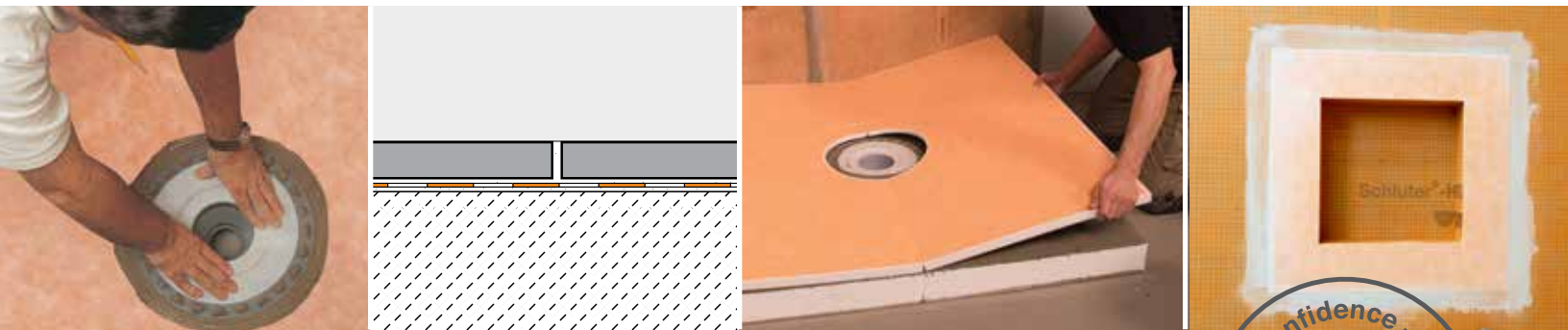




## Schluter®-Shower System Installation Handbook



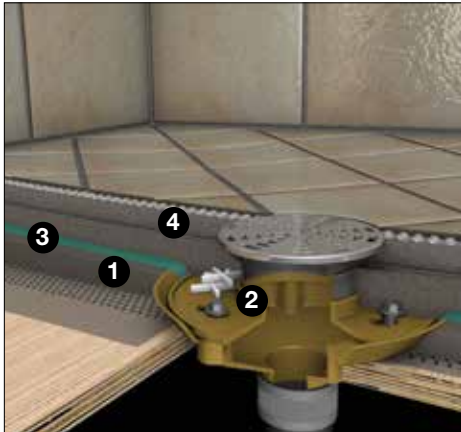
**Bonded Waterproofing System for Tiled Showers,  
Steam Showers, Steam Rooms, and Bathtub Surrounds**



# Schluter®-Shower System

## Bonded Waterproofing System for Tiled Showers, Steam Showers, Steam Rooms, and Bathtub Surrounds

Ceramic and stone tiles are durable, easy to maintain, and hygienic, representing the ideal surface coverings, particularly in wet areas such as showers and bathtub surrounds. These coverings are not inherently waterproof, however, and must be installed in conjunction with a waterproofing system that effectively manages moisture to protect moisture-sensitive building materials and control mold growth.



- 1 Pre-slope
- 2 Weep holes
- 3 Pan liner
- 4 Mortar bed

### The Traditional Tiled Shower System

The traditional method for installing tiled showers is time and labor intensive and creates a “water in/water out” system. First, a mortar bed is sloped to the weep holes in the drain. The waterproofing membrane, called a pan liner, is placed over this “pre-slope” and clamped into the drain. Pan liners do not allow for the direct application of ceramic or stone tile. Thus, another mortar bed must be installed to provide load distribution and a bonding surface for the floor tile. Finally, a moisture barrier typically must be included behind the solid backing on the walls (e.g., mortar, cement backerboard, etc.) and lapped over the pan liner to protect the wall cavities from moisture penetration and divert that moisture into the pan.

Contrary to popular belief, the tile covering itself is not waterproof. Moisture will infiltrate the mortar bed and solid backing on the walls. This moisture must percolate through the mortar bed to the sloped pan liner and exit through the weep holes in the drain. With regular use of the shower the mortar bed can remain saturated, particularly if pre-slope installation is ignored or the weep holes become clogged, thus increasing the potential for efflorescence and mold growth within the system.



- 1 Schluter®-KERDI-DRAIN
- 2 Sloped mortar bed or Schluter®-KERDI-SHOWER-T/-TS/-TT prefabricated foam tray
- 3 Schluter®-KERDI waterproofing membrane

### Schluter®-Shower System

The Schluter-Shower System is an integrated family of products that creates a “sealed” system. First, the KERDI-DRAIN is installed in conjunction with either a sloped mortar bed or the KERDI-SHOWER-T/-TS/-TT prefabricated foam trays. The KERDI-DRAIN provides a simple and secure connection to the KERDI waterproofing membrane at the top of the assembly with its unique integrated bonding flange. Unlike shower pan liners in traditional assemblies, KERDI is a bonded waterproofing membrane that allows for the direct application of tile with thin-set mortar. KERDI is bonded to the mortar bed or tray and the surface of the KERDI-DRAIN’s integrated bonding flange. In addition, KERDI is installed over the solid backing (e.g., gypsum board, cement backerboard, etc.) on walls, creating a fully waterproof and vapor-tight enclosure.

The resulting assembly provides superior moisture management as it does not permit moisture to penetrate into the mortar bed or solid backing, allowing the assembly to dry completely between uses. The integrated Schluter-Shower System eliminates leaks, reduces the potential for efflorescence and mold growth in the system, and dramatically reduces total installation time to ensure success and make shower installation easier than ever.

**Schluter-Systems’** written installation instructions shall have precedence over referenced industry standard guidelines and installation procedures insofar as referenced information may contain overlapping or conflicting requirements. Type, thickness, and format of the tile or stone surface covering must be suitable for the intended application.

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# SHOWER SELECTION GUIDE

## Beautiful, durable, functional

The Schluter-Shower System is versatile to fit the needs of the installer. The Shower Selection Guide describes the available options to help you determine which products will best fit your shower application.



KERDI



KERDI-BOARD

## Waterproofing options

### Schluter®-KERDI waterproofing membrane over solid backing

- Thickness: 8 mil (0.2 mm)
- Pliable, easy to install, and guarantees uniform thickness for reliable performance
- Suitable for use in showers, bathtub surrounds, and intermittent-use steam showers
- Use 2 m wide roll to seamlessly waterproof up to the standard showerhead height

### Schluter®-KERDI-DS waterproofing membrane over solid backing

- Thickness: 20 mil (0.5 mm)
- Provides improved vapor permeance as compared to KERDI
- Suitable for use in continuous-use steam rooms

### Schluter®-KERDI-BOARD waterproof building panel

- Lightweight, easy to cut and install XPS foam panel
- Combines substrate installation and waterproofing
- Suitable for use in showers, bathtub surrounds, and intermittent-use steam showers

KERDI-DRAIN



## Drain options

- Integrated bonding flange ensures waterproof connection at top of assembly
- Can be installed with prefabricated foam shower trays or mortar bases
- Simple connection to standard drain outlets for new construction or renovation
- Grate assemblies accommodate a wide range of tile thicknesses

### Schluter®-KERDI-DRAIN

- Fully adjustable square grate assemblies minimize and simplify tile cuts
- Available with 2" or 3" (50 mm or 75 mm) outlets
- Adaptor kits allow for conversion of existing clamping ring drain to KERDI-DRAIN

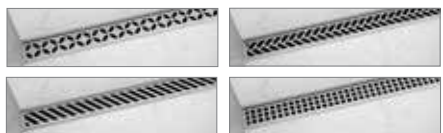
KERDI-LINE



### Schluter®-KERDI-LINE

- Accommodates single-plane slope and large-format tile installation
- Can be installed adjacent to walls or at intermediate locations
- KERDI-LINE is a great option for showers with multiple shower heads and/or increased water flow
- Adaptor kit allows for conversion of existing clamping ring drain to KERDI-LINE

KERDI-LINE-VARIO



### Schluter®-KERDI-LINE-VARIO

- Low profile, variable length linear shower drain
- Can be cut to size on-site to fit the dimensions of the shower
- Accommodates single-plane slope and large-format tile installation
- KERDI-LINE-VARIO may also be installed adjacent to walls or at intermediate locations

## Shower base options

### Schluter prefabricated shower trays

- Lightweight, easy to install
- Waterproof and ready for tile
- Reduces installation time
- Available in a variety of formats to suit your installation needs
- Can be cut to size or extended using dry pack mortar

### Portland cement mortar bed

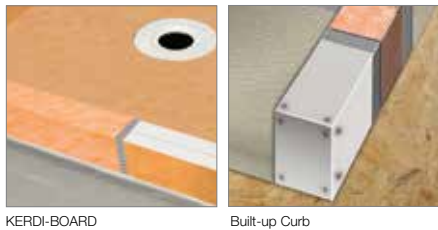
- Base can be built for custom shower, fits any shape
- Especially suited for off-set drain placement



KERDI-SHOWER-T/-TS/-TT



Mortar Bed



## Transition options

### Schluter®-KERDI-BOARD-SC prefabricated curb

- Waterproof and ready for tile
- Lightweight, stable, and load bearing
- Can be cut to length
- Can be used with Schluter prefabricated shower trays or mortar base applications

### Schluter®-KERDI-SHOWER-R ramp

- Use to create accessible, curbless showers
- Adheres to the ADA's slope ratio
- Waterproof and ready for tile
- Lightweight, stable, and load bearing
- Can be cut to length
- Can be used with Schluter prefabricated shower trays or mortar base applications

### Schluter®-KERDI-BOARD built-up curb

- Customizable to fit any application
- Build as desired (e.g., length, width, height)
- Can be installed over various materials (e.g., masonry, wood)

### Built-up curb

- Customizable to fit any application
- May be built out of wood (i.e., 2" x 4"s) and covered with KERDI-BOARD or solid backing and KERDI
- Can be built as desired (e.g., length, width, height)



## Bench options

### Schluter®-KERDI-BOARD-SB prefabricated bench

- Waterproof and ready for tile
- Lightweight, stable, and load bearing
- Available in triangular and rectangular shapes in various sizes
- Triangular benches include KERDI-KERECK and KERDI-KERS-B preformed waterproofing corners
- Rectangular benches include KERDI-KERECK preformed waterproofing corners

### Schluter®-KERDI-BOARD built-up bench

- Customizable to fit any application, can be built as desired
- Combines substrate installation and waterproofing

### Built-up bench

- Customizable to fit any application
- Can be built as desired (e.g., length, width, height)



## Shower niche

### Schluter®-KERDI-BOARD-SN shower niche

- Prefabricated shower niche made of KERDI-BOARD
- Preformed, lightweight, easy to install
- Various sizes available

### Schluter®-KERDI-BOARD-SNLT shower niche with LED lighting

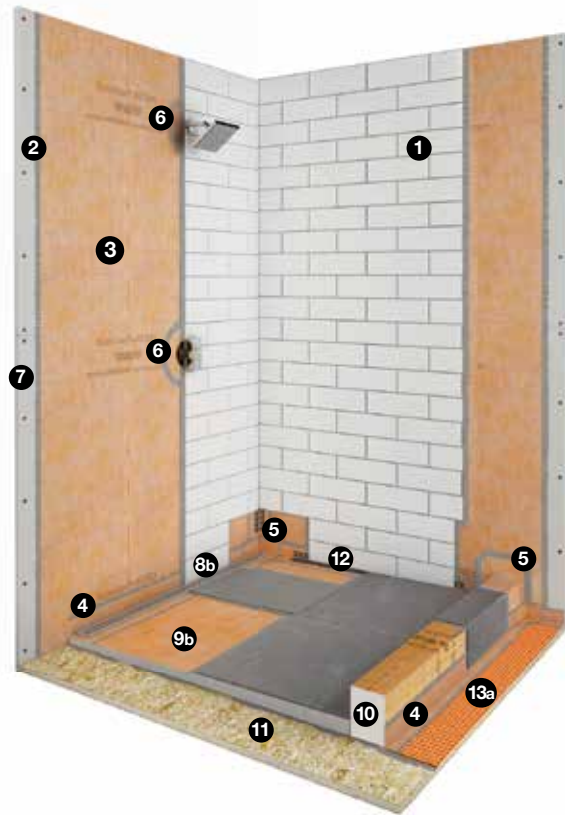
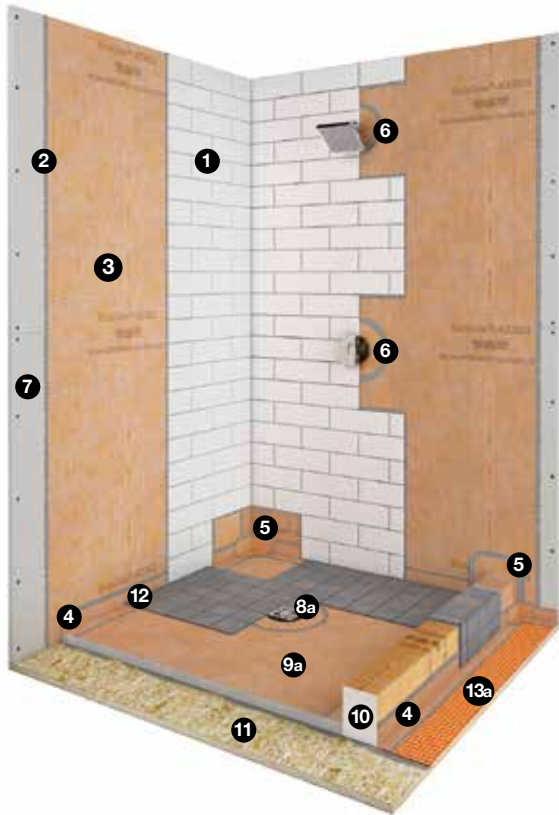
- Integrates a mounting profile with a diffused LED light strip
- Features a pre-installed waterproof connection box for a code-compliant installation

# SHOWER ASSEMBLY

## Showers – Ceramic or stone tile

### Schluter®-KERDI waterproofing membrane

K-SH-K



- 1 Ceramic or stone tile
- 2 Schluter **SET**®, Schluter **ALL-SET**®, Schluter **FAST-SET**® or unmodified thin-set mortar
- 3 Schluter®-**KERDI** waterproofing membrane
- 4 Schluter®-**KERDI-BAND** waterproofing strips
- 5 Schluter®-**KERDI-KERECK-F** waterproofing corners
- 6 Schluter®-**KERDI-SEAL-PS/-MV** seals or Schluter®-**KERDI-FIX** sealant and bonding compound
- 7 Solid backing
- 8 Drain:
  - a. Schluter®-**KERDI-DRAIN**
  - b. Schluter®-**KERDI-LINE**

Alternative (not shown):
 
  - Schluter®-**KERDI-LINE-VARIO**
- 9 Base:
  - a. Schluter®-**KERDI-SHOWER-T/-TS/-TT**
  - b. Schluter®-**KERDI-SHOWER-LT/-LTS**

Alternative (not shown):
 
  - Mortar bed
- 10 Schluter®-**KERDI-BOARD-SC** curb
 

Alternatives (not shown):
 
  - Schluter®-**KERDI-BOARD** waterproof building panel
  - Built-up curb
- 11 Wood or concrete subfloor
- 12 Schluter®-**DILEX** profile (optional)
- 13 Uncoupling membrane:
  - a. Schluter®-**DITRA/-PS** or **DITRA-XL** uncoupling membrane
  - b. Schluter®-**DITRA-HEAT/-PS** or Schluter®-**DITRA-HEAT-DUO/-PS** electric floor warming and uncoupling membrane (membrane and **KERDI-BAND** connection to floor are optional)

Bench (not shown, optional):
 
  - Schluter®-**KERDI-BOARD-SB**
  - Schluter®-**KERDI-BOARD**

Niche (not shown, optional):
 
  - Schluter®-**KERDI-BOARD-SN**
  - Schluter®-**KERDI-BOARD-SNLT**

Shelf (not shown, optional):
 
  - Schluter®-**SHELF-E/-W/-N**



## Schluter®-KERDI waterproofing membrane

K-SH-K

### Areas of Application

- Interior showers.
- Over wood or concrete subfloors. See the Base information under Requirements (below) for details.
- Areas requiring disabled access/curbless applications; see detail K-SHBF on page 12.

### Limitations

- Certain glass tiles may not be compatible with bonded waterproof membranes and/or may require special setting materials. Consult glass tile manufacturer and Schluter-Systems for more information.
- Certain moisture sensitive stones, e.g., green marble, or resin-backed tiles may not be appropriate for use in wet areas such as showers or may require special setting materials. Consult stone supplier and Schluter-Systems for more information.
- Do not use sawn lumber curbs on concrete subfloors subject to moisture migration.

### Requirements

- Plywood, OSB, or concrete subfloor must be clean, even, and load bearing.
- The structure must be designed and built to meet the building code requirements applicable in your area. This may require the services of a qualified design professional (e.g., architect, engineer, etc.).
- Solid backing – gypsum wallboard, cementitious backer unit, fiber-cement backerboard, fiber-reinforced water-resistant gypsum backerboard, coated glass mat water-resistant gypsum backerboard, Portland cement mortar, concrete, or masonry.
- Base – KERDI-SHOWER-T/-TS/-TT/-LT/-LTS or Portland cement mortar bed.
- Curb – KERDI-BOARD-SC, KERDI-BOARD, concrete, masonry block, or sawn lumber sheathed with solid backing (see above).
- Bench – KERDI-BOARD-SB, KERDI-BOARD, concrete, masonry block, or sawn lumber sheathed with solid backing (see above).
- KERDI-DRAIN or KERDI-LINE/-VARIO shall be properly supported.
- KERDI-DRAIN or KERDI-LINE/-VARIO shall be connected to the waste line; use ABS cement for ABS drains, PVC cement for PVC drains, a no-hub coupling for stainless steel drains with no-hub outlets, and thread sealing compound or tape for stainless steel drains with threaded outlets.
- KERDI waterproofing membrane shall be installed up to the height of the showerhead at minimum.
- In enclosed shower areas, install KERDI waterproofing membrane on all surfaces, including the ceiling, door jambs and the door header.
- It is the specifier's responsibility to treat and address all penetrations through the KERDI membrane or KERDI-BOARD (e.g., showerhead, mixing valve, shower doors, etc.) in the installation. All penetrations must be treated with KERDI-SEAL-PS/-MV seals, KERDI-FIX or suitable sealant.
- All seams and fastener penetrations must be treated with KERDI-BAND or KERDI ensuring a 2" (50 mm) overlap. Apply using any Schluter thin-set mortar or an unmodified thin-set mortar.
- When using the stainless steel KERDI-DRAIN bonding flange, use KERDI-FIX to bond KERDI to the drain.
- All horizontal surfaces (e.g., benches, curbs, window sills, shelves, etc.) must be sloped toward the shower drain.

### Substrate Preparation

- Verify that subfloor panels and solid backing are properly fastened to framing members.
- Any leveling of the subfloor must be done prior to installing KERDI-SHOWER-T/-TS/-TT/-LT/-LTS/-R and KERDI-BOARD-SC/-SB.

