

## 16 Reasons to Consider XPS Tile Backer Over the Competition

### Bathroom Backer Board Competitor Comparison Estimate

Assumptions: Average three wall bathroom area with 3' x 3' shower pan, drain and two 3' x 5', 1/2" boards for walls  
(List Price Estimate not including taxes or delivery)

	<i>A Leading Cement Tile Backer</i>	<i>Common Cement Board</i>	<i>Leading Gypsum Backer</i>	<i>Custom Brand</i>	<i>Leading Foam Board System</i>	<b>XPS</b>
<i>Includes</i>	Walls + Hot Mop + Drain	Walls + Hot Mop + Drain	Walls + Hot Mop + Drain	Walls, pan, drain	Walls, pan, drain	Walls, pan, drain
<b>Drain has built-in P-trap</b>	No	No	No	No	No	<b>YES*</b>
<i>Weight All Materials (lbs)</i>	375 lbs	375 lbs	170 lbs	90 lbs	90 lbs	90 lbs
<i>Score &amp; Snap</i>	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Waterproofing</i>	Needed	Needed	Inherent	Inherent	Inherent	Inherent
<i>Thermal Insulation</i>	No	No	No	Yes	Yes	Yes
<i>Toxic</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes	No	No	No
<i>Material Price: Walls + Waterproofing</i>	\$20 + \$25	\$20 + \$25	\$50	\$125	\$125	\$60
<i>Material Price: Shower Pan</i>	\$50	\$50	\$50	\$425	\$625	\$140
<i>Material Price Drain</i>	\$45	\$45	\$45	Included	Included	Included
<b>Total Material</b>	<b>\$140</b>	<b>\$140</b>	<b>\$145</b>	<b>\$550</b>	<b>\$750</b>	<b>\$200</b>
<i>Time to cure (hrs)</i>	19 hrs <small>(6 hrs walls + 12 hrs Hot Mop + 1 hr moisture barrier)</small>	21 hrs <small>(8 hrs walls + 12 hrs Hot Mop + 1 hr moisture barrier)</small>	15 hrs <small>(3 hrs walls + 12 hrs Hot Mop)</small>	3 hrs	3 hrs	3 hrs
<i>Install Time</i>	5.5 hrs <small>(2 hrs walls + 2 hrs Hot Mop + 1 hr drain + 30min moisture barrier)</small>	5.5 hrs <small>(2 hrs walls + 2 hrs Hot Mop + 1 hr drain + 30min moisture barrier)</small>	5 hrs <small>(2 hr walls + 2 hrs Hot Mop + 1 hr drain)</small>	3 hrs includes drain/pan	3 hrs includes drain/pan	3 hr includes drain/pan
<i>Total Time to Complete</i>	24.5 hrs	26.5 hrs	20 hrs	6 hrs	6 hrs	6 hrs
<i>Total Labor (@ \$45/hr)</i>	\$247.50	\$247.50	\$225	\$135	\$135	\$135
<b>GRAND TOTAL</b>	<b>\$387.50</b>	<b>\$387.50</b>	<b>\$370</b>	<b>\$685</b>	<b>\$885</b>	<b>\$335</b>

**SAVE up to 60% in COSTS and almost TWO DAYS in LABOR! Plus less to manage and fewer trips.**

**\*The only drain on the market with an IBC/IRC approved built-in p-trap (only requires a 3" accommodation as opposed to traditional drains requiring as much as 9 to 13 inches plus the additional labor and material cost).**

**Applications:** Bathrooms (shower and tub walls, floors and ceilings), Kitchens (backsplash, walls, countertops and floors), Residential and light commercial floors, Non-tiled walls and ceilings in indoor swimming pool enclosures, Residential steam rooms.

Multi-Panels XPS Tile Backer panels are available for walls, floors and ceilings in the following widths: 2' x 8' ¼, 3/8, ½, ¾, 1, and 2 inches • 3' x 5' ½ inch • 4' x 8' ¼, 3/8, ½, ¾, 1 and 2 inch thicknesses.

**Features, Advantages and Benefits:** Mold and Microbial-Resistant • Protects tile installation and helps stop moisture migration into wall cavity • Outperforms cement backers by stopping moisture at the surface • Virtually no wicking compared to cement backer boards • Ideal for showers, baths, floors, kitchens, countertops and other wet, high-humidity areas • Scores and snaps easily with a standard utility knife • Lightweight • Easy-to-handle sizes • Non-abrasive, won't scratch or damage fixtures in tub and shower installations • Low installation cost • 10-Year warranty • Peace of mind for contractor and home owner

**What is Multi-Panels XPS Tile Backer?** Multi-Panels XPS tile backer is an eco-friendly rigid closed cell foam covered with fire-retardant magnesium cement and fiberglass mesh. XPS Tile Backer outperforms cement backers not only in moisture protection but also tile adhesion preservation and thermal insulating performance. Although cement backers are unaffected by moisture, they allow the passage of moisture through to the wall cavity therefore they require an additional moisture barrier. They also transfer coldness through to the tile. With XPS Tile Backer, the moisture barrier is inherent and its thermal insulating performance insulates tile from cold transfer. XPS is much lighter and faster to install. For these reasons, XPS Tile Backer panels are truly the ultimate tile backer product for performance, price and peace of mind.

