



In order to ensure that the Limestrong tadelakt system will have the highest success rate and long term durability in wet areas, we have created this guide to help navigate the many possible prep options available. In wet areas, (showers etc) the foundational work for tadelakt is nearly identical to ceramic tile installation in terms of materials and process.

We have referenced the best practices from the ANSI (American National Standards Institute) Specifications for Ceramic Tile. ANSI standards are developed through industry consensus and open committees. Always check your local building codes for regionally specific regulations. Each step in the tadelakt prep process should meet the minimum ANSI standard.

FRAMING: ANSI 108.11

The framing must comply with the UBC (Uniform Building Code), all local building codes and ANSI 108.11. Framing members shall be a minimum of 2x4 nominal wood or 20 gauge metal studs. They must be straight, evenly aligned and spaced a maximum of 16" o.c. All corner framing in tub and shower enclosures must be braced.

-Wood studs, dry and well braced, minimum depth 3 1/2 inches. Maximum stud spacing 16 inches on center.

-Metal studs. Well braced, 20 gauge or heavier, minimum depth 3 1/2 inches for residential applications, 3 5/8 for commercial applications.

BACKER BOARD: ANSI 118.9

Multiple options exist for tile backer board products. The minimum requirement is that the material meets ANSI 118.9 standard. Keep in mind that tadelakt application differs from tile in that excess pressure can be applied to the wall surface during the finishing process. A rigid backer board, (1/2 inch minimum thickness) is strongly recommended. Thinner materials and flexible foam products can work but have a greater potential for cracking.

Below is a list of common backer board products with links to their installation guides. Each product has different installation standards. These should be followed explicitly.

[**HARDIE BACKER**](#)

[**DUROCK**](#)

[**DENSHIELD**](#)

[**WONDERBOARD**](#)

FOAM BASED BOARDS

[**KERDI BOARD**](#)

[**WEDI BOARD**](#)

[**HYDRO BAN BOARD**](#)

BACKERBOARD SCREWS: ANSI 108

Screws should meet ANSI 108. Some backboard products will have their own fasteners that are required to be used with their system.

[**SIMPSON CEMENT BOARD SCREW**](#)

JOINT TAPING AND MUDDING:

Tape: alkali resistant glass fiber mesh tape

[FIBATAPE](#)

[QEP CEMENT BOARD TAPE](#)

THINSET FOR BOARD JOINTS : latex modified
portland cement tile mortar ANSI 118.15

[CUSTOM FLEXBOND](#)

[MAPEI KERABOND](#)

[LATICRETE 257 TITANIUM](#)

[SCHLUTER ALL SET](#)

[TEC SUPERFLEX](#)

WATERPROOF MEMBRANE ANSI: 118.10

A waterproof membrane must be installed for shower walls and wet areas to prevent moisture intrusion and protect adjacent building materials !

Multiple options exist for waterproof membrane systems, some depending on the backboard product used. Always check membrane manufacturer specifications and follow installation instructions explicitly.

LIQUID APPLIED MEMBRANES

CUSTOM REDGARD

MAPEI AQUADEFENSE

LATICRETE HYDROBAN

TEC HYDRAFLEX

SHEET APPLIED MEMBRANES

SCHLUTER KERDI

LATICRETE HYDROBAN SHEET MEMBRANE

Note : Sheet applied membranes can be difficult to install. For plaster applications, these membrane systems need to be installed flawlessly, with no wrinkles, air bubbles or lumps. If there is any question about the level of competence of your membrane installer, consider using one of the liquid applied membrane systems listed above.

NOTCH TROWEL THINSET SCRATCH COAT:
latex modified portland cement mortar

ANSI 118.15

[CUSTOM FLEXBOND](#)

[MAPEI KERABOND](#)

[LATICRETE 257 TITANIUM](#)

[SCHLUTER ALL SET](#)

[TEC SUPERFLEX](#)