### Solid Backing Materials

- Gypsum wallboard – ASTM C1396/C1396M
- Cementitious backer unit – ANSI A118.9 or ASTM C1325
- Foam Core backerboard - ANSI A118.18
- Fiber-cement backerboard – ASTM C1288
- Fiber-reinforced water-resistant gypsum backerboard – ASTM C1278
- Coated glass mat water-resistant gypsum backerboard – ASTM C1178
- Portland cement mortar – ANSI A108.1B
- Concrete
- Masonry

### Setting and Grouting Materials

- Unmodified thin-set mortar – ANSI A118.1
- Grout – ANSI A118.3, A118.6, A118.7

### Installation Specifications

- Solid backing panels – follow manufacturer's instructions
- Portland cement mortar bed – ANSI A108.1B
- Tile – ANSI A108.5
- Grout – ANSI A108.6, A108.10

### Other Considerations

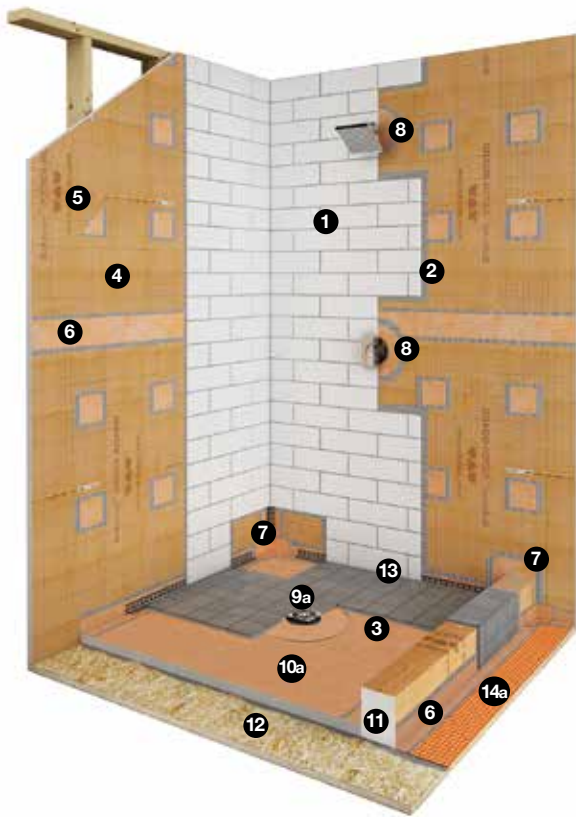
- When KERDI-SHOWER-T/-TS/-TT/-LT/-LTS tray dimensions do not match the dimensions of the shower compartment, the tray may be cut or extended with dry pack mortar.
- When KERDI and tile are installed on the ceiling, the solid backing and fasteners must be able to support the load of the tile and setting and grouting materials.
- A water test is strongly recommended before setting tile to verify a successful installation. Wait 24 hours minimum after the membrane installation is complete to allow for final set of thin-set mortar and ensure waterproof performance at seams and connections. Refer to local plumbing codes for any specific requirements in your area.
- Schluter-Systems profiles may be used to finish and protect outside corners and eliminate the use of sealant at inside corners; see page 45.
- SHOWERPROFILE-S/-R profiles eliminate the need for cutting wedges of tile by covering the exposed wall area where the floor slopes to KERDI-LINE/-VARIO.
- SHELF-E/-W/-N are alternatives to tiled shelves that can be easily installed on walls and in corners and niches; see page 45
- Where a waterproof floor adjacent to the shower is desired, DITRA/-PS or DITRA-XL uncoupling membrane, DITRA-HEAT/-PS or DITRA-HEAT-DUO/-PS electric floor warming and uncoupling membrane shall be installed. Floor/wall connections shall be sealed with KERDI-BAND.

# SHOWER ASSEMBLY

## Showers – Ceramic or stone tile

### Schluter®-KERDI-BOARD waterproof building panel

K-SH-KB



- 1** Ceramic or stone tile
- 2** Schluter **SET**®, Schluter **ALL-SET**®, Schluter **FAST-SET**® or unmodified thin-set mortar
- 3** Schluter®-**KERDI** waterproofing membrane
- 4** Schluter®-**KERDI-BOARD** waterproof building panel
- 5** Schluter®-**KERDI-BOARD-ZT** washers
- 6** Schluter®-**KERDI-BAND** waterproofing strips
- 7** Schluter®-**KERDI-KERECK-F** waterproofing corners
- 8** Schluter®-**KERDI-SEAL-PS/-MV** seals or Schluter®-**KERDI-FIX** sealant and bonding compound
- 9** Drain:
  - a. Schluter®-**KERDI-DRAIN**
  - b. Schluter®-**KERDI-LINE**

Alternative (not shown):
 
  - Schluter®-**KERDI-LINE-VARIO**
- 10** Base:
  - a. Schluter®-**KERDI-SHOWER-T/-TS/-TT**
  - b. Schluter®-**KERDI-SHOWER-LT/-LTS**

Alternative (not shown):
 
  - Mortar bed
- 11** Schluter®-**KERDI-BOARD-SC** curb
 

Alternatives (not shown):
 
  - Schluter®-**KERDI-BOARD** waterproofing panel
  - Built-up curb
- 12** Wood or concrete subfloor
- 13** Schluter®-**DILEX** profile (optional)
- 14** Uncoupling membrane:
  - a. Schluter®-**DITRA/-PS** or **DITRA-XL** uncoupling membrane
  - b. Schluter®-**DITRA-HEAT/-PS** or Schluter®-**DITRA-HEAT-DUO/-PS** electric floor warming and uncoupling membrane (membrane and **KERDI-BAND** connection to floor are optional)

Bench (not shown, optional):
 
  - Schluter®-**KERDI-BOARD-SB**
  - Schluter®-**KERDI-BOARD**

Niche (not shown, optional):
 
  - Schluter®-**KERDI-BOARD-SN**
  - Schluter®-**KERDI-BOARD-SNLT**

Shelf (not shown, optional):
 
  - Schluter®-**SHELF-E/-W/-N**



## Schluter®-KERDI-BOARD waterproof building panel

K-SH-KB

### Areas of Application

- Interior showers.
- Over wood or concrete subfloors. See the Base information under Requirements (below) for details.
- Areas requiring disabled access/curbless applications; see detail K-SHBF on page 12.

### Limitations

- Certain glass tiles may not be compatible with bonded waterproof membranes and/or may require special setting materials. Consult glass tile manufacturer and Schluter-Systems for more information.
- Certain moisture-sensitive stones, e.g., green marble, or resin-backed tiles, may not be appropriate for use in wet areas such as showers or may require special setting materials. Consult stone supplier and Schluter-Systems for more information.
- Do not use sawn lumber curbs on concrete subfloors subject to moisture migration.
- KERDI-BOARD not for use in exterior applications.

### Requirements

- Plywood, OSB, or concrete subfloor must be clean, even, and load bearing.
- The structure must be designed and built to meet the building code requirements applicable in your area. This may require the services of a qualified design professional (e.g., architect, engineer, etc.).
- Base – KERDI-SHOWER-T/-TS/-TT/-LT/-LTS or Portland cement mortar bed.
- Curb – KERDI-BOARD-SC, KERDI-BOARD, concrete, masonry block, or sawn lumber sheathed with solid backing (see below).
- Bench – KERDI-BOARD-SB, KERDI-BOARD, concrete, masonry block, or sawn lumber sheathed with solid backing (see below).
- Solid backing – gypsum wallboard, cementitious backer unit, fiber-cement backerboard, fiber-reinforced water-resistant gypsum backerboard, coated glass mat water-resistant gypsum backerboard, Portland cement mortar, concrete, or masonry.
- KERDI-DRAIN or KERDI-LINE/-VARIO shall be properly supported.
- KERDI-DRAIN or KERDI-LINE/-VARIO shall be connected to the waste line; use ABS cement for ABS drains, PVC cement for PVC drains, a no-hub coupling for stainless steel drains with no-hub outlets, and thread sealing compound or tape for stainless steel drains with threaded outlets.
- Minimum KERDI-BOARD thickness – 1/2" (12.5 mm) for studs spaced at 16" (40.6 cm) o.c. and 3/4" (19 mm) for studs spaced at 24" (61.0 cm) o.c.
- KERDI-BOARD shall be fastened to wood or metal framing with appropriate screws (i.e., coarse thread wood screw for wood studs and self-tapping for metal studs) and corresponding KERDI-BOARD-ZT washers. Screws must reach a depth of at least 3/4" (20 mm) in wood studs and 3/8" (10 mm) in metal studs. Maximum allowable on-center fastener spacing is 12" (30 cm) for walls and 6" (15 cm) for ceilings.
- KERDI-BOARD shall be installed up to the height of the showerhead at minimum.
- In enclosed shower areas, install KERDI waterproofing membrane on all surfaces, including the ceiling, door jambs and the door header.
- It is the specifier's responsibility to treat and address all penetrations through the KERDI membrane or KERDI-BOARD (e.g., showerhead, mixing valve, shower doors, etc.) in the installation. All penetrations must be treated with KERDI-SEAL-PS/-MV seals, KERDI-FIX or suitable sealant.
- All seams and fastener penetrations must be treated with KERDI-BAND or KERDI ensuring a 2" (50 mm) overlap. Apply using any Schluter thin-set mortar or an unmodified thin-set mortar.

- When using the stainless steel KERDI-DRAIN bonding flange, use KERDI-FIX to bond KERDI to the drain.
- All horizontal surfaces (e.g., benches, curbs, window sills, shelves, etc.) must be sloped toward the shower drain.

### Substrate Preparation

- Verify that subfloor panels are properly fastened to framing members.
- Any leveling of the subfloor must be done prior to installing KERDI-SHOWER-T/-TS/-TT/-LT/-LTS/-R or KERDI-BOARD-SC/-SB.

### Solid Backing Materials

- Gypsum wallboard – ASTM C1396/C1396M
- Cementitious backer unit – ANSI A118.9 or ASTM C1325
- Foam Core backerboard – ANSI A118.18
- Fiber-cement backerboard – ASTM C1288
- Fiber-reinforced water-resistant gypsum backerboard – ASTM C1278
- Coated glass mat water-resistant gypsum backerboard – ASTM C1178
- Portland cement mortar – ANSI A108.1B
- Concrete
- Masonry

### Setting and Grouting Materials

- Unmodified thin-set mortar – ANSI A118.1
- Grout – ANSI A118.3, A118.6, A118.7

### Installation Specifications

- Portland cement mortar bed – ANSI A108.1B
- Tile – ANSI A108.5
- Grout – ANSI A108.6, A108.10

### Other Considerations

- When KERDI-SHOWER-T/-TS/-TT/-LT/-LTS tray dimensions do not match the dimensions of the shower compartment, the tray may be cut or extended with dry pack mortar.
- Shower grab bars must be anchored in the structure or solid blocking behind KERDI-BOARD.
- When KERDI-BOARD and tile are installed on the ceiling, the KERDI-BOARD and fasteners must be able to support the load of the tile and setting and grouting materials.
- A water test is strongly recommended before setting tile to verify a successful installation. Wait 24 hours minimum after the membrane installation is complete to allow for final set of thin-set mortar and ensure waterproof performance at seams and connections. Refer to local plumbing codes for any specific requirements in your area.
- Schluter-Systems profiles may be used to finish and protect outside corners and eliminate the use of sealant at inside corners; see page 45.
- SHOWERPROFILE-S/-R profiles eliminate the need for cutting wedges of tile by covering the exposed wall area where the floor slopes to KERDI-LINE/-VARIO.
- SHELF-E/-W/-N are alternatives to tiled shelves that can be easily installed on walls and in corners and niches; see page 45.
- Where a waterproof floor adjacent to the shower is desired, DITRA/-PS or DITRA-XL uncoupling membrane, DITRA-HEAT/-PS or DITRA-HEAT-DUO/-PS electric floor warming and uncoupling membrane shall be installed. Floor/wall connections shall be sealed with KERDI-BAND.

# SHOWER ASSEMBLY

## Showers – Ceramic or stone tile

### Schluter®-DITRA-HEAT Shower Application DH-SH



- 1 Ceramic or stone tile
- 2 Schluter SET®, Schluter ALL-SET®, Schluter FAST-SET® or unmodified thin-set mortar
- 3 Schluter®-KERDI waterproofing membrane
- 4 Schluter®-KERDI-BOARD waterproof building panel
- 5 Schluter®-KERDI-BOARD-ZT/-ZS washers and screws
- 6 Schluter®-KERDI-BAND waterproofing strips
- 7 Schluter®-KERDI-KERECK-F waterproofing corners
- 8 Schluter®-KERDI-SEAL-PS/-MV seals or Schluter®-KERDI-FIX sealant and bonding compound
- 9 Solid backing

- 10 Drain:
  - a. Schluter®-KERDI-DRAIN
  - b. Schluter®-KERDI-LINE

Alternative (not shown):  
• Schluter®-KERDI-LINE-VARIO

- 11 Base:
  - a. Schluter®-KERDI-SHOWER-T/-TS/-TT
  - b. Schluter®-KERDI-SHOWER-LT/-LTS

Alternative (not shown):  
• Mortar bed

- 12 Schluter®-KERDI-BOARD-SC curb

Alternatives (not shown):  
• Schluter®-KERDI-BOARD waterproof building panel  
• Built-up curb

- 13 Schluter®-SHOWERPROFILE-WSK/-WSL Shower profile

Alternative (not shown):  
• Schluter®-SHOWERPROFILE-WS/-WSC

- 14 Schluter®-DITRA-HEAT/-PS or Schluter®-DITRA-HEAT-DUO/-PS Electric floor warming and uncoupling membrane



Alternative (not shown):  
• Schluter®-DITRA/-PS or DITRA-XL uncoupling membrane



- 15 Wood or concrete subfloor

- 16 Schluter®-DILEX profile (optional)

Bench (not shown, optional):  
Schluter®-KERDI-BOARD-SB  
Schluter®-KERDI-BOARD

Niche (not shown, optional):  
• Schluter®-KERDI-BOARD-SN  
• Schluter®-KERDI-BOARD-SNLT

Shelf (not shown, optional):  
• Schluter®-SHELF-E/-W/-N

DITRA-HEAT system installation in a shower requires KERDI membrane be installed on top. The Schluter-Shower System and KERDI family of products have been tested and are listed and approved as a fully waterproof system. Installation of KERDI over DITRA-HEAT in a shower ensures a dry environment for the heating cable. The KERDI membrane was evaluated and is certified waterproof by ICC-ES (Report ESR-2467). The Schluter-Shower System was evaluated and is certified waterproof by ICC-ES (Report PMG-1204).

## Schluter®-DITRA-HEAT Shower Application

DH-SH

### Areas of Application

- Interior showers with or without curbless applications.
- Interior intermittent use steam showers (e.g., residential applications). See detail K-SSH on page 16 for more information.
- Over wood or concrete subfloors. See the Base information under Requirements (below) for details.

### Limitations

- Certain glass tiles may not be compatible with bonded waterproof membranes and/or may require special setting materials. Consult glass tile manufacturer and Schluter-Systems for more information.
- Certain moisture sensitive stones, e.g., green marble, or resin-backed tiles may not be appropriate for use in wet areas such as showers or may require special setting materials. Consult stone supplier and Schluter-Systems for more information.
- Do not use sawn lumber curbs on concrete subfloors subject to moisture migration.
- KERDI-BOARD not for use in exterior applications.
- DITRA-HEAT-PS and DITRA-HEAT-DUO-PS are not suitable over a mortar bed.

### Requirements

- Plywood, OSB, or concrete subfloor must be clean, even, and load bearing.
- For wood substrates, subfloor/underlayment configuration according to detail DH-W16-T, DH-W19-T, DH-W24-T, or DH-W-S in the DITRA-HEAT Installation Handbook.
- For curbless applications: Recessing the floor of a bathroom must be done in a way that preserves the structural integrity and safety of the construction. This may require the services of a qualified design professional (e.g., architect, engineer, etc.).
- Solid backing – gypsum wallboard, cementitious backer unit, fiber-cement backerboard, fiber-reinforced water-resistant gypsum backerboard, coated glass mat water-resistant gypsum backerboard, Portland cement mortar, concrete, or masonry.
- Minimum KERDI-BOARD thickness – 1/2" (12.5 mm) for studs spaced at 16" (40.6 cm) o.c. and 3/4" (19 mm) for studs spaced at 24" (61.0 cm) o.c.
- KERDI-BOARD shall be fastened to wood or metal framing with appropriate screws (i.e., KERDI-BOARD-ZS or coarse thread wood screw for wood studs and self-tapping for metal studs) and corresponding KERDI-BOARD-ZT washers. Screws must reach a depth of at least 3/4" (20 mm) in wood studs and 3/8" (10 mm) in metal studs. Maximum allowable on-center fastener spacing is 12" (30 cm) for walls and 6" (15 cm) for ceilings.
- KERDI or KERDI-BOARD shall be installed up to the height of the showerhead at minimum. In enclosed shower areas, install KERDI waterproofing membrane on all surfaces, including the ceiling, door jams and the door header.
- It is the specifier's responsibility to treat and address all penetrations through the KERDI membrane or KERDI-BOARD (e.g., showerhead, mixing valve, shower doors, etc.) in the installation. All penetrations must be treated with KERDI-SEAL-PS/-MV seals, KERDI-FIX or suitable sealant.
- All seams and fastener penetrations must be treated with KERDI-BAND or KERDI ensuring a 2" (50 mm) overlap. Apply using any Schluter thin-set mortar or an unmodified thin-set mortar.
- Base – KERDI-SHOWER-T/-TS/-TT/-LT/-LTS or Portland cement mortar bed.
- Ramp – KERDI-SHOWER-R or Portland cement mortar bed.
- Curb – KERDI-BOARD-SC, KERDI-BOARD, concrete, masonry block, or sawn lumber sheathed with solid backing (see above).
- Bench – KERDI-BOARD-SB, KERDI-BOARD, concrete, masonry block, or sawn lumber sheathed with solid backing (see above).
- All horizontal surfaces (e.g., benches, curbs, window sills, shelves, etc.) must be sloped toward the shower drain.
- KERDI-DRAIN or KERDI-LINE/-VARIO shall be properly supported. Additional thin-set mortar may be needed to bed the KERDI-DRAIN for this detail.
- KERDI-DRAIN or KERDI-LINE/-VARIO shall be connected to the waste line; use ABS cement for ABS drains, PVC cement for PVC drains, a no-hub coupling for stainless steel drains with no-hub outlets, and thread sealing compound or tape for stainless steel drains with threaded outlets.
- When using the stainless steel KERDI-DRAIN bonding flange, use KERDI-FIX to bond KERDI to the drain.
- DITRA-HEAT heating cables must be installed in the DITRA-HEAT-PS or DITRA-HEAT-DUO-PS membrane. KERDI must be installed over the heating cables and DITRA-HEAT-PS or DITRA-HEAT-DUO-PS in the shower.
- Due to the installation of the DITRA-HEAT-PS or DITRA-HEAT-DUO-PS membrane on top of the shower tray, it is necessary to raise the height of the KERDI-DRAIN or KERDI-LINE/-VARIO. Installation of DITRA-HEAT-PS or DITRA-HEAT-DUO-PS membrane on the substrate under the detachable center section for KERDI-DRAIN or under the KERDI-LINE/-VARIO channel body support will provide the proper height adjustment.
- When a curb is used, the heating cables must be installed over the curb in a 3/4" wide x 1/4" deep routed section and encased in thin-set mortar. **DO NOT install the heating cable under the curb or go through the curb, as this could cause damage to the heating cable and curb. After the heating cable is installed, apply KERDI over the routed section of the KERDI-BOARD-SC curb or over the entire built-up curb.**
- A dedicated heating cable is recommended in the shower area to allow for simple disconnection without an impact on the bathroom floor heating in the event that the shower heating cable is damaged. Multiple heating cables may be installed on a single thermostat, up to the 15 amp limit. However, for ease of installation, a maximum of two heating cables per thermostat and a deep junction box is recommended. Refer to electrical codes for proper junction box selection for your installation.
- The minimum spacing from any drain pipe must be 4" (100 mm). With a linear drain, the cable must be 4" (100 mm) from the actual drain pipe and a minimum of 1" (25 mm) from the channel body edges.

**Note: Please refer to the DITRA-HEAT Installation Handbook for installation instructions and warranty criteria for the DITRA-HEAT floor warming system.**

- Heating cables must be spaced a minimum of 8" (200 mm) from steam inlets in intermittent use steam showers.

### Safety

- Extra care must be taken for repairs to the DITRA-HEAT heating cable in wet areas. After repairs and waterproofing connections are completed, Schluter-Systems recommends flood testing the shower before re-tiling.
- Heating cable factory splice (i.e., cold lead splice) must not be installed in the shower area.
- For product certification information see Testing and Certification section in the DITRA-HEAT Installation Handbook.

### Substrate Preparation

- Verify that subfloor panels and solid backing are properly fastened to framing members.
- Any leveling of the subfloor must be done prior to installing KERDI-SHOWER-T/-TS/-TT/-LT/-LTS/-R, KERDI-BOARD-SC/-SB, DITRA-HEAT-PS and DITRA-HEAT-DUO-PS membranes.
- For optimal performance with difficult-to-bond-to substrates, use PRIMER-U or other suitable primer for the application. Contact Schluter-Systems to determine if PRIMER-U, or suitable primer, is required for the specific installation.

