
- 12.3 Installation of the accessories supplied by the building contractor must be carried out in accordance with the Wet-seal Technical Literature and this Appraisal by, or under the supervision of, a Licensed Building Practitioner (LBP) with the relevant Licence Class.

### Preparation of Substrates

- 13.1 Substrates must be dry, clean and stable before installation commences. With surfaces that are even and free from nibs, sharp edges, dust, dirt or other materials such as oil, grease or concrete formwork release agents.
- 13.2 The relative humidity of the concrete must be 75% or less before membrane application. Concrete substrates can be checked for dryness by using a hygrometer as set out in BRANZ Bulletin No. 585.
- 13.3 All voids, cracks, holes, joints and excessively rough areas must be filled to achieve an even and uniform surface. Junctions of substrate abutments, such as at wall/floor and wall/wall junctions must have Idrobuilt Rinforzo installed as set out in the Technical Literature.
- 13.4 Substrates when required must be primed with Top Coat 300 primer and allowed to cure before the membrane is installed.

### Membrane Installation

- 14.1 Installation must not be undertaken where the substrate surface temperature is below 5°C or above 35°C.
- 14.2 Wet-seal Fibrecoat Waterproofing Membrane must be thoroughly stirred and catalyzed before application.
- 14.3 The fibreglass reinforcement is laid onto the substrate prior to the membrane being applied
- 14.4 The membrane is applied in one coat over the fibre glass reinforcement at the rates set out in the Technical Literature. The total finished system thickness of the Wet-seal Fibrecoat Waterproofing Membrane must be a minimum of 1.0 mm.
- 14.5 Application can be made by roller or brush (long bristle).
- 14.6 Once the resin coat has cured, the Top Coat 300 is applied as per the Technical Literature.
- 14.7 The Technical Literature should be consulted for the cleanup procedures.

### Tiling

- 15.1 The membrane must be fully cured before tiling. The cured membrane must be protected at all times to prevent mechanical damage, so may require temporary covers until the finishing is completed.
- 15.2 Tiling must be undertaken in accordance with AS 3958.1 and BRANZ "Good Practice Guide Tiling". The compatibility of the tile adhesive must be confirmed with the adhesive manufacturer or Wet-seal Pty Ltd.

## Inspections

- 16.1 Critical areas of inspection are:
- Construction of substrates, including crack control and installation of bond breakers and movement control joints.
  - Moisture content of the substrate prior to the application of the membrane.
  - Acceptance of the substrate by the membrane installer prior to application of the membrane.
  - Installation of the membrane to the manufacturer's instructions, particularly installation to the correct thickness and use of reinforcement.
  - Membrane curing and integrity prior to the installation of tiles including protection from mechanical damage during curing and prior to tile installation.

## Health and Safety

- 17.1 Safe use and handling procedures for the membranes are provided in the Technical Literature. The materials must be used in conjunction with the relevant Material Safety Data Sheet.

## Basis of Appraisal

The following is a summary of the technical investigations carried out:

### Tests

- 18.1 The following testing of Wet-seal Fibrecoat Waterproofing Membrane has been undertaken:
- AS/NZS 4858 Appendix A including effect of heat ageing, bleach, detergent and water on tensile and elongation, water vapour transmission, cyclic movement resistance requirements of AS/NZS 4858: 2004, Appendix B, water absorption, peel adhesion, dry pull-off / tensile adhesive test on plywood, dry pull-off / tensile adhesive test on fibre cement, puncture resistance and low temperature flexibility.

The above test methods and results have been reviewed by BRANZ and found to be satisfactory.

### Other Investigations

- 19.1 An assessment was made of the durability of the Wet-seal Fibrecoat Waterproofing Membrane by BRANZ technical experts.
- 19.2 Site visits have been carried out by BRANZ to assess the practicability of installation and to examine completed installations.
- 19.3 The Technical Literature has been examined by BRANZ and found to be satisfactory.

### Quality

- 20.1 The manufacture of the membrane has been examined by BRANZ, and details regarding the quality and composition of the materials used were obtained by BRANZ and found to be satisfactory.
- 21.1 The quality of supply of the membrane system materials to the market is the responsibility of Wet-seal New Zealand Ltd.
- 21.2 Quality on site is the responsibility of the Wet-seal Approved and Trained Applicators.
- 21.3 Designers are responsible for the substrate design, and building contractors are responsible for the quality of construction of substrate systems in accordance with the instructions of the substrate manufacturer, Wet-seal and this Appraisal.
- 21.4 Building owners are responsible for the maintenance of the tiling or stone finishing systems in accordance with the instructions of Wet-seal.

### Sources of Information

- AS 2908.2: 2000 Cellulose-cement products - flat sheet.
- AS 3740 - 2010 Waterproofing of domestic wet areas.
- AS 3958.1: 2007 Ceramic Tiles - Guide to the installation of ceramic tiles.
- AS/NZS 4858 - 2004 Wet area membranes.
- AS/NZS 1170: Structural Design Actions
- AS/NZS 2269: 2012 Plywood - Structural.
- NZS 3101: 2006 Concrete Structures Standard.
- NZS 3602: 2003 Timber and wood-based products for use in buildings.
- NZS 3604: 2011 Timber framed buildings.
- NZS 4229: 2013 Concrete masonry buildings not requiring specific engineering design.
- NZS 4230: 2004 Design of reinforced concrete masonry structures.
- Ministry of Business, Innovation and Employment Record of Amendments for Compliance Documents and Handbooks.
- The Building Regulations 1992.
- Good Practice Guide Tiling, BRANZ, April 2015.





In the opinion of BRANZ, the **Wet-seal Fibrecoat Wet Area Waterproofing Membrane** is fit for purpose and will comply with the Building Code to the extent specified in this Appraisal provided it is used, designed, installed and maintained as set out in this Appraisal.

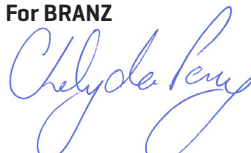
The Appraisal is issued only to **Wet-seal New Zealand Ltd**, and is valid until further notice, subject to the Conditions of Appraisal.

### Conditions of Appraisal

1. This Appraisal:
  - a) relates only to the product as described herein;
  - b) must be read, considered and used in full together with the Technical Literature;
  - c) does not address any Legislation, Regulations, Codes or Standards, not specifically named herein;
  - d) is copyright of BRANZ.
2. **Wet-seal New Zealand Ltd:**
  - a) continues to have the product reviewed by BRANZ;
  - b) shall notify BRANZ of any changes in product specification or quality assurance measures prior to the product being marketed;
  - c) abides by the BRANZ Appraisals Services Terms and Conditions.
  - d) Warrants that the product and the manufacturing process for the product are maintained at or above the standards, levels and quality assessed and found satisfactory by BRANZ pursuant to BRANZ's Appraisal of the product.
3. BRANZ makes no representation or warranty as to:
  - a) the nature of individual examples of, batches of, or individual installations of the product, including methods and workmanship;
  - b) the presence or absence of any patent or similar rights subsisting in the product or any other product;
  - c) any guarantee or warranty offered by **Wet-seal New Zealand Ltd**.
4. Any reference in this Appraisal to any other publication shall be read as a reference to the version of the publication specified in this Appraisal.
5. BRANZ provides no certification, guarantee, indemnity or warranty, to **Wet-seal New Zealand Ltd** or any third party.

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For BRANZ



**Chelydra Percy**

Chief Executive

Date of Issue:

01 July 2016