**How do we keep our pricing so competitive?** We maintain an innovative mindset not only with our products but also with the way we bring those products to market. We have created a streamlined value chain with lower overhead... and we pass the resulting savings directly to our customers.

**XPS Testing and Code Compliance.** The XPS Tile Backer conforms to current IRC and IBC codes for use as a tile backer in tub and shower areas and is manufactured to meet ASTM and ICC-ES standards--ICC-PMG 1332 and ASTM D3273.

Compliance with the following codes:

2015, 2012 and 2009 *International Residential Code*® (IRC), *International Plumbing Code*® (IPC), and *Uniform Plumbing Code*® (UPC)\*

2010 and 2005 National Plumbing Code of Canada (NPC)\*\*

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\*\**Copyrighted publication of the National Research Council Canada*

Compliance with the following standard:

ANSI A118.10-2014, Load-Bearing, Bonded, Waterproof Membrane for Thin-set Ceramic Tile and Dimension Stone Installation

IAPMO PS 106-2015e1, Tileable Shower Receptors and Shower Kits

ASME A112.6.3-2001(R07), Floor and Trench Drains

ASTM E84 (Flame Spread = 30. Smoke Developed = 350). Meets requirements for foam plastics.

#### **How is XPS better than Cement Tile Backer Products?**

XPS Tile Backer doesn't wick moisture. Cement backers such as Durock®, HardiBacker®, PermaBase®, and Wonderboard® also provide a sound substrate for tile installation and have long been a favorite of tile contractors. Cement backers, however, are hard to install because they are heavy and difficult to score, cut and fasten without the use of special tools and fasteners. Cement boards also allow water to pass through their porous construction, thus

requiring the use of a membrane in wet areas. The XPS Tile Backer does not require a membrane because it has a built-in moisture barrier that stops moisture at the surface.

Mold Resistance Tests conducted by an independent testing service have indicated that XPS Tile Backer effectively resists mold growth. The microbial-resistant test is based on a testing standard set by ASTM International, which develops testing guidelines and procedures for building materials, products, systems and services. The score of 10, in the ASTM D3273 test, indicates no mold growth in a 4-week controlled laboratory test. A quality tile installation requires a sound substrate that is unaffected by moisture. Moisture can cause deterioration of the substrate, resulting in tile failure. Plywood is a poor substrate for direct tile installations because moisture can cause it to warp and buckle, resulting in delamination or separation of the tile and mortar from the board. Paper-faced, moisture- and mold-resistant gypsum board is adversely affected by moisture. When moisture migrates into the core, it wicks or moves up the board causing the paper to separate from the core and the tile to fall off. This is why greenboard and paper-faced, mold-resistant gypsum boards are not approved by 2012 IRC and IBC for use in wet areas. Conversely, XPS Tile Backer panels are approved and provide a sound substrate for tile and offer outstanding protection from moisture.

## General Installation Questions

### 1. How do I score and cut XPS Tile Backer?

XPS Tile Backer may be cut cleanly by scoring and snapping with a standard utility knife, working from either grey facing side of the panel.

### 2. How is the XPS Drain system unique?

Our drain includes a built-in P-trap, adding substantial value and ease of installation. Additionally, the Multi-Panels XPS Drain only requires a 3 inch accommodation as opposed to traditional drains requiring as much as 9 to 13 inches. This makes for easier installation and allows for less of a rise in the shower base. (Very useful for multi-level dwellings and buildings)

### 3. Can I install XPS Tile Backer either parallel or perpendicular to the wall framing?

Yes. The flexural strength of XPS Tile Backer panels is approximately the same in both parallel and perpendicular directions. This allows wall and ceiling applications to be installed either parallel or perpendicular to the supporting members and results in fewer panel joints. XPS Tile Backer can be installed over both wood framing and steel stud construction.

### 4. Can XPS Tile Backer be used in non-tile wet area applications?

Yes. In many applications, XPS Tile Backer is used for its moisture barrier and moisture-resistant qualities for non-tiled walls and ceilings. There are several methods for finishing the panel depending on the environment. The environments of non-wet, high humidity and wet areas. Each environment has its own finishing recommendation. A finishing method must never be used in a more severe environment than specified.

### 5. What does it mean when Multi-Panels says XPS panels have high resistance to wicking?

XPS is designed not to pull water up into its core when exposed to water. This protects the wall cavity from any infiltration of moisture beginning at the floor level. Without this, walls are susceptible to moisture problems including but not limited to dry rot, rusting fasteners, color change of tiles, wet insulation and mold.

### 6. Can XPS be used as general flooring underlayment?

Yes. In fact, it is a single replacement for plywood/OSB and cement backer underlayment. This eliminates the consequences of plywood expansion and contraction which ultimately cause floor tiles to crack. XPS also provides a thermal insulating layer under the floor. If additional warmth is desired XPS can be factory grooved and equipped for floor heating (A nice addition for tile and wood flooring applications).