### Solid Backing Materials

- Gypsum wallboard – ASTM C1396/C1396M
- Cementitious backer unit – ANSI A118.9 or ASTM C1325
- Foam Core backerboard – ANSI A118.18
- Fiber-cement backerboard – ASTM C1288
- Fiber-reinforced water-resistant gypsum backerboard – ASTM C1278
- Coated glass mat water-resistant gypsum backerboard – ASTM C1178
- Portland cement mortar – ANSI A108.1B
- Concrete
- Masonry

### Setting and Grouting Materials

- Unmodified thin-set mortar – ANSI A118.1
- Grout – ANSI A118.3, A118.6, A118.7

### Installation Specifications

- Solid backing panels – follow manufacturer's instructions
- Portland cement mortar bed – ANSI A108.1B
- Tile – ANSI A108.5
- Grout – ANSI A108.6, A108.10

### Other Considerations

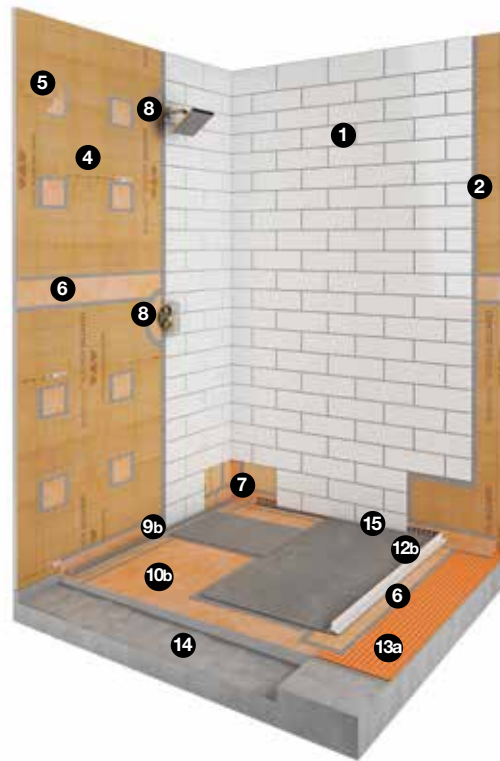
- **Acceptance of electric floor warming in a shower and this detail must be verified by the local inspector or authority having jurisdiction (AHJ).**
- KERDI is required on top of DITRA-HEAT installations in the shower. Schluter-Systems chooses to be conservative and to ensure everything is protected. **Note:** DITRA-HEAT-E-HK heating cables are rated for wet applications per CAN/CSA-C22.2 No.130-03. DITRA-HEAT membranes have been found to meet or exceed the requirements of ANSI A118.10-S. If meeting ANSI A118.10-S specifications is required and peel-and-stick membranes are to be used, the entire area must be covered with KERDI membrane in conjunction with appropriate KERDI components.
- Curbless tiled showers rely on the slope of the floor to effectively contain water in the immediate shower area and direct water to the drain. Given the wide range of potential configurations, it isn't possible to address them all in this Handbook.
- For curbless applications: waterproofing must be installed in all areas subject to water exposure.
- SHOWERPROFILE-WS/-WSK system profiles can be used to form a splashguard at the entrance of curbless showers.
- Various building codes and other sources, such as the Americans with Disabilities Act, include specific requirements for disabled access in public buildings and must be consulted when applicable. Areas of interest may include degree of slope, clearance, and supporting structures such as grab bars.
- Shower grab bars must be anchored in the structure or solid blocking behind KERDI-BOARD.
- When KERDI-SHOWER-T/-TS/-TT/-LT/-LTS tray dimensions do not match the dimensions of the shower compartment, the tray may be cut or extended with dry pack mortar.
- When KERDI or KERDI-BOARD and tile are installed on the ceiling, the solid backing and fasteners must be able to support the load of the tile and setting and grouting materials.
- A water test is strongly recommended before setting tile to verify a successful installation. Wait 24 hours minimum after the membrane installation is complete to allow for final set of thin-set mortar and ensure waterproof performance at seams and connections. Refer to local plumbing codes for any specific requirements in your area. For curbless showers a temporary dam (e.g., a 2x4 and silicone sealant, plastic sheeting and sand, etc.) must be provided at the threshold to perform the water test.
- Schluter-Systems profiles may be used to finish and protect outside corners and eliminate the use of sealant at inside corners; see page 45.
- SHOWERPROFILE-S/-R profiles eliminate the need for cutting wedges of tile by covering the exposed wall area where the floor slopes to KERDI-LINE/-VARIO.
- SHELF-E/-W/-N are alternatives to tiled shelves that can be easily installed on walls and in corners and niches; see page 45.
- Where a waterproof floor adjacent to the shower is desired, DITRA-PS or DITRA-XL uncoupling membrane, DITRA-HEAT-PS or DITRA-HEAT-DUO-PS electric floor warming and uncoupling membrane shall be installed. Floor/wall connections shall be sealed with KERDI-BAND.

# SHOWER ASSEMBLY

## Curbless Showers – Ceramic or stone tile

Schluter®-KERDI waterproofing membrane or  
Schluter®-KERDI-BOARD waterproof building panel

K-SHBF



- 1 Ceramic or stone tile
- 2 Schluter SET®, Schluter ALL-SET®, Schluter FAST-SET® or unmodified thin-set mortar
- 3 Schluter®-KERDI waterproofing membrane
- 4 Schluter®-KERDI-BOARD waterproof building panel
- 5 Schluter®-KERDI-BOARD-ZT washers
- 6 Schluter®-KERDI-BAND waterproofing strips
- 7 Schluter®-KERDI-KERECK-F waterproofing corners
- 8 Schluter®-KERDI-SEAL-PS/-MV seals or Schluter®-KERDI-FIX sealant and bonding compound

- 9 Drain:
  - a. Schluter®-KERDI-DRAIN
  - b. Schluter®-KERDI-LINE

Alternative (not shown):  
• Schluter®-KERDI-LINE-VARIO

- 10 Base:
  - a. Schluter®-KERDI-SHOWER-T/-TS/-TT
  - b. Schluter®-KERDI-SHOWER-LT/-LTS

Alternative (not shown):  
• Mortar bed

- 11 Schluter®-KERDI-SHOWER-R ramp

Alternative (not shown):  
• Mortar ramp

- 12 Shower profiles:
  - a. Schluter®-SHOWERPROFILE-WS/-WSC
  - b. Schluter®-SHOWERPROFILE-WSK/-WSL

- 13 Uncoupling membrane:
  - a. Schluter®-DITRA/-PS or DITRA-XL uncoupling membrane
  - b. Schluter®-DITRA-HEAT/-PS or Schluter®-DITRA-HEAT-DUO/-PS electric floor warming and uncoupling membrane

Alternative to uncoupling membrane (not shown):  
• Schluter®-KERDI waterproofing membrane

- 14 Wood or concrete subfloor

- 15 Schluter®-DILEX profile (optional)

Bench (not shown, optional):  
• Schluter®-KERDI-BOARD-SB  
• Schluter®-KERDI-BOARD

Niche (not shown, optional):  
• Schluter®-KERDI-BOARD-SN  
• Schluter®-KERDI-BOARD-SNLT

Shelf (not shown, optional):  
• Schluter®-SHELF-E/-W/-N

## Schluter®-KERDI waterproofing membrane or Schluter®-KERDI-BOARD waterproof building panel

### K-SHBF

#### Areas of Application

- Interior showers with curbless access.
- Over wood or concrete subfloors. See the Base information under Requirements (below) for details.

#### Limitations

- Certain glass tiles may not be compatible with bonded waterproof membranes and/or may require special setting materials. Consult glass tile manufacturer and Schluter-Systems for more information.
- Certain moisture sensitive stones, e.g., green marble, or resin-backed tiles may not be appropriate for use in wet areas such as steam showers or may require special setting materials. Consult stone supplier and Schluter-Systems for more information.
- KERDI-BOARD not for use in exterior applications.

#### Requirements

- Plywood, OSB, or concrete subfloor must be clean, even, and load bearing.
- The structure must be designed and built to meet the building code requirements applicable in your area. This may require the services of a qualified design professional (e.g., architect, engineer, etc.).
- Recessing the floor of a bathroom must be done in a way that preserves the structural integrity and safety of the construction. This may require the services of a qualified design professional (e.g., architect, engineer, etc.).
- Solid backing – gypsum wallboard, cementitious backer unit, fiber-cement backerboard, fiber-reinforced water-resistant gypsum backerboard, coated glass mat water-resistant gypsum backerboard, Portland cement mortar, concrete, or masonry.
- Base – KERDI-SHOWER-T/-TS/-TT/-LT/-LTS or Portland cement mortar bed.
- Ramp – KERDI-SHOWER-R or Portland cement mortar bed.
- Bench –KERDI-BOARD-SB, KERDI-BOARD, concrete, masonry block, or sawn lumber sheathed with solid backing (see above).
- KERDI-DRAIN or KERDI-LINE/-VARIO shall be properly supported.
- KERDI-DRAIN or KERDI-LINE/-VARIO shall be connected to the waste line; use ABS cement for ABS drains, PVC cement for PVC drains, a no-hub coupling for stainless steel drains with no-hub outlets, and thread sealing compound or tape for stainless steel drains with threaded outlets.
- Minimum KERDI-BOARD thickness – 1/2" (12.5 mm) for studs spaced at 16" (40.6 cm) o.c. and 3/4" (19 mm) for studs spaced at 24" (61 cm) o.c.
- KERDI-BOARD shall be fastened to wood or metal framing with appropriate screws (i.e., coarse thread wood screw for wood studs and self-tapping for metal studs) and corresponding KERDI-BOARD-ZT washers. Screws must reach a depth of at least 3/4" (20 mm) in wood studs and 3/8" (10 mm) in metal studs. Maximum allowable on-center fastener spacing is 12" (30 cm) for walls and 6" (15 cm) for ceilings.
- KERDI or KERDI-BOARD shall be installed up to the height of the showerhead at minimum.
- In enclosed shower areas, install KERDI or KERDI-BOARD on all surfaces, including the ceiling, door jambs and the door header.
- KERDI, DITRA/-PS, DITRA-XL, DITRA-HEAT/-PS, or DITRA-HEAT-DUO/-PS shall be installed in all floor areas subject to water exposure (i.e., wet area and drying area). Floor/wall connections shall be sealed with KERDI-BAND.
- It is the specifier's responsibility to treat and address all penetrations through the KERDI membrane or KERDI-BOARD (e.g., showerhead, mixing valve, shower doors, etc.) in the installation. All penetrations must be treated with KERDI-SEAL-PS/-MV seals, KERDI-FIX or suitable sealant.
- All seams and fastener penetrations must be treated with KERDI-BAND or KERDI ensuring a 2" (50 mm) overlap. Apply using any Schluter thin-set mortar or an unmodified thin-set mortar.
- When using the stainless steel KERDI-DRAIN bonding flange, use KERDI-FIX to bond KERDI to the drain.
- All horizontal surfaces (e.g. benches, window sills, shelves, etc.) must be sloped toward the shower drain.

#### Substrate Preparation

- Verify that subfloor panels and solid backing are properly fastened to framing members.
- Any leveling of the subfloor must be done prior to installing KERDI-SHOWER-T/-TS/-TT/-LT/-LTS/-R and KERDI-BOARD-SB prefabricated substrates.

#### Solid Backing Materials

- Gypsum wallboard – ASTM C1396/C1396M
- Cementitious backer unit – ANSI A118.9 or ASTM C1325
- Foam Core backerboard - ANSI A118.18
- Fiber-cement backerboard – ASTM C1288
- Fiber-reinforced water-resistant gypsum backerboard – ASTM C1278
- Coated glass mat water-resistant gypsum backerboard – ASTM C1178
- Portland cement mortar – ANSI A108.1B
- Concrete
- Masonry

#### Setting and Grouting Materials

- Unmodified thin-set mortar – ANSI A118.1
- Grout – ANSI A118.3, A118.6, A118.7

#### Installation Specifications

- Solid backing panels – follow manufacturer's directions
- Portland cement mortar bed – ANSI A108.1B
- Tile – ANSI A108.5
- Grout – ANSI A108.6, A108.10

#### Other Considerations

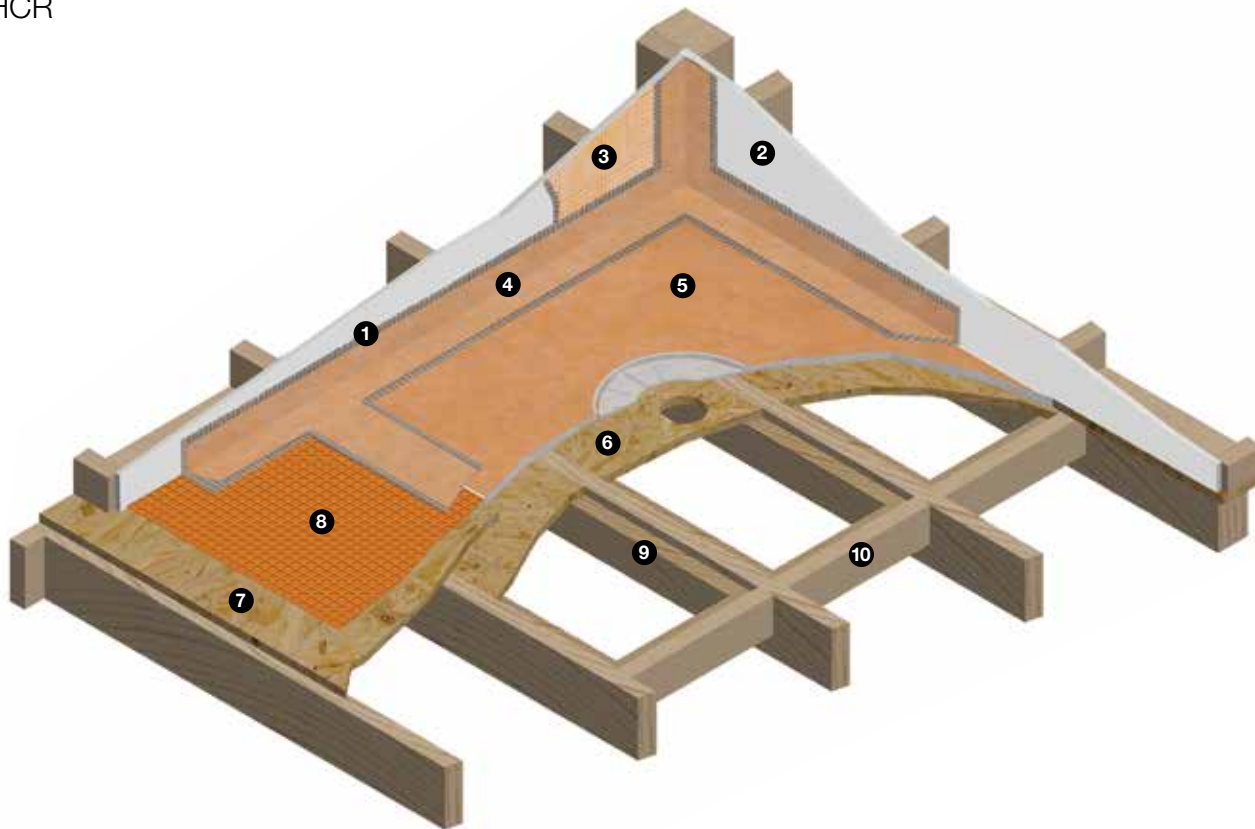
- If installing the KERDI-SHOWER-TT thin tray, the installation of a 5/8" or 3/4" plywood/OSB on top of a wood subfloor and DITRA-HEAT or DITRA-XL outside of the shower area is suggested to create a curbless shower application. Due to the additional height, be sure to check the transition height at the bathroom doorway.
- Curbless tiled showers rely on the slope of the floor to effectively contain water in the immediate shower area and direct water to the drain. Given the wide range of potential configurations, it isn't possible to address them all in this Handbook.
- Waterproofing must be installed in all areas subject to water exposure. Install KERDI over mortar beds. Use the DITRA/-PS, DITRA-XL, DITRA-HEAT/-PS, or DITRA-HEAT-DUO/-PS uncoupling membrane over plywood/OSB or concrete subfloors. All seams are sealed using KERDI-BAND. Please refer to the DITRA or DITRA-HEAT Installation Handbooks for complete details and warranty criteria.
- If KERDI-LINE is placed at shower entrance, it is recommended that grate assembly A, Pure, or the covering support (D) is chosen and that the drainage openings span the maximum width of the entrance to limit potential overflow; secondary drainage (e.g., KERDI-DRAIN-F) may be required in the drying area. KERDI-LINE-VARIO is not recommended for placement at the shower entrance.
- SHOWERPROFILE-WS/-WSK system profiles can be used to form a splashguard at the entrance of curbless showers. See page 40.
- Various building codes and other sources, such as the Americans with Disabilities Act, include specific requirements for disabled access in public buildings and must be consulted when applicable. Areas of interest may include degree of slope, clearance, and supporting structures such as grab bars.
- Shower grab bars must be anchored in the structure or solid blocking behind KERDI-BOARD.
- When KERDI-SHOWER-T/-TS/-TT/-LT/-LTS tray dimensions do not match the dimensions of the shower compartment, the tray may be cut or extended with dry pack mortar.
- When KERDI or KERDI-BOARD and tile are installed on the ceiling, the solid backing and fasteners must be able to support the load of the tile and setting and grouting materials.
- A water test is strongly recommended before setting tile to verify a successful installation. Wait 24 hours minimum after the membrane installation is complete to allow for final set of thin-set mortar and ensure waterproof performance at seams and connections. Refer to local plumbing codes for any specific requirements in your area. For curbless showers a temporary dam must be provided at the threshold to perform the water test.
- Schluter-Systems profiles may be used to finish and protect outside corners and eliminate the use of sealant at inside corners; see page 45.
- SHOWERPROFILE-S/-R profiles eliminate the need for cutting wedges of tile by covering the exposed wall area where the floor slopes to KERDI-LINE/-VARIO.
- SHELF-E/-W/-N are alternatives to tiled shelves that can be easily installed on walls and in corners and niches; see page 45.

# SHOWER ASSEMBLY

## Curbless Showers – Ceramic or stone tile

### Recessed Curbless Shower

K-SHCR



1 Schluter SET®, Schluter ALL-SET®, Schluter FAST-SET® or unmodified thin-set mortar

2 Solid backing

3 Schluter®-KERDI waterproofing membrane

4 Schluter®-KERDI-BAND waterproofing strips

5 Schluter®-KERDI-SHOWER tray

6 Recessed subfloor panel

7 Existing subfloor

8 Schluter®-DITRA/-PS or DITRA-XL uncoupling membrane

9 Recessed ledgers

10 Blocking

Alternative to uncoupling membrane (not shown):

- Schluter®-DITRA-HEAT/-PS or Schluter®-DITRA-HEAT-DUO/-PS electric floor warming and uncoupling membrane

## Recessed Curbless Shower

### K-SHCR

#### Areas of Application

- Interior showers with curbless access.
- Over wood subfloors. See the Base information under Requirements (below) for details.

#### Limitations

- Certain glass tiles may not be compatible with bonded waterproof membranes and/or may require special setting materials. Consult glass tile manufacturer and Schluter-Systems for more information.
- Certain moisture sensitive stones, e.g., green marble, or resin-backed tiles may not be appropriate for use in wet areas such as steam showers or may require special setting materials. Consult stone supplier and Schluter-Systems for more information.

#### Requirements

- Plywood or OSB subfloor must be clean, even, and load bearing.
- The structure must be designed and built to meet the building code requirements applicable in your area. This may require the services of a qualified design professional (e.g., architect, engineer, etc.).
- Maximum spacing of joists is 19.2" (488 mm) o.c.
- Minimum subfloor thickness – 23/32", 3/4" nom. (19 mm) tongue-and-groove OSB or plywood with 1/8" gap between sheets. Canada: 19/32", 5/8" nom. (16 mm) tongue-and-groove OSB or plywood in Canada with 16" (406 mm) o.c. maximum joist spacing, but 23/32", 3/4" nom. (19 mm) subfloor recommended.
- Existing subfloor panels extended over recessed panels to be installed according to Schluter Wood underlayment fastening schedule. See Wood Underlayment content in the DITRA Installation Handbook. Our recommendations currently support only dimensional lumber for floor joists. See alternate joist manufacturer for attachment specifications. Dimensional lumber shall not be ripped down from its original dimension and size.
- Recessing the floor of a bathroom must be done in a way that preserves the structural integrity and safety of the construction. This may require the services of a qualified design professional (e.g., architect, engineer, etc.). Verify with the local inspector or authority having jurisdiction (AHJ).
- Pre-drill holes in blocking and adjacent supports.
- Base – KERDI-SHOWER-T/-TS/-TT/-LT/-LTS.
- Bench – KERDI-BOARD-SB, KERDI-BOARD, concrete, masonry block, or sawn lumber sheathed with solid backing (see above).
- KERDI-DRAIN or KERDI-LINE/-VARIO shall be properly supported.
- KERDI-DRAIN or KERDI-LINE/-VARIO shall be connected to the waste line; use ABS cement for ABS drains, PVC cement for PVC drains, a no-hub coupling for stainless steel drains with no-hub outlets, and thread sealing compound or tape for stainless steel drains with threaded outlets.
- KERDI, DITRA/-PS, DITRA-XL, DITRA-HEAT/-PS OR DITRA-HEAT-DUO/-PS shall be installed in all floor areas subject to water exposure (i.e., wet area and drying area). Floor/wall connections shall be sealed with KERDI-BAND.
- When using the stainless steel KERDI-DRAIN bonding flange, use KERDI-FIX to bond KERDI to the drain.
- All horizontal surfaces (e.g. benches, window sills, shelves, etc.) must be sloped toward the shower drain.

