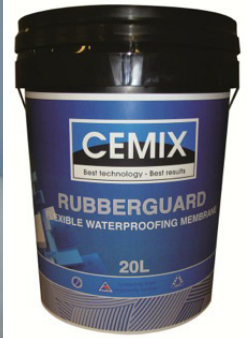




**BRANZ Appraised**  
Appraisal No. 778 [2022]  
**RUBBERGUARD**  
**WET AREA**  
**WATERPROOFING**  
**MEMBRANE**

**Appraisal No. 778 [2022]**

This Appraisal replaces BRANZ  
Appraisal No. 778 [2017]



**BRANZ Appraisals**

Technical Assessments of  
products for building and  
construction.



**Cemix Construction  
Products Ltd**

19 Alfred Street  
Onehunga  
Auckland 1061

Tel: 09 636 1000

Web: [www.cemix.co.nz](http://www.cemix.co.nz)



**BRANZ**

1222 Moonshine Rd,  
RD1, Porirua 5381  
Private Bag 50 908  
Porirua 5240,  
New Zealand  
[branz.co.nz](http://branz.co.nz)



## Product

- 1.1 Rubberguard Waterproofing Membrane is a single-part waterproofing membrane for use under ceramic or stone tile finishes in internal wet areas.

## Scope

- 2.1 Rubberguard Waterproofing Membrane has been appraised for use as waterproofing membrane for the 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 Rubberguard Waterproofing Membrane on concrete slabs where hydrostatic or vapour pressure is present from below is outside the scope of this Appraisal.
- 2.3 Movement and control joints in the substrate must be carried through the membrane and tile finish. The design and construction of the substrate and movement and control joints is specific to each building, and is therefore the responsibility of the building designer and building contractor and is outside the scope of this Appraisal.
- 2.4 The ceramic or stone tile finishes are outside the scope of this Appraisal.
- 2.5 The membrane must be installed by trained applicators, approved by Cemix Construction Products Ltd.

## Building Regulations

### New Zealand Building Code (NZBC)

- 3.1 In the opinion of BRANZ, Rubberguard 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 and B2.3.2. Rubberguard Waterproofing Membrane meet these requirements. See Paragraph 9.1.

**Clause E3 INTERNAL MOISTURE:** Performance E3.3.6. Interior wet area floors and walls incorporating Rubberguard Waterproofing Membrane meet this requirement. See Paragraphs 11.1-11.6.

**Clause F2 HAZARDOUS BUILDING MATERIALS:** Performance F2.3.1. Rubberguard Waterproofing Membrane meet this requirement.



## Technical Specification

- 4.1 **Rubberguard** is a styrene-acrylate copolymer-based, one-part, ready-to-use, liquid-applied membrane supplied as a light blue thixotropic paste in 4 and 15 L pails.

## 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 product has a shelf life of 6 months from date of manufacture in the original unopened packaging.

## Technical Literature

- 6.1 This Appraisal must be read in conjunction with:
- Rubberguard Flexible Undertile Waterproofing Membrane, April 2022.
- 6.2 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 Rubberguard 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 the AS/NZS 1170 Series. 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 sanded C face upwards and treated to H3 [CCA treated]. LOSP treated plywood must not be used. The plywood must be supported with dwangs or framing with a maximum span of 400 mm in each direction and fixed with 10 g x 50 mm long stainless steel countersunk head screws at 150 mm centres along the edges and 200 mm through the body of the sheets.

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

- 8.2 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**

8.3 Particleboard must be specified for the end use in accordance with NZS 3602.

### **Concrete and Concrete Masonry**

8.4 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**

8.5 Plasterboard wall linings must be manufactured to comply with AS/NZS 2588 and be suitable for use in internal wet areas.

8.6 Fibre cement sheet must be suitable for use in wet areas and comply with AS/NZS 2908.2.

8.7 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 Rubberguard Waterproofing Membrane, when subjected to normal conditions of environment and use, is expected to have a serviceable life of at least 15 years and to 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, grout and sealant.

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 tile finishes must be kept clean.

### **Internal Moisture**

11.1 Rubberguard Waterproofing Membrane is impervious to water and when appropriately designed and installed will prevent water penetrating behind linings or entering concealed spaces.

11.2 Surfaces must be finished with ceramic or stone tiles. A means of compliance with 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).

11.3 Falls in showers and shower areas must be a minimum of 1 in 50. In unenclosed showers, falls must extend a minimum of 1,500 mm out from the shower rose. Floor wastes and drainage flanges must be provided and the floor must fall to the outlet.

11.4 Rubberguard Waterproofing Membrane is suitable for use to contain accidental overflow to meet NZBC Clause E3.3.2. A means of compliance for overflow is given in NZBC Acceptable Solution E3/AS1, Section 2.

