



BRANZ Appraised
Appraisal No. 1243 [2023]

CROMMELIN UNDER-TILE WET AREA MEMBRANES (GREEN)



Appraisal No. 1243 [2023]

BRANZ Appraisals

Technical Assessments of products for building and construction.



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Product

- 1.1 Crommelin Under-tile Wet Area Membranes are liquid-applied waterproofing membranes for use under ceramic or stone tile finishes in internal wet areas.
- 1.2 The products included in this appraisal are:
 - Wetite®.
 - Shower Waterproofing Membrane.
 - TermiDry Waterproofing.

Scope

- 2.1 Crommelin Under-tile Wet Area Membranes have been appraised for use as waterproofing membranes for the internal wet areas of buildings within the following scope:
 - on floor substrates of concrete, plywood, fibre cement compressed 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 1/360th of the span.
- 2.2 The use of Crommelin Under-tile Wet Area Membranes 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 membranes must be installed by trained installers, approved by The Trustee for B & C Crommelin Family Trust.

Building Regulations

New Zealand Building Code (NZBC)

3.1 In the opinion of BRANZ, Crommelin Under-tile Wet Area Membranes, 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. Crommelin Under-tile Wet Area Membranes meet these requirements. See Paragraph 9.1.

Clause E3 INTERNAL MOISTURE: Performance E3.3.6. Internal wet area floors and walls incorporating Crommelin Under-tile Wet Area Membranes meet this requirement. See Paragraphs 11.1-11.6.

Clause F2 HAZARDOUS BUILDING MATERIALS: Performance F2.3.1. Crommelin Under-tile Wet Area Membranes meet this requirement.

Technical Specification

4.1 Materials supplied by The Trustee for B & C Crommelin Family Trust are as follows:

- **Wetite®** is a single component SBR polymer waterproofing membrane for use under ceramic or stone tile finishes in internal wet areas. It is coloured green and is supplied in 15 L plastic pails.
- **Shower Waterproofing Membrane** is a water-based, ready-mixed modified rubber liquid-applied waterproofing membrane for use under ceramic or stone tile finishes in internal wet areas. It is coloured green and is supplied in 1, 4 and 15 L plastic pails and 4 and 6 L kits.
- **TermiDry Waterproofing** is a waterborne SBR waterproofing membrane for use under ceramic or stone tile finishes in internal wet areas. It is coloured green and is supplied in 15 L plastic pails.

Handling and Storage

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

Technical Literature

6.1 This Appraisal must be read in conjunction with:

- Wetite® Technical Data Sheet - November 2022.
- Shower Waterproofing Membrane Product Information Technical Data Sheet - November 2022.
- TermiDry Waterproofing Technical Data Sheet, September 2011.

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 Crommelin Under-tile Wet Area Membranes are 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 membranes 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 1/360th 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 along the sheet edges and 200 mm centres to all framing 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.

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 Crommelin Under-tile Wet Area Membranes, when subjected to normal conditions of environment and use, are expected to have a serviceable life of at least 15 years and be compatible with ceramic or stone tile finishes with a design serviceable life of 15-25 years.

Maintenance

- 10.1 No maintenance of the membranes 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 Crommelin Under-tile Wet Area Membranes are impervious to water, and when appropriately designed and installed will prevent water from 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, Paragraphs 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 Crommelin Under-tile Wet Area Membranes are 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, the 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 installers, approved by The Trustee for B & C Crommelin Family Trust.
- 12.2 Installation of substrates must be completed by, or under the supervision of, licensed Building Practitioners with the relevant License Class, in accordance with instructions given within the The Trustee for B & C Crommelin Family Trust Technical Literature and this Appraisal.

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 reinforcements installed as set out in the Technical Literature.
- 13.4 Substrates must be primed with a primer as specified by The Trustee for B & C Crommelin Family Trust and allowed to dry fully 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 The membranes must be applied in a minimum of two coats at the rates set out in the Technical Literature. Subsequent coats must be applied in a different direction to the previous coat.
- 14.3 Membrane application can be completed by roller (medium/long nap) or brush (long bristle).
- 14.4 The installation and use of any reinforcing must comply with the instructions in the Technical Literature.
- 14.5 Clean up may be undertaken with water.

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 the BRANZ Good Practice Guide: Tiling. The compatibility of the tile adhesive must be confirmed with the adhesive manufacturer or The Trustee for B & C Crommelin Family Trust.

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 supplier'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 Crommelin Under-tile Wet Area Membranes has been undertaken by the following organisations:
- CSIRO, Australia – tensile strength and elongation at break; tensile strength and elongation at break after UV exposure, including immersion in water, bleach and detergent; heat aging; moving joint test and cyclic movement.
- 18.2 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 Crommelin Under-tile Wet Area Membranes 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 membranes 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 The Trustee for B & C Crommelin Family Trust.
- 20.3 Designers are responsible for the building design, and building contractors are responsible for the quality of installation of the framing systems and substrate.
- 20.4 Quality on-site is the responsibility of the trained installers, approved by The Trustee for B & C Crommelin Family Trust.
- 20.5 Building owners are responsible for the maintenance of the ceramic tiles in accordance with the instructions of The Trustee for B & C Crommelin Family Trust.



Sources of Information

- AS 3740-2021 Waterproofing of wet areas within residential buildings.
- AS 3958.1:2007 Ceramic Tiles - Guide to the installation of ceramic tiles.
- AS/NZS 1170:2002 Structural design actions.
- AS/NZS 2908.2:2000 Cellulose-cement products - flat sheet.
- AS/NZS 4858-2004 Wet area membranes.
- AS/NZS 2269:2012 Plywood - Structural.
- BRANZ Good Practice Guide: Tiling, April 2015.
- 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 Code of practice for the design of 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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19 May 2023

CROMMELIN UNDER-TILE WET
AREA MEMBRANES [GREEN]



In the opinion of BRANZ, **Crommelin Under-tile Wet Area Membranes [Green]** are fit for purpose and will comply with the Building Code to the extent specified in this Appraisal provided they are used, designed, installed and maintained as set out in this Appraisal.

The Appraisal is issued only to **The Trustee of the B&C Crommelin Family Trust**, 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. **The Trustee of the B&C Crommelin Family Trust:**
 - 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 **The Trustee of the B&C Crommelin Family Trust**.
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 **The Trustee of the B&C Crommelin Family Trust** or any third party.

For BRANZ

Claire Falck
Acting Chief Executive

Date of Issue:
19 May 2023