#### Substrate Preparation

- Verify that subfloor panels and solid backing are properly fastened to framing members.
- Any leveling of the subfloor must be done prior to installing KERDI-SHOWER-T/-TS/-TT/-LT/-LTS/-R and KERDI-BOARD-SB prefabricated substrates.

#### Setting and Grouting Materials

- Unmodified thin-set mortar – ANSI A118.1
- Grout – ANSI A118.3, A118.6, A118.7

#### Installation Specifications

- Tile – ANSI A108.5
- Grout – ANSI A108.6, A108.10

#### Other Considerations

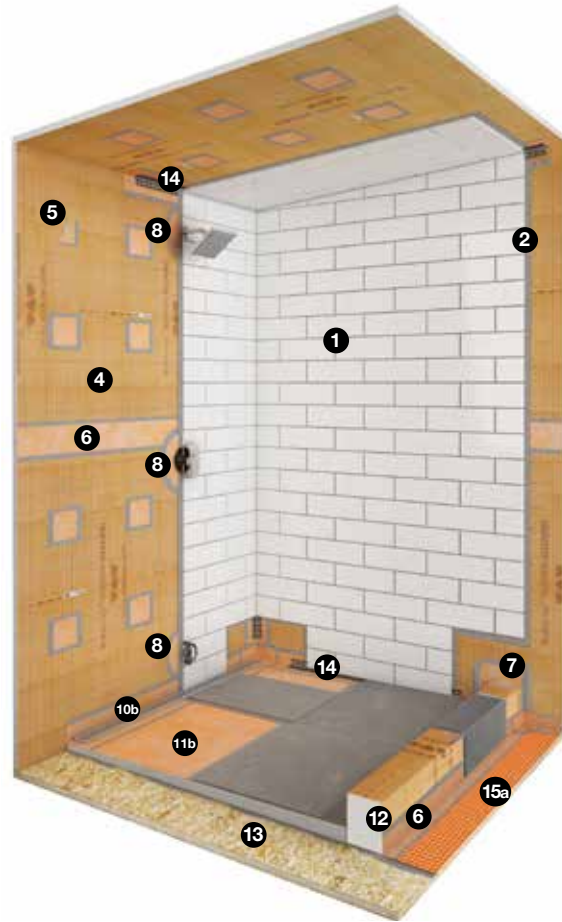
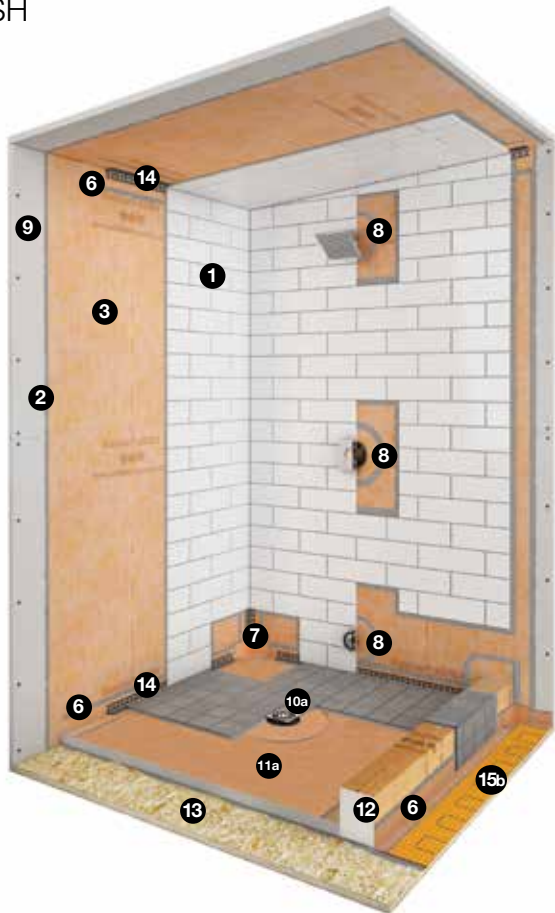
- Curbless tiled showers rely on the slope of the floor to effectively contain water in the immediate shower area and direct water to the drain. Given the wide range of potential configurations, it isn't possible to address them all in this Handbook.
- Waterproofing must be installed in all areas subject to water exposure. Install KERDI over mortar beds and Schluter prefabricated EPS foam substrates. Use the DITRA/-PS, DITRA-XL uncoupling membrane, DITRA-HEAT/-PS or DITRA-HEAT-DUO/-PS electric floor warming and uncoupling membrane over plywood/OSB or concrete subfloors. All seams are sealed using KERDI-BAND. Please refer to the DITRA or DITRA-HEAT Installation Handbooks for complete details and warranty criteria.
- KERDI-LINE-VARIO can be placed along the wall or in the center of the shower. For placement at the shower entrance, use KERDI-LINE.
- If KERDI-LINE is placed at shower entrance, it is recommended that grate assembly A, Pure, or the covering support (D) is chosen and that the drainage openings span the maximum width of the entrance to limit potential overflow; secondary drainage (e.g., KERDI-DRAIN-F) may be required in the drying area.
- SHOWERPROFILE-WS/-WSK system profiles can be used to form a splashguard at the entrance of curbless showers. See page 40.
- Various building codes and other sources, such as the Americans with Disabilities Act, include specific requirements for disabled access in public buildings and must be consulted when applicable. Areas of interest may include degree of slope, clearance, and supporting structures such as grab bars.
- When KERDI-SHOWER-T/-TS/-TT/-LT/-LTS tray dimensions do not match the dimensions of the shower compartment, the tray may be cut or extended with dry pack mortar.
- A water test is strongly recommended before setting tile to verify a successful installation. Wait 24 hours minimum after the membrane installation is complete to allow for final set of thin-set mortar and ensure waterproof performance at seams and connections. Refer to local plumbing codes for any specific requirements in your area. For curbless showers a temporary dam must be provided at the threshold to perform the water test.
- Schluter-Systems profiles may be used to finish and protect outside corners and eliminate the use of sealant at inside corners; see page 45.
- SHOWERPROFILE-S/-R profiles eliminate the need for cutting wedges of tile by covering the exposed wall area where the floor slopes to KERDI-LINE-VARIO.

# STEAM SHOWER ASSEMBLY

## Intermittent Use Steam Showers – Ceramic or stone tile

### Schluter®-KERDI waterproofing membrane or Schluter®-KERDI-BOARD waterproof building panel

K-SSH



- 1 Ceramic or stone tile
- 2 Schluter **SET**®, Schluter **ALL-SET**®, Schluter **FAST-SET**® or unmodified thin-set mortar
- 3 Schluter®-**KERDI** waterproofing membrane
- 4 Schluter®-**KERDI-BOARD** waterproof building panel
- 5 Schluter®-**KERDI-BOARD-ZT** washers
- 6 Schluter®-**KERDI-BAND** waterproofing strips
- 7 Schluter®-**KERDI-KERECK-F** waterproofing corners
- 8 Schluter®-**KERDI-SEAL-PS/-MV** seals or suitable sealant (see page 17 for more information)
- 9 Solid backing
- 10 Drain:
  - a. Schluter®-**KERDI-DRAIN**
  - b. Schluter®-**KERDI-LINE**

Alternative (not shown):
 
  - Schluter®-**KERDI-LINE-VARIO**
- 11 Base:
  - a. Schluter®-**KERDI-SHOWER-T/-TS/-TT**
  - b. Schluter®-**KERDI-SHOWER-LT/-LTS**

Alternative (not shown):
 
  - Mortar bed
- 12 Schluter®-**KERDI-BOARD-SC** curb
 

Alternatives (not shown):
 
  - Schluter®-**KERDI-BOARD** waterproofing panel
  - Built-up curb
- 13 Wood or concrete subfloor
- 14 Schluter®-**DILEX** profile (optional)
- 15 Uncoupling membrane:
  - a. Schluter®-**DITRA/-PS** or **DITRA-XL** uncoupling membrane
  - b. Schluter®-**DITRA-HEAT/-PS** or Schluter®-**DITRA-HEAT-DUO/-PS** electric floor warming and uncoupling membrane (membrane and **KERDI-BAND** connection to floor are optional)

Bench (not shown, optional):
 
  - Schluter®-**KERDI-BOARD-SB**
  - Schluter®-**KERDI-BOARD**

Niche (not shown, optional):
 
  - Schluter®-**KERDI-BOARD-SN**
  - Schluter®-**KERDI-BOARD-SNLT**

Shelf (not shown, optional):
 
  - Schluter®-**SHELF-E/-W/-N**



## Schluter®-KERDI waterproofing membrane or Schluter®-KERDI-BOARD waterproof building panel

### K-SSH

#### Areas of Application

- Interior intermittent use steam showers (e.g., residential applications).
- Over wood or concrete subfloors. See the Base information under Requirements (below) for details.
- Areas requiring disabled access/curbless applications; see detail K-SHBF on page 12.

#### Limitations

- Not intended for continuous use steam rooms (e.g., applications in spas, fitness centers, etc.); see detail K-SR on page 18.
- Certain glass tiles may not be compatible with bonded waterproof membranes and/or may require special setting materials. Consult glass tile manufacturer and Schluter-Systems for more information.
- Certain moisture sensitive stones, e.g., green marble, or resin-backed tiles may not be appropriate for use in wet areas such as steam showers or may require special setting materials. Consult stone supplier and Schluter-Systems for more information.
- Do not use sawn lumber curbs on concrete subfloors subject to moisture migration.
- KERDI-BOARD not for use in exterior applications.
- DITRA-HEAT-PS and DITRA-HEAT-DUO-PS should not be used in a steam shower.

#### Requirements

- Plywood, OSB, or concrete subfloor must be clean, even, and load bearing.
- The structure must be designed and built to meet the building code requirements applicable in your area. This may require the services of a qualified design professional (e.g., architect, engineer, etc.).
- Provide insulation in wall and ceiling cavities to reduce moisture condensation on the tiled surface.
- Base – KERDI-SHOWER-T/-TS/-TT/-LT/-LTS or Portland cement mortar bed.
- Curb – KERDI-BOARD-SC, KERDI-BOARD, concrete, masonry block, or sawn lumber sheathed with solid backing (see below).
- Bench – KERDI-BOARD-SB, KERDI-BOARD, concrete, masonry block, or sawn lumber sheathed with solid backing (see below).
- Solid backing – gypsum wallboard, cementitious backer unit, fiber-cement backerboard, fiber-reinforced water-resistant gypsum backerboard, coated glass mat water-resistant gypsum backerboard, Portland cement mortar, concrete, or masonry.
- KERDI-DRAIN or KERDI-LINE/-VARIO shall be properly supported.
- KERDI-DRAIN or KERDI-LINE/-VARIO shall be connected to the waste line; use ABS cement for ABS drains, PVC cement for PVC drains, a no-hub coupling for stainless steel drains with no-hub outlets, and thread sealing compound or tape for stainless steel drains with threaded outlets.
- Slope ceilings 2" (50 mm) per foot minimum to avoid condensation from dripping onto occupants (may be sloped to center to minimize rundown on walls).
- Install KERDI waterproofing membrane on base and curb and KERDI-BOARD waterproof building panel or KERDI waterproofing membrane on walls and ceiling. For enclosed areas, also install on door jambs, door header and past the door frame gasket, as applicable.
- Minimum KERDI-BOARD thickness – 1/2" (12.5 mm) for studs spaced at 16" (40.6 cm) o.c. and 3/4" (19 mm) for studs spaced at 24" (61 cm) o.c.
- KERDI-BOARD shall be fastened to wood or metal framing with appropriate screws (i.e., coarse thread wood screw for wood studs and self-tapping for metal studs) and corresponding KERDI-BOARD-ZT washers. Screws must reach a depth of at least 3/4" (20 mm) in wood studs and 3/8" (10 mm) in metal studs. Maximum allowable on-center fastener spacing is 12" (30 cm) for walls and 6" (15 cm) for ceilings.
- It is the specifier's responsibility to treat and address all penetrations through the KERDI membrane or KERDI-BOARD (e.g., showerhead, mixing valve, shower doors, steam inlet, lights, etc.) in the installation. All penetrations must be treated with KERDI-FIX, KERDI-SEAL-PS/-MV seals, room temperature vulcanizing sealant, or other suitable sealant.
- All seams and fastener penetrations must be treated with KERDI-BAND or KERDI ensuring a 2" (50 mm) overlap. Apply using any Schluter thin-set mortar or an unmodified thin-set mortar.

- **Steam inlets must be treated only with KERDI-SEAL-PS seals, room temperature vulcanizing sealant, or other suitable sealant. KERDI-FIX is not suitable for use around the steam inlet.**
- When using the stainless steel KERDI-DRAIN bonding flange, use KERDI-FIX to bond KERDI to the integrated bonding flange.
- DITRA-HEAT-E-HK heating cables must be spaced a minimum of 8" (200 mm) from steam inlets in intermittent use steam showers and continuous use steam rooms.
- Movement joints shall be provided at all changes in plane, including floor/wall, wall/wall, and wall/ceiling transitions. Schluter-Systems prefabricated movement joint profiles (e.g., DILEX-EKE) provide a maintenance-free alternative to sealant; see page 45.
- All horizontal surfaces (e.g., benches, curbs, window sills, shelves, etc.) must be sloped toward the shower drain.

#### Substrate Preparation

- Verify that subfloor panels are properly fastened to framing members.
- Any leveling of the subfloor must be done prior to installing KERDI-SHOWER-T/-TS/-TT/-LT/-LTS/-R and KERDI-BOARD-SC/-SB.

#### Solid Backing Materials

- Gypsum wallboard – ASTM C1396/C1396M
- Cementitious backer unit – ANSI A118.9 or ASTM C1325
- Foam Core backerboard - ANSI A118.18
- Fiber-cement backerboard – ASTM C1288
- Fiber-reinforced water-resistant gypsum backerboard – ASTM C1278
- Coated glass mat water-resistant gypsum backerboard – ASTM C1178
- Portland cement mortar – ANSI A108.1B
- Concrete
- Masonry

#### Setting and Grouting Materials

- Unmodified thin-set mortar – ANSI A118.1
- Grout – ANSI A118.3, A118.6, A118.7

#### Installation Specifications

- Solid backing panels – follow manufacturer's directions
- Portland cement mortar bed – ANSI A108.1B
- Tile – ANSI A108.5
- Grout – ANSI A108.6, A108.10

#### Other Considerations

- When KERDI-SHOWER-T/-TS/-TT/-LT/-LTS tray dimensions do not match the dimensions of the shower compartment, the tray may be cut or extended with dry pack mortar.
- Shower grab bars must be anchored in the structure or solid blocking behind KERDI-BOARD.
- When KERDI and tile are installed on the ceiling, the solid backing and fasteners must be able to support the load of the tile and setting and grouting materials. When KERDI-BOARD and tile are installed on the ceiling, the fasteners must be able to support the load of the tile and setting and grouting materials.
- A water test is strongly recommended before setting tile to verify a successful installation. Wait 24 hours minimum after the membrane installation is complete to allow for final set of thin-set mortar and ensure waterproof performance at seams and connections. Refer to local plumbing codes for any specific requirements in your area.
- Schluter-Systems profiles may be used to finish and protect outside corners and eliminate the use of sealant at inside corners; see page 45.
- SHOWERPROFILE-S/-R profiles eliminate the need for cutting wedges of tile by covering the exposed wall area where the floor slopes to KERDI-LINE/-VARIO.
- SHELF-E/-W/-N are alternatives to tiled shelves that can be easily installed on walls and in corners and niches; see page 45.
- Where a waterproof floor adjacent to the shower is desired, DITRA-PS or DITRA-XL uncoupling membrane, DITRA-HEAT-PS or DITRA-HEAT-DUO-PS electric floor warming and uncoupling membrane shall be installed. Floor/wall connections shall be sealed with KERDI-BAND.

# STEAM ROOM ASSEMBLY

## Continuous Use Steam Rooms – Ceramic or stone tile

### Schluter®-KERDI-DS waterproofing membrane

K-SR



- 1** Ceramic or stone tile
- 2** Schluter **SET**®, Schluter **ALL-SET**®, Schluter **FAST-SET**® or unmodified thin-set mortar
- 3** Schluter®-**KERDI-DS** waterproofing membrane
- 4** Schluter®-**KERDI-BAND** waterproofing strips
- 5** Schluter®-**KERDI-KERECK-F** waterproofing corners
- 6** Suitable sealant (see page 19 for more information)
- 7** Solid backing
- 8** Schluter®-**KERDI-DRAIN**  
Alternative (not shown):  
• Schluter®-**KERDI-LINE**  
• Schluter®-**KERDI-LINE-VARIO**
- 9** Mortar bed
- 10** Schluter®-**KERDI-BOARD-SC** curb  
Alternatives (not shown):  
• Schluter®-**KERDI-BOARD** waterproofing panel  
• Built-up curb
- 11** Schluter®-**KERDI-BOARD** bench (optional)  
Alternative (not shown):  
• Schluter®-**KERDI-BOARD-SB** bench (optional)
- 12** Wood or concrete subfloor
- 13** Schluter®-**DILEX** profile (optional)
- 14** Uncoupling membrane:  
a. Schluter®-**DITRA/-PS** or **DITRA-XL** uncoupling membrane  
b. Schluter®-**DITRA-HEAT/-PS** or Schluter®-**DITRA-HEAT-DUO/-PS** electric floor warming and uncoupling membrane (membrane and **KERDI-BAND** connection to floor are optional)  
Shelf (not shown, optional):  
• Schluter®-**SHELF-E/-W/-N**



## Schluter®-KERDI-DS waterproofing membrane

### K-SR

#### Areas of Application

- Interior continuous use steam rooms (e.g., applications in spas, fitness centers, etc.).
- Over wood or concrete subfloors. See the Base information under Requirements (below) for details.
- Areas requiring disabled access/curbless applications; see detail K-SHBF on page 12.

#### Limitations

- Certain glass tiles may not be compatible with bonded waterproof membranes and/or may require special setting materials. Consult glass tile manufacturer and Schluter-Systems for more information.
- Certain moisture sensitive stones, e.g., green marble, or resin-backed tiles may not be appropriate for use in wet areas such as steam showers or may require special setting materials. Consult stone supplier and Schluter-Systems for more information.
- When KERDI-BOARD is used, steam room must be operated in a manner such that the maximum service temperature of KERDI-BOARD 158°F (70 °C) is not exceeded.
- Gypsum-based solid backing panels shall be limited in use to intermittent use steam showers (e.g., residential applications)
- Do not use sawn lumber curbs on concrete subfloors subject to moisture migration.
- KERDI-BOARD not for use in exterior applications.
- DITRA-HEAT-PS and DITRA-HEAT-DUO-PS should not be used in a steam room.