11.5 The waterproofing membrane must completely cover shower bases, and for unenclosed showers it must extend a minimum of 1,500 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 the flooring and wall lining manufacturers.

11.6 Where water-resistant wall finishes such as prefinished sheet materials are used, they must overlap the membrane a minimum of 30 mm.



## Installation Information

### Installation Skill Level Requirement

- 12.1 Installation of the membrane must be completed by trained applicators, approved by Cemix Construction Products Ltd.
- 12.2 Installation of substrates must always be carried out in accordance with the Rubberguard Waterproofing Membrane 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. Surfaces must be 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 concrete substrates must be 75% or less before membrane application. The concrete 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 fiberglass mesh installed as set out in the Technical Literature.
- 13.4 It is recommended that substrates be primed with Cemix Tile Bond Latex.

### Membrane Installation

- 14.1 Installation must not be undertaken where the substrate surface temperature is below 5°C or above 35°C.
- 14.2 Rubberguard must be thoroughly stirred before application.
- 14.3 The membrane must be applied in a minimum of two coats at the rates set out in the Technical Literature to give a total minimum finished thickness of 1-1.5 mm. Subsequent coats must be applied in an opposite direction to the previous coat.
- 14.4 Application can be made by roller [medium/long nap], brush [long bristle], or a non-edge serrated flat steel trowel.
- 14.5 In all situations, reinforcement provisions as set out in this Appraisal and the Technical Literature apply.
- 14.6 Clean up may be undertaken with water.

### Tiling

- 15.1 The membrane must be fully cured before tiling. The cured membranes 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 the BRANZ Good Practice Guide: Tiling. The compatibility of the tile adhesive must be confirmed with the adhesive manufacturer or Cemix Construction Products 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 membrane is provided in the Technical Literature. The product must be used in conjunction with the 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 the Rubberguard Waterproofing Membrane has been undertaken by ARDEX Australia Pty Ltd research and development laboratory: water vapour transmission; water absorption; tensile strength and elongation before and after UV exposure, immersion in bleach, immersion in industrial detergent and immersion in water. Test methods and results were reviewed by BRANZ and found to be satisfactory.
- 18.2 The following testing of the Rubberguard Waterproofing Membrane was undertaken by the Commonwealth Scientific Industrial Research Organisation (CSIRO) Australia:
- In accordance with ANSI A118.10 for ICBO Evaluation Service - dimensional stability; waterproofness; shear strength to ceramic tile and cement mortar; and fungal and micro-organism resistance.
  - In accordance with AS 1145 - behaviour under cyclic strain.
- 18.3 Testing of the Rubberguard Waterproofing Membrane has been undertaken by BRANZ for low temperature flexibility and peel adhesion after heat/humidity aging.
- 18.4 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 Rubberguard Waterproofing Membrane by BRANZ technical experts.
- 19.2 Site inspections were carried out by BRANZ to examine the practicability of installation.
- 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.
- 20.2 The quality of supply to the market is the responsibility of Cemix Construction Products Ltd.
- 20.3 Designers are responsible for the building design, and building contractors are responsible for the quality of installation of the framing systems and the substrates.
- 20.4 Quality on-site is the responsibility of the trained applicators, approved by Cemix Construction Products Ltd.
- 20.5 Building owners are responsible for the maintenance of the ceramic tiles in accordance with the instructions of Cemix Construction Products Ltd.



## Sources of Information

- AS 3740:2010 Waterproofing of wet areas within residential buildings.
- AS 3958.1:2007 Ceramic Tiles - Guide to the installation of ceramic tiles.
- AS/NZS 1170 Series - Structural design actions.
- AS/NZS 2269:2012 Plywood - Structural.
- AS/NZS 2908.2:2000 Cellulose-cement products - Flat sheet.
- AS/NZS 4858:2004 Wet area membranes.
- BRANZ Bulletin 585 - Measuring moisture in timber and concrete.
- BRANZ Good Practice Guide: Tiling (Third Edition), April 2015.
- NZS 3101:2006 The design of concrete structures.
- 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 - Acceptable Solutions, Verification Methods and handbooks.
- The Building Regulations 1992.



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24 August 2022

RUBBERGUARD  
WET AREA WATERPROOFING  
MEMBRANE



In the opinion of BRANZ, the **Rubberguard 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 **Cemix Construction Products 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. **Cemix Construction Products 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 **Cemix Construction Products 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 **Cemix Construction Products Ltd** or any third party.

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**For BRANZ**

**Chelydra Percy**  
Chief Executive  
Date of Issue:  
24 August 2022