

Resolving Steam Room Issues Using NobleSeal®



Technical Bulletin #012

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Description:

NobleSeal sheet membranes have been used in steam rooms for over 25 years. In addition to providing a barrier to water and vapor, NobleSeal relieves the stress caused by thermal expansion and contraction which can affect tile in steam showers. However, there are a number of critical issues that must be considered when designing and constructing steam showers including the following:

- Expansion joint placement is critical because movement is exacerbated in steam rooms. Follow TCNA EJ171 for movement joints and SR614 for general construction requirements.
- Proper product selection:
 - > Lights, fixtures, and other elements must be watertight and suitable for steam shower applications
 - > Cement backer board, thin-set for bonding tile must also be suitable
 - > Low perm membrane - (less than 0.5 perms) must be used
- Proper installation methods (e.g. 95% coverage of thin-set to tile, proper joint placement, etc.)
- Time necessary for thin-set to cure:
 - > Larger format tiles require longer curing times
 - >> Confirm with the thin-set manufacturer the curing time necessary before putting the system into service

Follow NobleSeal TS installations instructions for products, TCNA Details EJ171 for movement joints, and SR614 for general construction details (excluding membrane placement on ceiling), and building codes to ensure a quality installation.



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