#### Requirements

- Plywood, OSB, or concrete subfloor must be clean, even, and load bearing.
- The structure must be designed and built to meet the building code requirements applicable in your area. This may require the services of a qualified design professional (e.g., architect, engineer, etc.).
- Provide insulation in wall and ceiling cavities to reduce moisture condensation on the tiled surface.
- Solid backing – KERDI-BOARD, cementitious backer unit, fiber-cement backerboard, Portland cement mortar, concrete, or masonry.
- Base – Portland cement mortar bed.
- Curb – KERDI-BOARD-SC, KERDI-BOARD, concrete, masonry block, or sawn lumber sheathed with solid backing (see above).
- Bench – KERDI-BOARD, KERDI-BOARD-SB, concrete, masonry block, or sawn lumber sheathed with solid backing (see above).
- KERDI-DRAIN or KERDI-LINE/-VARIO shall be properly supported.
- KERDI-DRAIN or KERDI-LINE/-VARIO shall be connected to the waste line; use ABS cement for ABS drains, PVC cement for PVC drains, a no-hub coupling for stainless steel drains with no-hub outlets, and thread sealing compound or tape for stainless steel drains with threaded outlets.
- Slope ceilings 2" (50 mm) per foot minimum to avoid condensation from dripping onto occupants (may be sloped to center to minimize rundown on walls).
- Minimum KERDI-BOARD thickness – 1/2" (12.5 mm) for studs spaced at 16" (40.6 cm) o.c. and 3/4" (19 mm) for studs spaced at 24" (61 cm) o.c.
- KERDI-BOARD shall be fastened to wood or metal framing with appropriate screws (i.e., coarse thread wood screw for wood studs and self-tapping for metal studs) and corresponding KERDI-BOARD-ZT washers. Screws must reach a depth of at least 3/4" (20 mm) in wood studs and 3/8" (10 mm) in metal studs. Maximum allowable on-center fastener spacing is 12" (30 cm) for walls and 6" (15 cm) for ceilings.
- Install KERDI-DS waterproofing membrane on all surfaces, including the ceiling. For enclosed areas, also install on door jambs, door header and past the door frame gasket, as applicable.
- It is the specifier's responsibility to treat and address all penetrations through the KERDI-DS membrane (e.g., steam inlet, lights, shower doors, etc.) in the installation. All penetrations must be treated with KERDI-FIX, KERDI-SEAL-PS/-MV seals, room temperature vulcanizing sealant, or other suitable sealant.
- All seams and fastener penetrations must be treated with KERDI-BAND or KERDI ensuring a 2" (50 mm) overlap. Apply using any Schluter thin-set mortar or an unmodified thin-set mortar.

- **Steam inlets must be treated only with room temperature vulcanizing sealant or other suitable sealant. KERDI-FIX is not suitable for use around the steam inlet.**
- Steam inlet should be placed a minimum of 16" (41 cm) above the finished shower floor and/or drain. Additionally, refer to local authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) and manufacturer requirements.
- When using the stainless steel KERDI-DRAIN bonding flange, use KERDI-FIX to bond KERDI-DS to the drain.
- DITRA-HEAT-E-HK heating cables must be spaced a minimum of 8" (200 mm) from steam inlets in intermittent use steam showers and continuous use steam rooms.
- Movement joints shall be provided at all changes in plane, including floor/wall, wall/wall, and wall/ceiling transitions. Schluter-Systems prefabricated movement joint profiles (e.g., DILEX-EKE) provide a maintenance-free alternative to sealant; see page 45.
- All horizontal surfaces (e.g., benches, curbs, window sills, shelves, etc.) must be sloped toward the shower drain.

#### Substrate Preparation

- Verify that subfloor panels and solid backing are properly fastened to framing members.
- Any leveling of the subfloor must be done prior to installing KERDI-SHOWER-R and KERDI-BOARD-SC/-SB.

#### Solid Backing Materials

- KERDI-BOARD
- Cementitious backer unit – ANSI A118.9 or ASTM C1325
- Foam Core backerboard - ANSI A118.18
- Fiber-cement backerboard – ASTM C1288
- Portland cement mortar – ANSI A108.1B
- Concrete
- Masonry

#### Setting and Grouting Materials

- Unmodified thin-set mortar – ANSI A118.1
- Grout – ANSI A118.3, A118.6, A118.7

#### Installation Specifications

- Solid backing panels – follow manufacturer's directions
- Portland cement mortar bed – ANSI A108.1B
- Tile – ANSI A108.5
- Grout – ANSI A108.6, A108.10

#### Other Considerations

- Shower grab bars must be anchored in the structure or solid blocking behind KERDI-BOARD.
- When KERDI-DS and tile are installed on the ceiling, the solid backing and fasteners must be able to support the load of the tile and setting and grouting materials.
- A water test is strongly recommended before setting tile to verify a successful installation. Wait 24 hours minimum after the membrane installation is complete to allow for final set of thin-set mortar and ensure waterproof performance at seams and connections. Refer to local plumbing codes for any specific requirements in your area.
- Schluter-Systems profiles may be used to finish and protect outside corners and eliminate the use of sealant at inside corners; see page 45.
- SHOWERPROFILE-S/-R profiles eliminate the need for cutting wedges of tile by covering the exposed wall area where the floor slopes to KERDI-LINE/-VARIO.
- SHELF-E/-W/-N are alternatives to tiled shelves that can be easily installed on walls and in corners and niches; see page 45.
- Where a waterproof floor adjacent to the shower is desired, DITRA-PS or DITRA-XL uncoupling membrane, DITRA-HEAT/-PS or DITRA-HEAT-DUO/-PS electric floor warming and uncoupling membrane shall be installed. Floor/wall connections shall be sealed with KERDI-BAND.

# BATHTUB SURROUND

## Bathtub Surround – Ceramic or stone tile

### Schluter®-KERDI waterproofing membrane or Schluter®-KERDI-BOARD waterproof building panel

K-TS



- 1 Ceramic or stone tile
- 2 Schluter SET®, Schluter ALL-SET®, Schluter FAST-SET® or unmodified thin-set mortar
- 3 Waterproofing:
  - a. Schluter®-KERDI waterproofing membrane
  - b. Schluter®-KERDI-BOARD waterproof building panel
- 4 Schluter®-KERDI-BOARD-ZT washers
- 5 Schluter®-KERDI-BAND waterproofing strips
- 6 Schluter®-KERDI-KERECK-F waterproofing corners
- 7 Schluter®-KERDI-SEAL-PS/-MV seals or Schluter®-KERDI-FIX sealant and bonding compound
- 8 Schluter®-KERDI-FIX sealant and bonding compound
- 9 Solid backing
- 10 Schluter®-DILEX profile (optional)
- 11 Uncoupling membrane:
  - a. Schluter®-DITRA/-PS or DITRA-XL uncoupling membrane
  - b. Schluter®-DITRA-HEAT/-PS or Schluter®-DITRA-HEAT-DUO/-PS electric floor warming and uncoupling membrane (membrane and KERDI-BAND connection to floor are optional)

Niche (not shown, optional):

- Schluter®-KERDI-BOARD-SN
- Schluter®-KERDI-BOARD-SNLT

Shelf (not shown, optional):

- Schluter®-SHELF-E/-W/-N

## Schluter®-KERDI waterproofing membrane or Schluter®-KERDI-BOARD waterproof building panel

K-TS

### Areas of Application

- Interior bathtub surrounds.

### Limitations

- Certain glass tiles may not be compatible with bonded waterproof membranes and/or may require special setting materials. Consult glass tile manufacturer and Schluter-Systems for more information.
- Certain moisture sensitive stones, e.g., green marble, or resin-backed tiles may not be appropriate for use in wet areas such as bathtub surrounds or may require special setting materials. Consult stone supplier and Schluter-Systems for more information.
- KERDI-BOARD not for use in exterior applications.

### Requirements

- Solid backing – gypsum wallboard, cementitious backer unit, fiber-cement backerboard, fiber-reinforced water-resistant gypsum backerboard, coated glass mat water-resistant gypsum backerboard, Portland cement mortar, concrete, or masonry.
- The structure must be designed and built to meet the building code requirements applicable in your area. This may require the services of a qualified design professional (e.g., architect, engineer, etc.).
- Solid backing panels or KERDI-BOARD shall either be installed flush with the tub flange or over the tub flange leaving a minimum space of 1/4" (6 mm) between the board and the tub deck.
- Minimum KERDI-BOARD thickness – 1/2" (12.5 mm) for studs spaced at 16" (40.6 cm) o.c. and 3/4" (19 mm) for studs spaced at 24" (61 cm) o.c.
- KERDI-BOARD shall be fastened to wood or metal framing with appropriate screws (i.e., coarse thread wood screw for wood studs and self-tapping for metal studs) and corresponding KERDI-BOARD-ZT washers. Screws must reach a depth of at least 3/4" (20 mm) in wood studs and 3/8" (10 mm) in metal studs. Maximum allowable on-center fastener spacing is 12" (30 cm) for walls and 6" (15 cm) for ceilings.
- KERDI waterproofing membrane or KERDI-BOARD waterproof building panel shall be installed up to the height of the showerhead at minimum.
- In enclosed shower areas, install KERDI or KERDI-BOARD on all surfaces, including the ceiling, door jambs, and the door header.
- It is the specifier's responsibility to treat and address all penetrations through the KERDI membrane or KERDI-BOARD (e.g., showerhead, mixing valve, shower doors, etc.) in the installation. All penetrations must be treated with KERDI-SEAL-PS/-MV seals, KERDI-FIX, or other suitable sealant.
- All seams and fastener penetrations must be treated with KERDI-BAND or KERDI ensuring a 2" (50 mm) overlap. Apply using any Schluter thin-set mortar or an unmodified thin-set mortar.
- All horizontal surfaces (e.g., window sills, shelves, etc.) must be sloped toward the bathtub drain.

### Substrate Preparation

- When using KERDI waterproofing membrane, verify that solid backing is properly fastened to framing members.

### Solid Backing Materials

- Gypsum wallboard – ASTM C1396/C1396M
- Cementitious backer unit – ANSI A118.9 or ASTM C1325
- Foam Core backerboard - ANSI A118.18
- Fiber-cement backerboard – ASTM C1288
- Fiber-reinforced water-resistant gypsum backerboard – ASTM C1278
- Coated glass mat water-resistant gypsum backerboard – ASTM C1178
- Portland cement mortar – ANSI A108.1B
- Concrete
- Masonry

### Setting and Grouting Materials

- Unmodified thin-set mortar – ANSI A118.1
- Grout – ANSI A118.3, A118.6, or A118.7

### Installation Specifications

- Solid backing panels – follow manufacturer's instructions
- Portland cement mortar bed – ANSI A108.1B
- Tile – ANSI A108.5
- Grout – ANSI A108.6, A108.10

### Other Considerations

- When KERDI or KERDI-BOARD and tile are installed on the ceiling, the solid backing and fasteners must be able to support the load of the tile and setting and grouting materials.
- Shower grab bars must be anchored in the structure or solid blocking behind KERDI-BOARD.
- Schluter-Systems profiles may be used to finish and protect outside corners and eliminate the use of sealant at inside corners; see page 45.
- SHELF-E/-W/-N are alternatives to tiled shelves that can be easily installed on walls and in corners and niches; see page 45.
- Where a waterproof floor adjacent to the bathtub is desired, DITRA/PS or DITRA-XL uncoupling membrane, DITRA-HEAT/-PS or DITRA-HEAT-DUO/-PS electric floor warming and uncoupling membrane shall be installed. Floor/wall connections shall be sealed with KERDI-BAND. Completely fill the gap between the tub and DITRA/PS, DITRA-XL, DITRA-HEAT/-PS or DITRA-HEAT-DUO/-PS membrane with KERDI-FIX or other suitable sealant.

# INSTALLATION

## Walls and Ceilings

Please refer to Schluter-Systems' installation videos in addition to reading the instructions below.

Shower walls may be made waterproof using KERDI/KERDI-DS membranes or KERDI-BOARD panels prior to construction of the shower base. The waterproofing is carried to the height of the showerhead (at minimum). KERDI or KERDI-BOARD application on ceiling is optional for showers. For continuous-use steam rooms, KERDI-DS is applied to walls and ceilings. For intermittent use steam showers, KERDI or KERDI-BOARD is applied to walls and ceilings.

### Schluter®-KERDI or Schluter®-KERDI-DS over solid backing

The thin-set mortar used for bonding KERDI/KERDI-DS to walls and ceilings must be appropriate for the substrate and must penetrate and engage the membrane fleece. The mortar must be mixed to a fairly fluid consistency, but still able to hold a notch.

**Note:** Schluter-Systems does not require taping joints between drywall panels before installing KERDI/KERDI-DS. However, if local code requires taping joints, latex based primer must be applied over the taped joints prior to installing the KERDI/KERDI-DS membrane. Joint compound can be water soluble and should be protected from the moisture in the thin-set mortar used to install KERDI/KERDI-DS.



**1** Clean any dust or other debris from the surface of the solid backing. Dampen particularly dry and porous substrates in order to help prevent premature drying or skinning of the thin-set mortar.



**2** Apply Schluter SET, ALL-SET, FAST-SET, or unmodified thin-set mortar using the KERDI-TROWEL or a 1/4" x 3/16" (6 mm x 5 mm) V-notched trowel. Burn in thin-set mortar to the solid backing, and then comb additional mortar using the notched side of the trowel. Embed KERDI or KERDI-DS in the mortar and work the membrane onto the entire surface to ensure full coverage and remove air pockets.



**3** Seams in the membrane are constructed by overlapping the edges by 2" (50 mm) or by abutting adjacent sheets and installing KERDI-BAND, centered over the joint. Any penetrations through the membrane (e.g., showerhead, mixing valve, shower door) must be sealed with KERDI-SEAL-PS/-MV, KERDI-FIX, or other suitable sealant.

### Schluter®-KERDI-BOARD over wood or metal framing

Grab bars, wall-mounted toilets, or other heavy objects must be anchored in the structure or solid blocking behind KERDI-BOARD. **Installation instructions for other applications of KERDI-BOARD (e.g. fully embedded or spot-bonded over solid backing) can be found in the 12.1 Schluter®-KERDI-BOARD technical data sheet.**



**1** KERDI-BOARD can be mounted vertically or horizontally on framing with appropriate screws (i.e., coarse thread wood screw for wood studs and self-tapping for metal studs) and corresponding KERDI-BOARD-ZT washers. Minimum board thickness = 1/2" (12.5 mm) for studs spaced at 16" (40.6 cm) o.c.; 3/4" (19 mm) for studs spaced at 24" (61.0 cm) o.c. Screws must reach a depth of at least 3/4" (20 mm) in wood studs and at least 3/8" (10 mm) in metal studs.



**2** Abut panels over the center of the studs. Screws may be placed between adjacent panels such that the washers fasten both panel edges. The maximum allowable on-center fastener spacing is 12" (30 cm) for walls and 6" (15 cm) for ceilings. When fastening a washer in a corner, the washer should be installed as close to the inside corner as possible.



**3** KERDI-BOARD joints, corners, and fastener penetrations are sealed with KERDI-BAND and KERDI-KERECK corners, ensuring a minimum 2" (50 mm) overlap. Apply Schluter SET, ALL-SET, FAST-SET, or unmodified thin-set mortar using the KERDI-TROWEL or a 1/4" x 3/16" (6 mm x 5 mm) V-notched trowel. Embed KERDI-BAND/-KERECK in the mortar and work the membrane onto the surface to ensure full coverage and remove air pockets. Any penetrations through the panel (e.g., showerhead, mixing valve, shower doors, etc.) must be sealed with KERDI-SEAL-PS/-MV, KERDI-FIX, or other suitable sealant. When installing KERDI-BAND in a corner, it may be necessary to use the 7" (178 mm) band to accommodate the 2" (50 mm) requirement beyond the screws.

# INSTALLATION

## Schluter®-KERDI-BOARD-SN Shower Niche

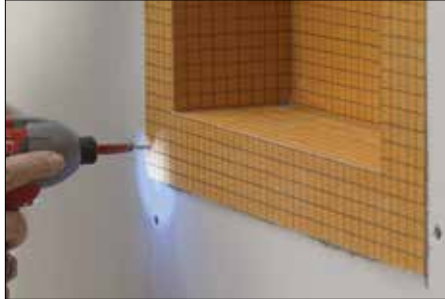
Please refer to Schluter-Systems' installation videos in addition to reading the instructions below.

The exact order of installation can vary from that shown below, provided all fastening and waterproofing measures are performed properly. The following represents Schluter-Systems' recommendations for simple and reliable installation.

### Schluter®-KERDI over solid backing



- 1 Determine desired location and trace around the outside of the KERDI-BOARD-SN flange, making sure the lines are level and plumb. Cut and remove the wallboard such that the niche will be supported on both sides by the studs or other wall framing.



- 2 Insert the niche and fasten to the studs using the provided KERDI-BOARD-ZS screws or appropriate wood/metal screws (no washers), placing the fasteners approximately 1/4" (6 mm) from the edges of the niche. Fasten all corners and limit fastener spacing to 12" (30 cm) o.c.



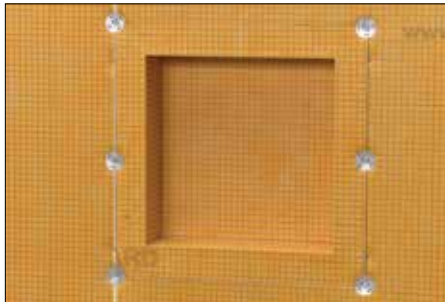
- 3 Apply the KERDI membrane over the wall surface as described on page 22. Once the membrane is solidly embedded, cut the membrane to match the niche opening.

### Schluter®-KERDI-BOARD over wood or metal framing



- 1 Determine desired location and trace around the outside of the KERDI-BOARD-SN flange, making sure the lines are level and plumb. Cut and remove the KERDI-BOARD such that the niche will be supported on both sides by the studs or other wall framing.

Refer to local building codes and/or authority having jurisdiction (AHJ) for framing the niche.



- 2 Insert the niche and fasten to the studs using the provided KERDI-BOARD-ZS screws and KERDI-BOARD-ZT washers or appropriate wood/metal screws placing the fasteners along the seam between the KERDI-BOARD and the niche. Fasten all corners and limit fastener spacing to 12" (30 cm) o.c.



- 3 Seal the seams between the niche and walls using the provided KERDI-BAND frame with Schluter SET, ALL-SET, FAST-SET, or unmodified thin-set mortar ensuring a 2" (50 mm) overlap in all directions.



### Also available: Schluter®-KERDI-BOARD-SNLT Shower niche with integrated Schluter®-LIPROTEC LED lighting

KERDI-BOARD-SNLT is a prefabricated shower niche made of KERDI-BOARD that incorporates a profile with a diffused LIPROTEC LED light strip. It features a pre-installed waterproof connection box to ensure the electrical connection is code-compliant.

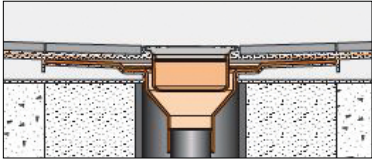
Please visit [Schluter.com](http://Schluter.com) for complete product details and installation instructions.

# INSTALLATION

## Schluter®-KERDI-SHOWER-T/-TS/-TT shower trays and KERDI-DRAIN

Please refer to Schluter-Systems' installation videos in addition to reading the instructions below.

### Preparation



Locate and cut a hole in the substrate for the drain outlet and coupling to the waste line using the template provided. Limit the diameter of the hole to 5" (125 mm) maximum to ensure proper support for the tile assembly.

**Note:** Fill in box-outs in concrete floors with dry-pack mortar or concrete. A pipe coupling or similar can be used as a form around the waste line.

### Schluter®-KERDI-DRAIN with KERDI-SHOWER-T/-TS/-TT prefabricated shower trays

The substrate must be clean, even, and load bearing. Any leveling must be done prior to shower tray installation. If necessary, cut the tray to size prior to application; ideally, the tray is cut equally on all sides to ensure a consistent perimeter height. The base can also be extended beyond the tray using dry-pack mortar.

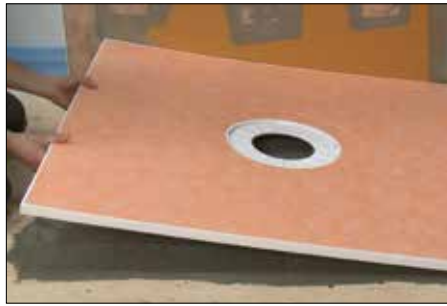
**Note:** The small, round holes in the outer edges of the KERDI-DRAIN flange are a result of the manufacturing process and are not meant to be used to screw the flange into place.

**Plumbing Access:** If there is access to the plumbing from below and the waste line can be connected after installing KERDI-DRAIN, the tray can be installed prior to the drain.

Prepare the odor trap, pipe, and KERDI-DRAIN with cleaner, primer and ABS or PVC cement per the solvent cement manufacturer's instructions and connect.



- 1 Apply Schluter SET, ALL-SET, FAST-SET, or unmodified thin-set mortar to the substrate using a 1/4" x 3/8" (6 mm x 10 mm) or 3/8" x 3/8" (10 mm x 10 mm) square- or U-notched trowel. Burn in thin-set mortar to the subfloor, and then comb additional mortar using the notched side of the trowel.  
**Note:** The thin-set mortar used in this step is to bed and support the tray only.



- 2 Place the KERDI-SHOWER-T/-TS/-TT tray and solidly embed in the mortar.



- 3 Completely fill the step in the shower tray with thin-set mortar. Press KERDI-DRAIN firmly into the mortar to ensure full support of the bonding flange.

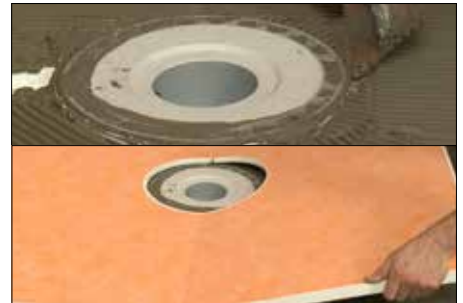
**No Plumbing Access:** When there is no access to the plumbing from below, KERDI-DRAIN is installed to the appropriate height and connected to the waste line prior to the installation of the shower tray.



- 1 Begin by dry-fitting the components. Measure and cut a section of pipe to connect KERDI-DRAIN to the odor trap using the detachable center section of the tray or foam spacers included with the drain as a spacer. Prepare the odor trap, pipe, and KERDI-DRAIN with cleaner, primer and ABS or PVC cement per the solvent cement manufacturer's instructions and connect.



- 2 Apply Schluter SET, ALL-SET, FAST-SET, or unmodified thin-set mortar to the substrate and to the top and bottom of the detached center section of the KERDI-SHOWER-T/-TS/-TT tray. Slide the center section into place below the drain to ensure solid and uniform support of the bonding flange.



- 3 Apply Schluter SET, ALL-SET, FAST-SET, or unmodified thin-set mortar to the substrate using a 1/4" x 3/8" (6 mm x 10 mm) or 3/8" x 3/8" (10 mm x 10 mm) square- or U-notched trowel. Burn in thin-set mortar to the subfloor, and then comb additional mortar using the notched side of the trowel. Place the KERDI-SHOWER-T/-TS/-TT tray on the mortar. To embed the tray, place a cut piece of cardboard over the tray to protect the KERDI, then walk upon the shower tray to solidly embed the tray into the thin-set mortar. Gently lift the underside of the tray to check coverage, then replace the cardboard and re-embed the tray.

**Clamping Ring Drain Installed:** If a clamping ring drain is installed, replace with KERDI-DRAIN or convert using the KERDI-DRAIN-A adaptor kit.



**1** Dry fit the KERDI-SHOWER-CB compensation board and the KERDI-SHOWER tray. If necessary, cut the tray and compensation board to size. Take measurements for the drain flange location.



**2** Mark and cut compensation board for the KERDI-DRAIN-A adaptor ring (maximum 5-1/2" (139.7 mm) diameter). Do not exceed the maximum to ensure proper tile support. Additional support may be provided by filling voids with dry-pack mortar, just be sure to plug the drain line before doing so.

**2a** Dry fit the cut compensation board, KERDI-SHOWER tray, KERDI-DRAIN-A adaptor ring, and bonding flange to a fully installed position. If the installed bonding flange is above the shower tray bonding surface by more than 1/8" (3 mm), an additional compensation layer is needed. The bond layers of thin-set between boards will compensate for 1/8" (3 mm) or less. Do not exceed 1-1/2" (38 mm) total compensation height to ensure a watertight connection with the rubber gasket below. Suitable materials for compensation are KERDI-BOARD, tile backerboard, water-resistant gypsum backerboard, or polystyrene foam. Do not use wood material over concrete substrates.



**3** Remove the clamping ring from the installed drain and save the bolts. Align the bolt pattern of the clamping ring with the adaptor ring and punch the matching inserts through the adaptor ring.



**4** Apply a continuous 1/4" - 3/8" (6 mm - 10 mm) bead of KERDI-FIX to the adaptor ring. Place the adaptor ring on the installed drain, re-insert the bolts, and tighten evenly. Make bolts finger-tight plus 1/4 turn; over tightening may warp the ring and result in leaks.



**5** Apply Schluter SET, ALL-SET, FAST-SET, or unmodified thin-set mortar to the substrate using a 1/4" x 3/8" (6 mm x 10 mm) square or U-notched trowel. Burn in thin-set mortar to the subfloor, and then comb additional mortar using the notched side of the trowel.

Be sure that KERDI-FIX fills any voids in the punch-out region once the adaptor ring is installed. Any detected voids should be filled with KERDI-FIX to ensure watertightness.

Place the KERDI-SHOWER-CB compensation board and solidly embed in the mortar.



**6** Apply Schluter SET, ALL-SET, FAST-SET, or unmodified thin-set mortar to the top of the KERDI-SHOWER-CB compensation board using a 1/4" x 3/8" (6mm x 10 mm) or a 3/8" x 3/8" (10 mm x 10 mm) square- or U-notched trowel. Burn in thin-set mortar to the compensation board, and then comb additional mortar using the notched side of the trowel. Place the KERDI-SHOWER tray and solidly embed in mortar.



**7** Completely fill in the step in the shower tray with Schluter SET, ALL-SET, FAST-SET or unmodified thin-set mortar.



**8** Slide the adaptor flange into the adaptor ring and ensure full support underneath with mortar or the detachable center section of the foam tray.  
**Note:** For the KERDI-DRAIN-A 7-1/2" Adaptor Kit, the extended adaptor bonding flange may be cut to length.



**Note:** Schluter-Systems strongly recommends a leak test be performed on the connection between the drain and the waste line prior to continuing with the remainder of the installation whenever possible. Refer to local plumbing and/or building codes for any specific requirements in your area.

## Schluter®-KERDI-DRAIN with mortar bed

**Note:** The small, round holes in the outer edges of the KERDI-DRAIN flange are a result of the manufacturing process and are not meant to be used to screw the flange into place.

**Plumbing Access:** If there is access to the plumbing from below and the waste line can be connected after installing KERDI-DRAIN, the drain can be installed in conjunction with the mortar bed.

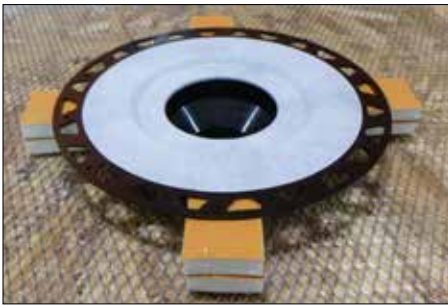


**1** Place a ring of loose mortar up to the inlet hole in the floor and firmly press the drain into the mortar and level. The bonding flange must be fully supported to prevent damage to the tile assembly (e.g., cracked grout around drain). When installing KERDI-DRAIN over wood substrates, the minimum thickness of mortar required at the perimeter of the bonding flange is 1" (25 mm). When installing KERDI-DRAIN over concrete substrates, the minimum thickness of mortar required at the perimeter of the bonding flange is 3/4" (20 mm).

**2** The screed is then placed flush with the top of the bonding flange of the KERDI-DRAIN. Slope the mortar bed at 1/4" (6 mm) per 12" (305 mm) using the bonding flange and a perimeter screed as guides.



**No Plumbing Access:** When there is no access to the plumbing from below, KERDI-DRAIN is installed to the appropriate height and connected to the waste line prior to the installation of the shower base.



**1** Measure and cut a section of pipe to connect KERDI-DRAIN to odor trap using a spacer. When installing KERDI-DRAIN over concrete substrates, the minimum thickness of mortar required at the perimeter of the bonding flange is 3/4" (20 mm). When installing KERDI-DRAIN over wood substrates, the minimum thickness of mortar required at the perimeter of the bonding flange is 1" (25 mm). Prepare the odor trap, cut section of pipe, and KERDI-DRAIN with cleaner, primer and ABS or PVC cement per the solvent cement manufacturer's instructions and connect.

**2** Pack loose mortar under the drain up to the inlet hole to ensure solid and uniform support of the bonding flange and level. The mortar bed is then placed according to the instructions above.

**Clamping Ring Drain Installed:** If a clamping ring drain is installed, replace with KERDI-DRAIN or convert using the KERDI-DRAIN-A adaptor kit.



**1** Remove the clamping ring from the installed drain and save the bolts. Align the bolt pattern of the clamping ring with the adaptor ring and punch the matching inserts through the adaptor ring.



**2** Apply a continuous 1/4" - 3/8" (6 mm - 10 mm) bead of KERDI-FIX to the installed drain flange. Place the adaptor ring on the installed drain, re-insert the bolts, and tighten evenly. Make bolts finger-tight plus 1/4 turn; over tightening may warp the ring and result in leaks. Ensure complete contact between KERDI-FIX on the clamping ring drain and the adaptor ring to prevent leakage.



**3** Slide the adaptor flange into the adaptor ring and ensure full support under the adaptor flange with mortar. The mortar bed is then placed according to the instructions on page 25.

**Note:** For the KERDI-DRAIN 7-1/2" Adapter Kit, the extended adapter bonding flange may be cut to length.



**Note:** Schluter-Systems strongly recommends a leak test be performed on the connection between the drain and the waste line prior to continuing with the remainder of the installation whenever possible. Refer to local plumbing and/or building codes for any specific requirements in your area.

## Waterproofing



As soon as the mortar bed can be walked upon, waterproofing with the KERDI or KERDI-DS membrane can begin.

# INSTALLATION

## Schluter®-KERDI-DRAIN-H Horizontal Outlet Drain

Please refer to Schluter-Systems' installation videos in addition to reading the instructions below.

### Preparation

Plywood, OSB or concrete subfloor must be clean, even, and load bearing. Any leveling must be done prior to compensation board and shower tray installation.



- 1 Dry fit the KERDI-SHOWER-CB compensation board and KERDI-SHOWER tray. If necessary, cut the tray and compensation board to size. Take measurements for the drain flange and ABS/PVC outlet pipe locations.



- 2 Mark and cut compensation board for the KERDI-DRAIN-H flange opening using the template provided (maximum 5" (125 mm) diameter). Mark and cut a 2-3/4" (70 mm) – 3" (76 mm) maximum wide slot for the ABS/PVC outlet pipe. Do not exceed the maximum to ensure proper tile support.



- 3 Apply Schluter SET, ALL-SET, FAST-SET, or unmodified thin-set mortar to the substrate using a 1/4" x 3/8" (6 mm x 10 mm) square- or U-notched trowel. Burn in thin-set mortar to the subfloor, and then comb additional mortar using the notched side of the trowel.



- 4 Place the KERDI-SHOWER-CB compensation board and solidly embed in the mortar.



- 5 Dry fit the plumbing components. Measure and cut a section of pipe to connect KERDI-DRAIN-H to the odor trap using the detachable center section of the tray, or foam spacers included with the drain, as a spacer. Proper slope MUST be maintained to ensure adequate drainage. Prepare the pipe and KERDI-DRAIN-H with cleaner, primer, and ABS or PVC cement per the solvent cement manufacturer's installation instructions and connect.

**Note:** Schluter-Systems strongly recommends a leak test be performed on the connection between the drain and the waste line prior to continuing with the remainder of the installation whenever possible. Refer to local plumbing/or building codes for any specific requirements in your area.



- 6 Apply Schluter SET, ALL-SET, FAST-SET, or unmodified thin-set mortar to the KERDI-SHOWER-CB compensation board and to the top and bottom of the detached center section of the KERDI-SHOWER tray. Burn in thin-set mortar to the compensation board, and then comb additional mortar using the notched side of the trowel. Slide the center section into place below the drain to ensure solid and uniform support of the bonding flange.

**Note:** If mosaic tiles (tile format less than 2" x 2" (50 mm x 50 mm)) will be used on the shower tray, the shower tray seam is located over the pipe cut-out, or the tray will be exposed to heavy loads the slot in the compensation board must be filled with a sand mortar or dry-pack to ensure proper support of the tile assembly.



- 7 Apply Schluter SET, ALL-SET, FAST-SET, or unmodified thin-set mortar to the top of the KERDI-SHOWER-CB compensation board using a 1/4" x 3/8" (6 mm x 10 mm) or 3/8" x 3/8" (10 mm x 10 mm) square- or U-notched trowel. Place the KERDI-SHOWER tray and solidly embed in the mortar.



- 8 Apply Schluter SET, ALL-SET, FAST-SET, or unmodified thin-set mortar to the bonding flange and recess area in the tray with the KERDI-TROWEL or a 1/4" x 3/16" (6 mm x 5 mm) V-notched trowel. The thin-set mortar must be mixed to a fairly fluid consistency, but still able to hold a notch. Embed the KERDI membrane collar in the bond coat and work the membrane onto the KERDI-DRAIN bonding flange and shower base to ensure full coverage and remove air pockets.

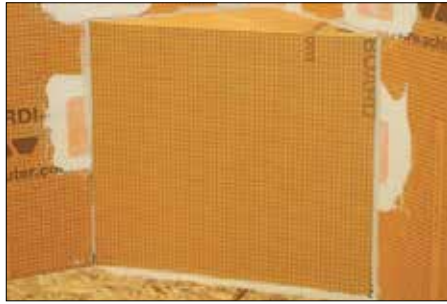


- 9 Seal inside corners by abutting adjacent sheets and installing KERDI-BAND with Schluter SET, ALL-SET, FAST-SET, or unmodified thin-set mortar, centered over the joint. Install KERDI-KERECK prefabricated waterproofing corners at all inside and outside corners. When using the KERDI-BOARD-SC curb, seal the curb to the base and walls using KERDI-KERECK and KERDI-BAND.

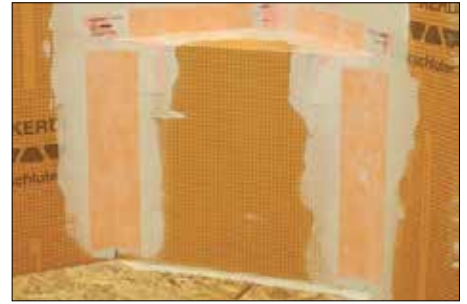
## Schluter®-KERDI-BOARD-SB bench



1 Apply Schluter SET, ALL-SET, FAST-SET, or unmodified thin-set mortar to the floor and walls using a 1/4" x 3/8" (6 mm x 10 mm) or 3/8" x 3/8" (10 mm x 10 mm) square- or U-notched trowel. Burn in thin-set mortar to the wall and subfloor, and then comb additional mortar using the notched side of the trowel.



2 Press the bench firmly into place and check the underside and backsides to ensure that full coverage and support are achieved. Verify that the slope on the surface of the bench is directed toward the shower base.



3 Install KERDI-BAND and KERDI-KERECK and KERDI-KERS-B (for triangular bench) to cover all seams and corners, ensuring a minimum 2" (50 mm) overlap, and work the membrane into the mortar to achieve full coverage and remove air pockets.

## Schluter®-KERDI-BOARD-SC curb and Schluter®-KERDI-SHOWER-R ramp

If necessary, cut the KERDI-BOARD-SC to length using a utility knife and KERDI-SHOWER-R using a handsaw.



1 Apply Schluter SET, ALL-SET, FAST-SET, or unmodified thin-set mortar to the floor and to the edge of the shower base and walls using a 1/4" x 3/8" (6 mm x 10 mm) or 3/8" x 3/8" (10 mm x 10 mm) square- or U-notched trowel. Burn in thin-set mortar to the subfloor, and then comb additional mortar using the notched side of the trowel.



2 Press the curb or ramp firmly into place. Check the underside of the curb or ramp to ensure that full coverage and support is achieved. **Note:** When setting tile on the curb, the surface must be sloped towards the shower drain.



**Note:** KERDI-BOARD can be used to build custom curbs.

## Waterproofing connections



1 Seal inside corners by abutting adjacent sheets and installing KERDI-BAND with Schluter SET, ALL-SET, FAST-SET, or unmodified thin-set mortar, centered over the joint. Install KERDI-KERECK at all inside and outside corners.



2 When using KERDI-BOARD-SC, seal the curb to the base and walls using KERDI-KERECK and KERDI-BAND. When using KERDI-SHOWER-R, seal all adjacent connections (e.g., between the shower tray and ramp, etc.) using KERDI-BAND centered over the joint with Schluter SET, ALL-SET, FAST-SET, or unmodified thin-set mortar. Seams in the membrane are constructed by overlapping the edges by 2" (50 mm) or by abutting adjacent sheets and installing KERDI-BAND centered over the joint. Install KERDI-KERECK at all inside and outside corners.



3 Completely fill the step in the shower tray and adjacent plywood area up to the hole for the KERDI-DRAIN with thin-set mortar. Press KERDI-DRAIN firmly into the mortar to ensure full support of the bonding flange.



- 4** Apply Schluter SET, ALL-SET, FAST-SET, or unmodified thin-set mortar to the bonding flange and recess area in the tray with the KERDI-TROWEL or a 1/4" x 3/16" (6 mm x 5 mm) V-notched trowel. The thin-set mortar must be mixed to a fairly fluid consistency, but still able to hold a notch. Embed the KERDI collar membrane in the bond coat and work the membrane onto the KERDI-DRAIN bonding flange and shower base to ensure full coverage and remove air pockets.

**Note:** When using the stainless steel flange, the membrane is adhered to the bonding flange with KERDI-FIX; clean the bonding flange prior to KERDI-FIX application.

Apply several beads of KERDI-FIX to the KERDI-DRAIN bonding flange. Spread the KERDI-FIX along the bonding flange. Ensure a minimum of 1" (25 mm) notched KERDI-FIX to properly install the KERDI collar over the stainless steel drain flange.

## Grate assembly

### Grate:



- 1** Place the height adjustment collar inside the lateral adjustment ring and snap the grate into place. **Note:** For the 6" (150 mm) grates, the height adjustment collar is integrated with the grate. For the residential adaptor kit, there is no lateral adjustment ring.



- 2** Fill the step in the bonding flange with thin-set mortar and back-butter the underside of the grate frame to ensure full support. Place the assembly into the mortar and install the surrounding tiles, ensuring full coverage.



- 3** Position the grate to match the joint pattern of the tile covering and press flush with the tile surface. Remove all excess setting material immediately. **Note:** Protect the visible surface of the grate from contact with setting and grouting materials. In particular, anodized aluminum is sensitive to alkaline materials.

### Tileable Covering Support:



- 1** Fill the step in the bonding flange with thin-set mortar. Place the tile spacer in the lateral adjustment ring and press the assembly into the mortar. Install tiles up to the tile spacer, ensuring full coverage. Embed the tiles on the integrated tabs on the lateral adjustment ring, which provide for a flush transition to the covering support. Position the tile spacer to match the joint pattern of the tile covering. The tiles may be held back from the spacer as required to match the layout. Remove all excess setting material.



- 2** Apply tile to the top of the covering support using Schluter SET, ALL-SET, FAST-SET, or unmodified thin-set mortar. The tile may overhang the covering support provided that a drainage opening of at least 3/16" (5 mm) is provided.



- 3** After the tile is set and grouted, remove the tile spacer and insert the tiled covering support into the lateral adjustment ring.

# INSTALLATION

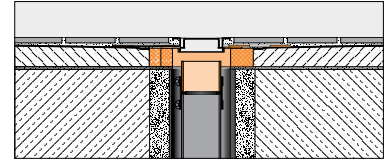
## Shower base with Schluter®-KERDI-LINE

Please refer to Schluter-Systems installation videos in addition to reading the instructions below.

For mortar bed installation with KERDI-LINE, see page 33.

### Preparation

Locate and cut a hole in the substrate for the drain outlet and coupling to the waste line using the template provided. Limit the diameter of the hole to 5" (125 mm) maximum to ensure proper support for the tile assembly. When KERDI-LINE is installed against the wall so the channel body support is in contact with the wall, cut the drain outlet hole approximately 2-1/8" (54 mm) o.c. from the edge of the solid backing. **Note:** Fill in box-outs in concrete floors with dry-pack mortar or concrete. A pipe coupling or similar can be used as a form around the waste line.



### Schluter®-KERDI-LINE channel body installation

#### Channel Body Support:

\*For wall installation, cut off the marked section of the channel body support.

\*For intermediate installation, install the channel body support as provided.

**Plumbing Access:** When there is access to the plumbing from below and the waste line can be connected after installing KERDI-LINE, the channel body may be set without making a connection to the waste line simultaneously.



**1** Apply Schluter SET, ALL-SET, FAST-SET, or unmodified thin-set mortar to the substrate where the drain is to be placed with a notched trowel. Burn in thin-set mortar to the subfloor, and then comb additional mortar using the notched side of the trowel. Solidly embed the channel support in the mortar.



**2** Apply Schluter SET, ALL-SET, FAST-SET, or unmodified thin-set mortar to the top of the channel support and press the channel body firmly into the mortar, ensuring full support of the bonding flange. Check to make sure the KERDI-LINE is level.

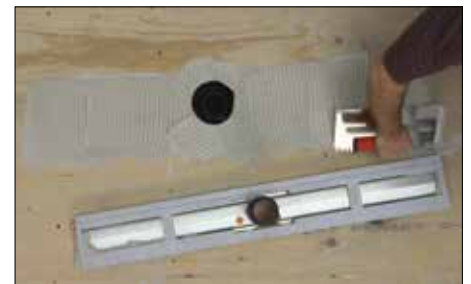
**No Plumbing Access:** When there is no access to the plumbing from below, the channel body must be set and connected to the waste line simultaneously.



**1** Begin the drain installation by dry fitting the components. Measure and cut a section of pipe to connect the coupling to the odor trap below the floor, using the channel support as a spacer.



**2** Apply Schluter SET, ALL-SET, FAST-SET, or unmodified thin-set mortar to the top of the channel support with a notched trowel and press the channel support firmly onto the underside of the channel body. Attach the mechanical coupling to the drain outlet and the cut section of the pipe per the coupling manufacturer's instructions.



**3** Apply Schluter SET, ALL-SET, FAST-SET, or unmodified thin-set mortar to the substrate where the drain is to be placed with a notched trowel. Prepare the cut section of pipe and odor trap with cleaner, primer and ABS or PVC cement per the solvent cement manufacturer's instructions.



**4** Solidly embed the channel support and KERDI-LINE into the mortar on the floor and connect the cut section of pipe to the odor trap. Check to make sure the KERDI-LINE is level.

**Note:** KERDI-FIX or other adhesives that are compatible with EPS foam can be used to install the channel support and channel body as an alternative to thin-set mortar. Apply a generous bead of KERDI-FIX to the top and bottom of the channel support. The use of KERDI-FIX limits the ability to level KERDI-LINE.

**Note:** Schluter-Systems strongly recommends a leak test be performed on the connection between the drain and the waste line prior to continuing with the remainder of the installation whenever possible. Refer to local plumbing and/or building codes for any specific requirements in your area.

**Clamping Ring Drain Installed:** If a clamping ring drain is already installed, the drain must be replaced with KERDI-LINE or converted using the KERDI-LINE-A adaptor kit.



**1** Dry fit the KERDI-SHOWER-CB compensation board. If necessary, cut the compensation board to size. Take measurements for the drain flange location.



**2** Mark and cut compensation board for the KERDI-LINE-A adaptor ring using the template provided (maximum 5-1/2" (139.7 mm) diameter). Do not exceed the maximum to ensure proper tile support. Additional support may be provided by filling voids with dry-pack mortar, just be sure to plug the drain line before doing so.



**3** Remove the clamping ring from the installed drain and save the bolts. Align the bolt pattern of the clamping ring with the adaptor ring and punch the matching inserts through the adaptor ring.



**4** Begin the drain installation by dry fitting the components. The KERDI-LINE channel body outlet may be cut to desired height if needed, so long as the adaptor ring gasket can make full contact with the outlet. Be sure to have the channel body support in place when dry fitting the channel body.



**5** Apply a continuous 1/4" - 3/8" (6 mm - 10 mm) bead of KERDI-FIX to the adaptor ring. Place the adaptor ring on the installed drain, re-insert the bolts, and tighten evenly. Make bolts finger-tight plus 1/4 turn; over tightening may warp the ring and result in leaks.

Be sure that KERDI-FIX fills any voids in the punch-out region once the adaptor ring is installed. Any detected voids should be filled with KERDI-FIX to ensure watertightness.



**6** Apply Schluter SET, ALL-SET, FAST-SET, or unmodified thin-set mortar to the substrate using a 1/4" x 3/8" (6 mm x 10 mm) square or U-notched trowel. Burn in thin-set mortar to the subfloor, and then comb additional mortar using the notched side of the trowel. Place the KERDI-SHOWER-CB compensation board and solidly embed in the mortar.



**7** Apply Schluter SET, ALL-SET, FAST-SET, or unmodified thin-set mortar to the top of the KERDI-SHOWER-CB compensation board. Burn in thin-set mortar to the compensation board, and then comb additional mortar using the notched side of the trowel. Place the KERDI-SHOWER-LT/-LTS shower tray and solidly embed in the mortar.



**8** Apply Schluter SET, ALL-SET, FAST-SET, or unmodified thin-set mortar to the top of the KERDI-BOARD-SHOWER-CB compensation board where the drain is to be placed and solidly embed the channel support into the mortar.



**9** Apply Schluter SET, ALL-SET, FAST-SET, or unmodified thin-set mortar to the top of the channel support and solidly embed the channel body into the mortar, ensuring the channel body outlet is completely received by the adaptor ring gasket opening. Check to make sure the KERDI-LINE is level.

## Schluter®-KERDI-LINE with Schluter®-SHOWER-LT/-LTS prefabricated tray



1 Any leveling of the floor must be done prior to the installation of the shower tray. If necessary, cut the tray to size prior to application. The shower base can also be extended beyond the tray using dry-pack mortar, which is in turn covered with the KERDI membrane.



2 Cut the flat end of the KERDI-SHOWER-LT/-LTS tray to fit around the channel support. Apply Schluter SET, ALL-SET, FAST-SET, or unmodified thin-set mortar to the substrate using a 1/4" x 3/8" (6 mm x 10 mm) or 3/8" x 3/8" (10 mm x 10 mm) square- or U-notched trowel. Burn in thin-set mortar to the subfloor, and then comb additional mortar using the notched side of the trowel. Slide the KERDI-SHOWER-LT/-LTS under the edge of the channel body flush with the surface of the channel support, making certain to solidly embed the tray in the mortar. Check the underside of the tray to ensure that full coverage is achieved. **Note:** The thin-set mortar used in this step is to bed and support the tray only.



**Note:** When KERDI-LINE is placed at an intermediate location (e.g., center of a shower), it is recommended that the KERDI-SHOWER-LT trays be cut by equal amounts from the ends to ensure a consistent height of the first course of tile. When KERDI-LINE is placed adjacent to the wall, cut the KERDI-SHOWER-LTS trays from the thicker end to ensure a flush transition at the drain.

## Schluter®-KERDI-LINE with mortar base



1 Place a mortar screed opposite the installed KERDI-LINE channel body.



2 Fill the remainder of the shower base with mortar and slope the mortar bed at 1/4" (6 mm) per 12" (305 mm) using the bonding flange and a perimeter screed as guides.



3 As soon as the mortar bed can be walked upon, waterproofing with the KERDI membrane can begin.

## Schluter®-KERDI-BOARD-SB bench



1 Apply Schluter SET, ALL-SET, FAST-SET, or unmodified thin-set mortar to the floor and walls using a 1/4" x 3/8" (6 mm x 10 mm) or 3/8" x 3/8" (10 mm x 10 mm) square- or U-notched trowel. Burn in thin-set mortar to the wall and subfloor, and then comb additional mortar using the notched side of the trowel.



2 Press the bench firmly into place and check the underside and backsides to ensure that full coverage and support are achieved. Verify that the slope on the surface of the bench is directed toward the shower base.



3 Install KERDI-BAND and KERDI-KERECK and KERDI-KERS-B (for triangular bench) to cover all seams and corners, ensuring a minimum 2" (50 mm) overlap, and work the membrane into the mortar to achieve full coverage and remove air pockets.

## Schluter®-KERDI-BOARD-SC curb and Schluter®-KERDI-SHOWER-R ramp

If necessary, cut the KERDI-BOARD-SC to length using a utility knife and KERDI-SHOWER-R using a handsaw.



- 1 Apply Schluter SET, ALL-SET, FAST-SET, or unmodified thin-set mortar to the floor and to the edge of the shower base and walls using a 1/4" x 3/8" (6 mm x 10 mm) or 3/8" x 3/8" (10 mm x 10 mm) square- or U-notched trowel. Burn in thin-set mortar to the subfloor, and then comb additional mortar using the notched side of the trowel.



- 2 Press the curb or ramp firmly into place. Check the underside of the curb or ramp to ensure that full coverage and support is achieved. **Note:** When setting tile on the curb, the surface must be sloped towards the shower drain.



**Note:** KERDI-BOARD can be used to build custom curbs.

## Waterproofing connections

The KERDI-SHOWER-LT/-LTS trays are provided with integrated waterproofing. When using a mortar bed, the shower base must be made waterproof using the KERDI or KERDI-DS waterproofing membrane. The membranes can be installed as soon as the mortar bed can be walked upon.

**Note:** Remove the plastic film entirely prior to proceeding with waterproofing. Protect the channel body and block the drain pipe with tape or a cloth after the film is removed to prevent any thin-set mortar falling into the drain as well to avoid sewer gas from entering the living space.



- 1 Apply Schluter SET, ALL-SET, FAST-SET, or unmodified thin-set mortar to the shower base with the KERDI-TROWEL or a 1/4" x 3/16" (6 mm x 5 mm) V-notched trowel. Burn in thin-set mortar to the mortar bed, and then comb additional mortar using the notched side of the trowel. The thin-set mortar must be mixed to a fairly fluid consistency, but still able to hold a notch.



- 2 Embed KERDI or KERDI-DS in the bond coat and work the membrane onto the entire surface to ensure full coverage and remove air pockets. The membrane is carried to the stainless steel bonding flange and to the edges of the shower base.



- 3 The KERDI collar on KERDI-LINE is integrated with the adjoining waterproofing assembly using Schluter SET, ALL-SET, FAST-SET, or unmodified thin-set mortar. The KERDI collar must be cut and folded where the KERDI-LINE is installed adjacent to walls.



- 4 Seams in the membrane are constructed by overlapping the edges by 2" (50 mm) with Schluter SET, ALL-SET, FAST-SET, or unmodified thin-set mortar or by abutting adjacent sheets and installing KERDI-BAND with unmodified thin-set mortar, centered over the joint.



- 5 When using KERDI-BOARD-SC, seal the curb to the base and walls using KERDI-KERECK and KERDI-BAND. When using KERDI-SHOWER-R, seal all adjacent connections (e.g., between the shower tray and ramp, etc.) using KERDI-BAND centered over the joint with Schluter SET, ALL-SET, FAST-SET, or unmodified thin-set mortar. Seams in the membrane are constructed by overlapping the edges by 2" (50 mm) or by abutting adjacent sheets and installing KERDI-BAND centered over the joint. Install KERDI-KERECK at all inside and outside corners.

## Grate assembly **Note:** The tabs of the drain strainer must be installed in the KERDI-LINE channel body v-grooves to ensure proper drainage.

### Grate



- 1 Apply Schluter SET, ALL-SET, FAST-SET, or unmodified thin-set mortar to the underside of the grate frame and place it in the channel body ensuring full coverage and support of the frame. Insert the foam spacers in the grate frame to reinforce it during the remainder of the installation.



- 2 Slide the plastic height adjustment spacers with threaded bolts onto the tabs along the inside of the grate frame to adjust the elevation of the frame. The spacers may be adjusted simply by turning the bolts by hand. The elevation should be set such that the frame will be flush with the surface of the tile covering.



- 3 Install the tiles on the shower base using Schluter SET, ALL-SET, FAST-SET, or unmodified thin-set mortar, ensuring full coverage. Make final adjustments to ensure the grate frame is flush with surrounding tiles. Remove foam spacers and plastic height adjustment spacers with threaded bolts after the thin-set mortar has reached final set (usually within 24 hours).

**Note:** Protect the visible surfaces of the grate frame and grate from contact with setting and grouting materials. Setting and grouting materials must be removed immediately.

### Tileable Covering Support (Grate D)



- 1 Peel the protective foil off the cover strip and adhere the strip to the bonding flange adjacent to the wall(s). Position the strip along the edge of the channel. The cover strip hides and protects the KERDI surface under the tile installed in step 3.

When the shower base will be tiled beyond the ends of the channel, the cover strip is not required at these locations.



- 2 Insert the tile spacers into the channel body. Install the surrounding tile on the adjoining walls and shower base up to the spacers using Schluter SET, ALL-SET, FAST-SET, or unmodified thin-set mortar, ensuring full coverage. Remove all excess setting material.



- 3 Tile is bonded to the covering support using Schluter SET, ALL-SET, FAST-SET, or unmodified thin-set mortar. The tile is installed flush with the front side of the covering support to provide the drainage opening and overhanging the back side of the covering support to cover the bonding flange along the wall. When the ends of the channel body are located adjacent to walls, the tile is installed overhanging the end of the support to cover the bonding flange along the walls. Measure and cut the tile such that an approximate 1/16" (1 mm) gap is left at the walls.

**Note:** When the shower base is tiled beyond the ends of the channel, the tile on the ends of the covering support can be cut to either match the grout joints of the surrounding floor covering or to provide a perimeter drainage opening.

### Tiles



- 1 Once all seams and corners have been completely sealed, the assembly is waterproofed and ready to be tiled. Apply a uniform layer of Schluter SET, ALL-SET, FAST-SET, or unmodified thin-set mortar and comb using a trowel that is appropriate for the size of the tile. Burn in thin-set mortar to the KERDI/-DS or KERDI-BOARD, and then comb additional mortar using the notched side of the trowel. Be sure the trowel grooves in the thin-set are all going the same direction, as shown in the photo above.

**Note:** A water test is strongly recommended before setting tile to verify a successful installation. Wait 24 hours minimum after the membrane installation is complete to allow for final set of thin-set mortar and ensure waterproof performance at seams and connections. Refer to local plumbing codes for any specific requirements in your area.



- 2 Solidly embed the tiles in the setting material, sliding the tile back and forth perpendicular to the tile ridges underneath. This will help collapse the mortar ridges and improve contact between the mortar and the tile. Make sure to observe the open time of the bonding mortar. If the mortar skins over prior to tile installation, remove and reapply.

Tile to be installed according to ANSI A108.5. The average contact area for dry areas shall not be less than 80% and for wet areas shall not be less than 95%.



- 3 Periodically remove and check a tile to ensure that full coverage is being attained.

**Note:** Coverage may vary with mortar consistency, angle at which the trowel is held, substrate flatness, etc. If full coverage is not achieved, remove and reapply, making sure to verify proper mortar consistency and application. For large-format tiles, e.g., 12" x 12" (305 mm x 305 mm) and larger, back-buttering the tiles with a skim coat of thin-set mortar is a useful way to help ensure proper coverage. The skim coat can fill in the concave area on the back of the tile (ceramic tiles are not perfectly flat) and improve contact with the mortar combed on the substrate.

# INSTALLATION

## Shower base with Schluter®-KERDI-LINE-VARIO

Please refer to Schluter-Systems installation videos in addition to reading the instructions below.

For mortar bed installation instructions with KERDI-LINE-VARIO, please see the KERDI-LINE-VARIO Installation - Mortar Bed document on schluter.com.

### Preparation

The substrate must be clean, even, and load bearing. Any leveling must be done prior to shower tray installation. Locate and cut a hole in the substrate for the drain outlet and coupling to the waste pipe using the template provided [3-1/2" (88.9 mm)]. Limit the diameter of the hole to 4" (101.6 mm) maximum to ensure proper support for the tile assembly. When KERDI-LINE-VARIO is installed against the wall, locate the drain outlet hole 1-3/4" (44.45 mm) o.c. from the face of the solid backing. KERDI-LINE-VARIO can be placed along the wall or in the center of the shower. For placement at the shower entrance, use KERDI-LINE.

**Note:** May need to adjust hole location based on wall tile thickness.

**Note:** Fill in box-out in concrete floors with dry-pack mortar or concrete. A pipe coupling or similar can be used as a form around the waste pipe.

- **Template note:**

The full sheet includes two perforated templates to be removed and used for installation. One template for outlet/subfloor cutout and one template for the KERDI-LINE-VARIO flange support.



### Installation



**1** Dry fit the KERDI-SHOWER-LT/-LTS tray. If necessary, cut the tray to size prior to application.



**2** Use the template provided as a guide to cut out a section of the tray for the foam support.



**3** Wipe down the substrate with a damp sponge. Apply Schluter SET, ALL-SET, FAST-SET, or unmodified thin-set mortar to the substrate using a 1/4" x 3/8" (6 mm x 10 mm) or 3/8" x 3/8" (10 mm x 10 mm) square or U-notched trowel. Burn in thin-set mortar to the subfloor, and then comb additional mortar using the notched side of the trowel.

Place the KERDI-SHOWER-LT/-LTS tray and solidly embed in the mortar. The shower base can also be extended beyond the tray using dry-pack mortar, which is in turn covered with the KERDI membrane.



**4** Select the ABS or PVC coupling adapter to match the waste line material and attach to the flange using thread sealing tape or compound.



**5** Attach the foam supports to the flange using KERDI-FIX, Schluter SET, ALL-SET, FAST-SET, or unmodified thin-set mortar.

**Note:** The foam supports only fit one way to align with the off-center flange outlet.



**Plumbing Access:** When there is no access to the plumbing from below, the flange must be set and connected to the waste line simultaneously according to Step 6. When there is access to the plumbing from below and the waste pipe can be connected after installing KERDI-LINE-VARIO, you may skip Step 6.

**Note:** If the KERDI-LINE-VARIO flange is installed in advance of the shower tray, the construction cover is used to protect the flange and KERDI collar from any damage that may happen on the work site. The cover can be cut to fit in instances where the flange sits tight to the wall.

The construction cover is secured into place until the next steps of installation resume.



**6** Begin by dry-fitting the components; make any necessary modifications to the existing plumbing. Apply the thin-set mortar or KERDI-FIX underneath the foam support. Prepare the adjoining pipe and KERDI-LINE-VARIO per the manufacturer's instructions and connect when installing the flange in Step 7.



**7** Install the flange with foam supports and coupling of choice and solidly embed in the thin-set mortar or KERDI-FIX.

**Note:** If the drain location is desired to be close to the wall, orient the flange so the offset is opposite the wall. Refer to the provided template for wall placement.



**8** Ensure that the flange and foam support are firmly embedded. Check to ensure the KERDI-LINE-VARIO flange is level. The flange should now be flush with the top of the shower tray.

## Waterproofing



**9** The KERDI collar on KERDI-LINE-VARIO is integrated with the adjoining waterproofing assembly using Schluter SET, ALL-SET, FAST-SET, or unmodified thin-set mortar. The KERDI collar must be cut and folded where the KERDI-LINE-VARIO is installed at a wall corner and may require trimming to avoid excess build up over the tray recess lip.



**10** Seal inside corners by installing KERDI-BAND with Schluter SET, ALL-SET, FAST-SET, or unmodified thin-set mortar, centered over the joint. Install KERDI-KERECK at all inside and outside corners.

**Note:** A flood test is strongly recommended before setting tile to verify a successful installation. Wait a minimum of 24 hours after the membrane installation is complete to allow for final set of thin-set mortar and ensure waterproof performance at seams and corners. Refer to local plumbing codes for any specific requirements in your area.

**Note:** A specialized inflatable bladder style drain plug works best with KERDI-LINE-VARIO for flood testing.



**11** Determine the tile layout and install the first course of tile on the back and side walls.

## Channel and Grate



- 12** Measure and cut the channel and grate to the desired length so that the drain opening is positioned over the flange opening, making sure to leave a 1/16" - 1/8" (1.5 - 3 mm) joint between the channel and the tile. For example, if the channel is to be 36" (91 cm) long and the flange opening is centered, cut 6" (152 mm) from both ends of 48" (122 cm) channel and grate.

**Note:** The shortest allowable length to cut the channel and grate is 10" (25.4 cm).

**Caution:** The cut ends may be jagged or sharp; use a metal file to remove any burrs or sharp edges. Utilize applicable safety equipment and use care when making cuts. See the Cutting KERDI-LINE-VARIO section for additional guidance.



- 13** Press the stainless steel end cap(s) to the cut end(s) of the grate.

**Note:** End caps are compression fit and do not require any adhesive to install.



- 14** Center and attach the black downspout to the bottom of the channel using the provided two-sided tape.



- 15** Dry fit and mark where the channel will be placed. Then, install a row of tile adjacent to the channel position on the shower floor using thin-set mortar.



- 16** Using a notched trowel, liberally apply thin-set mortar to the substrate and to the back side of the channel. Schluter SET, ALL-SET, FAST-SET, or unmodified thin-set mortar will be used to adjust to the required height of the channel to accommodate the thickness of the tile.

**Note:** It is recommended to use a 1/4" x 3/8" trowel at minimum.



- 17** Embed the channel into the thin-set mortar until it is flush with or slightly lower than the adjacent tile. Check to ensure the channel is level and the 1/16" - 1/8" (1.5 mm - 3 mm) gap is accommodated for along the perimeter.



- 18** Install remaining tile. Grout and clean up. Insert the grate into the channel.

### Cutting KERDI-LINE VARIO

Observe all safety instructions and standards as directed by the cutting tool manufacturer including protective eyewear, hearing protection, and gloves. Always measure carefully and dry fit the channel and grate after cutting to ensure proper fit and alignment prior to installation.

#### KERDI-LINE-VARIO may be cut using the following options:

- Variable-speed angle grinder set to a medium-low speed using the PROCUT-TSM cutting wheel or alternative cutting wheel suitable for stainless steel.
- Band saw with a blade suitable for cutting stainless steel.
- Hack saw with a blade suitable for cutting stainless steel.

**Caution:** Regardless of the cutting tool used, the cut end(s) may be jagged or sharp. Remove any burrs with a metal file, or similar, before installing the end cap(s).

# SHOWER ACCESSORIES

## Optional Schluter®-SHOWERPROFILE-S/-R system profiles

Select SHOWERPROFILE-S according to shower base tile thickness and the height and length of the wall area to be covered. Select SHOWERPROFILE-R according to the height of the wall area to be covered.

### SHOWERPROFILE-S



- 1 Measure the height of the area to be covered at the lowest point. Next, measure the length of the area and mark the profile where it is to be cut at both ends. Remove the protective foil and cut the tapered profile and support section to length



- 2 Place the tapered profile into the support section and apply Schluter SET, ALL-SET, FAST-SET, or unmodified thin-set mortar to the fleece on the back side of the profile.



- 3 Press the profile into place and align it flush with the wall tile. Immediately clean away any excess setting material. Install adjacent tiles on the shower base.

### SHOWERPROFILE-R



- 1 Measure the length of the area to be covered. Remove the protective foil and cut the profile to length.



- 2 Connect the two components of SHOWERPROFILE-R to achieve the desired height. Small pieces of tape can be used to help maintain the position of the components during installation.

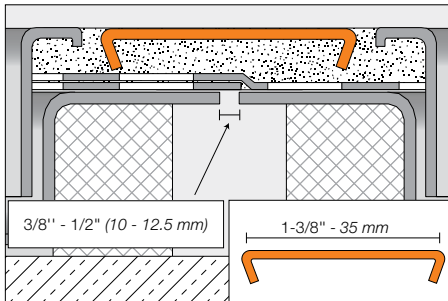


- 3 Apply Schluter SET, ALL-SET, FAST-SET, or unmodified thin-set mortar to the fleece on the back side of the profile. Press the profile into place and align it flush with the wall tile. Immediately clean away any excess setting material.

**Note:** The PROCUT-TSM cutting wheel can be used with an angle grinder set to low speed to cut the stainless steel profiles. The SHOWERPROFILE-S support section can be cut with snips. Please read and follow all safety instructions from the grinder manufacturer to prevent injury.

## Schluter®-KERDI-LINE-FC

KERDI-LINE-FC may be used with tiles that are 1/4" (6 mm) thick or greater, to connect adjacent KERDI-LINE grates A and B.



- 1 Install KERDI-LINE channel bodies end-to-end and overlap the KERDI collars using Schluter SET, ALL-SET, FAST-SET, or unmodified thin-set mortar to ensure a waterproof connection.



- 2 Apply a sufficient amount of thin-set mortar to the substrate and/or the back of KERDI-LINE-FC and press the profile into the mortar until its surface is flush with the adjacent tile and grate assembly. Leave a space of approximately 1/16" - 1/8" (1.5 - 3 mm). Fill the joints completely with grout or setting material.

## Schluter®-SHOWERPROFILE-WS

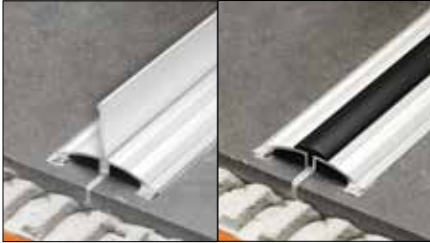
SHOWERPROFILE-WS can be used in conjunction with tiles that are 5/16" (8 mm) thick or greater.



- 1 Install the tile covering up to where the profile will be installed.
- 2 Apply a sufficient amount of thin-set mortar to this area and to the back of the profile to achieve full coverage. Press the profile into the mortar until its surface is flush with the tile.
- 3 Set adjacent rows of tile, leaving a space of approximately 1/16" - 1/8" (1.5 - 3 mm) between the profile and tile.
- 4 Cut the SHOWERPROFILE-WSL/-WSC insert to length and insert into the profile.

## Schluter®-SHOWERPROFILE-WSK

SHOWERPROFILE-WSK is applied to the floor covering using KERDI-FIX, silicone, or similar adhesive. Prior to applying the adhesive, make sure the surfaces are free from any adhesion-inhibiting substances such as oil or grease.



- 1 Apply a bead of adhesive to the underside of the profile legs where contact is made with the floor, and set the profile. **Note:** End caps are used when the profile does not abut a vertical surface. Install end caps with KERDI-FIX, silicone, or a similar adhesive before installing the profile.
- 2 Use a suitable cleaning agent to remove any excess adhesive after placement of the profile.
- 3 Cut the SHOWERPROFILE-WSL/-WSC insert to length and insert into the profile.

# INSTALLATION

## Bathtub/prefabricated shower base pan surround

Please refer to Schluter-Systems' installation videos in addition to reading the instructions below.

The waterproofing is carried to the height of the showerhead (at minimum). KERDI or KERDI-BOARD application on ceiling is optional for bathtub/prefabricated shower base pan surround.

### Schluter®-KERDI over solid backing

The thin-set mortar used for bonding KERDI to walls and ceilings must be appropriate for the substrate and must penetrate and engage the membrane fleece. The mortar must be mixed to a fairly fluid consistency, but still able to hold a notch.



- 1 Clean any dust or other debris from the surface of the solid backing. Dampen particularly dry and porous substrates in order to help prevent premature drying or skinning of the thin-set mortar.



- 2 Place painter's tape to protect the tub deck. Apply Schluter SET, ALL-SET, FAST-SET, or unmodified thin-set mortar to the solid backing using the KERDI-TROWEL or a 1/4" x 3/16" (6 mm x 5 mm) V-notched trowel. Burn in thin-set mortar to the solid backing, and then comb additional mortar using the notched side of the trowel. Completely fill the 1/4" (6 mm)-wide gap between the solid backing and tub with KERDI-FIX or other suitable sealant. **Note:** When the solid backing is installed above the base tub flange, apply KERDI-FIX to the tub/base and spread using a small notched trowel.



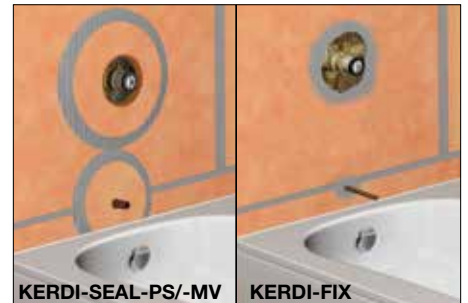
- 3 Apply KERDI-BAND waterproofing strips or 5" (125 mm)-wide cut sections of KERDI waterproofing membrane. Solidly embed the membrane in the mortar and KERDI-FIX to ensure full coverage and remove air pockets.



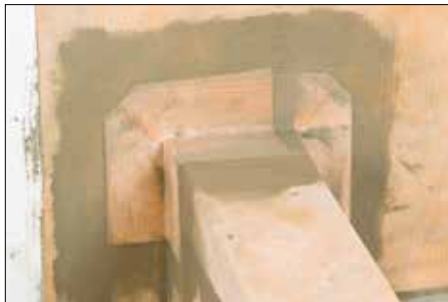
- 4 Apply Schluter SET, ALL-SET, FAST-SET, or unmodified thin-set mortar to the solid backing and previously applied KERDI-BAND. Burn in thin-set mortar to the solid backing, and then comb additional mortar using the notched side of the trowel. Embed the KERDI in the thin-set mortar and work the membrane onto the entire surface to ensure full coverage and remove air pockets.



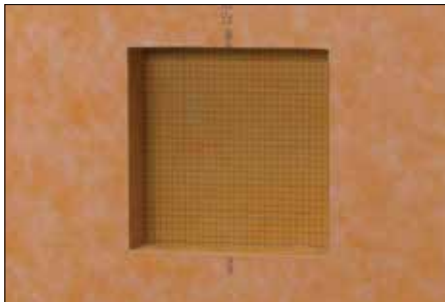
- 5 Seams in the membrane are constructed by overlapping the edges of KERDI by 2" (50 mm) or by abutting adjacent sheets of KERDI and installing KERDI-BAND, centered over the joint.



- 6 Any penetrations through the KERDI membrane (e.g., mixing valve, shower head, etc.) must be sealed with KERDI-SEAL-PS/MV, KERDI-FIX, or other suitable sealant.



- 7 Seal connections to knee walls using KERDI-KERECK-F preformed corners and Schluter SET, ALL-SET, FAST-SET, or unmodified thin-set mortar.



**Note:** See page 23 for KERDI-BOARD-SN /-SNLT shower niche installation instructions.



- 8 Once the entire membrane, including seams, corners, and knee walls have been completely bonded and, therefore, waterproofed, the assembly is ready to be tiled. For tile installation instructions, see page 35.

# Schluter®-KERDI-BOARD over wood or metal framing

Grab bars or other heavy objects must be anchored in the structure or solid blocking behind KERDI-BOARD. Installation instructions for other applications of KERDI-BOARD (e.g. fully embedded or spot-bonded over solid backing) can be found in the 12.1 KERDI-BOARD technical data sheet.



**1** KERDI-BOARD can be mounted vertically or horizontally on framing with appropriate screws (e.g., coarse thread wood screw for wood studs and self-tapping for metal studs) and corresponding KERDI-BOARD-ZT washers. Minimum board thickness = 1/2" (12.5 mm) for studs spaced at 16" (40.6 cm) o.c.; 3/4" (19 mm) for studs spaced at 24" (61.0 cm) o.c. Screws must reach a depth of at least 3/4" (20 mm) in wood studs and at least 3/8" (10 mm) in metal studs.



**2** Abut panels over the center of the studs or other solid backing. Screws may be placed between adjacent panels such that the washers fasten both panel edges. The maximum allowable on-center fastener spacing is 12" (30 cm) for walls and 6" (15 cm) for ceilings.



**3** Place painter's tape to protect the tub deck. Apply Schluter SET, ALL-SET, FAST-SET, or unmodified thin-set mortar to the KERDI-BOARD using the KERDI-TROWEL or a 1/4" x 3/16" (6 mm x 5 mm) V-notched trowel. Burn in thin-set mortar to the KERDI-BOARD, and then comb additional mortar using the notched side of the trowel. Completely fill the 1/4" (6 mm)-wide gap between the KERDI-BOARD and tub with KERDI-FIX or other suitable sealant.

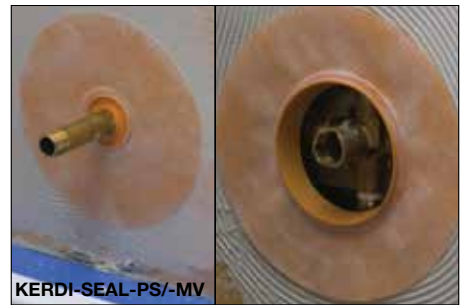
**Note:** When KERDI-BOARD is installed above the tub/base flange, apply KERDI-FIX to the tub/base flange and spread using a small notched trowel.



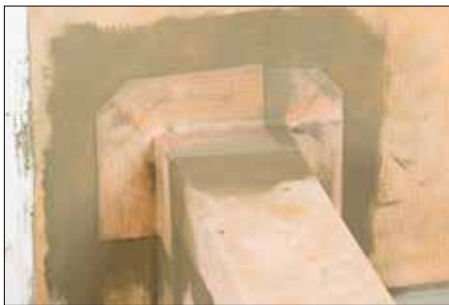
**4** Apply KERDI-BAND waterproofing strips. Solidly embed the membrane in the mortar and KERDI-FIX to ensure full coverage and remove air pockets.



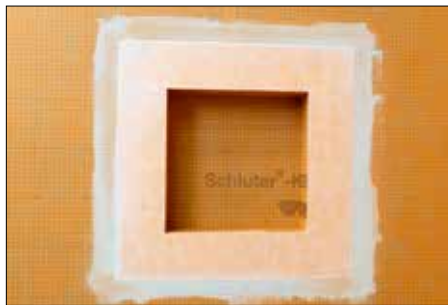
**5** KERDI-BOARD joints, corners, and fastener penetrations are sealed with KERDI-BAND, ensuring a minimum 2" (50 mm) overlap.



**6** Any penetrations through the panel (e.g., mixing valve, shower head, etc.) must be sealed with KERDI-SEAL-PS/-MV, KERDI-FIX, or other suitable sealant.



**7** Seal connections to knee walls using KERDI-KERECK-F preformed corners and Schluter SET, ALL-SET, FAST-SET, or unmodified thin-set mortar.



**Note:** See page 23 for KERDI-BOARD-SN/-SNLT shower niche installation instructions.



**8** Once all seams, corners, and knee walls have been completely sealed, the assembly is waterproofed and ready to be tiled.

# CURBLESS SHOWERS

## Accessibility and style

As our population ages, there is increasing demand for accessible living spaces. Tiled showers typically feature curbs to retain water in the stall, which can make entry difficult for those with limited mobility, including individuals who need the assistance of wheelchairs. Curbless tiled showers eliminate the use of a curb and rely on the slope of the floor to keep water inside the stall, thus improving accessibility. These showers have also become increasingly popular for their aesthetic benefits, as they can integrate seamlessly with surrounding tiled surfaces to enhance an already luxurious environment.



## DESIGN AND INSTALLATION CONSIDERATIONS

The Schluter-Shower System provides a simple and effective means of waterproofing curbless installations. The key to this is that the KERDI waterproofing membrane is topically applied. Once the slope to the drain is established, KERDI and tile are installed, thus minimizing the thickness of the assembly.

Curbless tiled showers rely on the slope of the floor to effectively contain water in the immediate shower area and direct water to the drain. Given the wide range of potential configurations, it isn't possible to address them all in this Handbook. However, the following guidelines will assist in planning any curbless installation.

Ideally, the floor will be recessed before installing a sloped mortar bed or the KERDI-SHOWER prefabricated shower trays to allow an even transition at the door threshold. This can be relatively straightforward in new construction and can also be accomplished in renovations. When recessing the floor is not an option, it is necessary to provide a ramp up into the shower area. The KERDI-SHOWER prefabricated trays and ramp can be useful tools in such applications as well. Please note that recessing the floor of a bathroom must be done in a way that preserves the structural integrity and safety of the construction. This may require the services of a qualified design professional (e.g., architect, engineer, etc.).

Waterproofing must be installed in all areas subject to water exposure. Ideally, the entire floor is protected. Install KERDI over mortar beds and Schluter-Systems prefabricated EPS foam substrates. Use the DITRA-HEAT/-PS or DITRA-HEAT-DUO/-PS uncoupling membrane over plywood/OSB or concrete subfloors. All seams are sealed using KERDI-BAND. The SHOWERPROFILE-WS/-WSK splash guard profiles may be used at the entrance of curbless showers. Secondary drainage may be required in the drying area for any overflow. Please see detail K-SHBF on page 12 for further discussion.

### Note on Accessibility Guidelines:

Various building codes and other sources, such as the Americans with Disabilities Act, include specific requirements for disabled access in public buildings and should be consulted when applicable. Areas of interest may include degree of slope, clearance, and supporting structures such as grab bars.

# THE WATERPROOF BATHROOM

## Security and utility

Bathrooms are a primary focus of today's building and remodeling projects and are becoming more and more luxurious, complete with steam showers, oversized bathtubs, and the latest in fixtures and lighting. As such, tiled showers, bathtub surrounds, floors, walls, and vanities are in high demand. Tile and stone are beautiful, durable, and available in a wide range of formats, colors, and textures, allowing limitless design options. Tile and stone offer unmatched utility and high-end appeal, making them the ideal surface coverings for bathrooms. Given the substantial investments made in these projects and nature of use, long-term durability is a high priority.



Waterproofing is the foundation of successful tiled bathrooms. Moisture-sensitive construction materials (e.g., wood framing, plywood and OSB sheathing, gypsum wallboard, etc.) are common in the North American building environment and must be protected in wet areas. Wet areas also bring the potential for mold growth if effective moisture management is not provided. The key to mold control is moisture control.

In addition to showers and tub surrounds, bathroom floors surrounding these fixtures are routinely subjected to water exposure during use. Bathroom floors may also, through unexpected circumstances, become exposed to significant amounts of water; for example, an overflowed toilet or ruptured sink supply, which can result in flooding. Waterproofing these floors can save an owner from replacing the tile assembly and substructure in the event of a leak.

Schluter-Systems offers simple and effective solutions to protect moisture-sensitive substrates, prevent mold growth, and preserve the integrity of the tiled surface throughout the bathroom. The Schluter-Shower System is an integrated family of products that together form a fully bonded, watertight assembly for tiled showers and bathtub surrounds. DITRA is an uncoupling membrane that protects the tiled floors from damage by neutralizing differential movement stresses between the substrate and tile and provides reliable waterproofing. Since both of these systems are based on topically-applied, bonded waterproof membranes, they can be combined simply and easily to provide waterproofing throughout the bathroom.

Floors can be made fully waterproof with DITRA. Since the membrane is made of waterproof polyethylene, the only extra step necessary is to seal the seams and floor/wall connections with KERDI-BAND. The same practice is used to integrate the DITRA with the KERDI used to waterproof the shower or tub surround. The result is a comprehensive waterproofing system that protects against moisture penetration. For added luxury, the DITRA-HEAT electric floor warming system with integrated uncoupling technology ensures that floors are both comfortable, and resistant to cracked tiles and grout. Cables can be placed wherever heat is desired for customized heating zones, and no leveling compounds are required, making for a quick and easy installation.

Please consult the DITRA and DITRA-HEAT Installation Handbooks for comprehensive installation guidelines and warranty criteria.



### Schluter®-DITRA and Schluter®-DITRA-HEAT Installation Handbooks

Complete details and illustrations for tile installations over various substrates, and supplementary information on topics such as waterproofing, movement joints, and thin-set mortars.

To obtain or download a free copy of the DITRA or DITRA-HEAT Installation Handbook, visit [www.schluter.com](http://www.schluter.com) or call **800-472-4588 (US)** or **800-667-8746 (CAN)**.

# FINISHING

## Details make the difference

The Schluter-Shower System provides proper moisture management to protect surrounding building materials and reduce the potential for efflorescence and mold growth in the system. Once the system is installed the timeless beauty of ceramic and stone tiles can bring a relaxing spa feeling home. Schluter shelves and profiles provide elegant solutions to finish the tile application.

### Shelves

Shelves are very popular features in showers and bathtub surrounds for both practical and design purposes. SHELF is a wall storage system featuring designs that coordinate with the Curve and Floral styles found in KERDI-DRAIN and KERDI-LINE drain grates.



#### Schluter®-SHELF-E

Suitable for corner installations and features tabs that allow for installation with the tile or in retrofit applications.



#### Schluter®-SHELF-W

Features two trapezoid-perforated anchoring legs for installation on wall surfaces.



#### Schluter®-SHELF-N

Rectangular shelf that fits the prefabricated KERDI-BOARD-SN/-SNLT shower niche.

### Profiles

Schluter profiles are available in a wide range of materials and finishes such as stainless steel, anodized aluminum, brass, and colored PVC to produce a variety of looks, including bold contrasts, discreet color matches to the grout, and complements to plumbing fixtures.

#### Outside Corners and Tile Edges

Exposed tile edges are unsightly and prone to chipping. The QUADEC square-shaped profile and RONDEC rounded profile protect and finish tile edges for visually appealing and long-lasting results. Edging profiles eliminate the need for special ceramic trim pieces, so you can select virtually any tile in the showroom.

#### Schluter®-RONDEC

Provides a symmetrically rounded edge for a smooth design.



#### Schluter®-QUADEC

Provides a square edge for a contemporary and sleek design.



#### Inside Corners

DILEX cove-shaped profiles can be used with any field tile to produce permanent, easy to clean, and maintenance-free floor/wall transitions and inside wall corners.

#### Schluter®-DILEX-AHK

Allows for easy cleaning and will not trap debris. Anodized and TRENDLINE color-coated aluminum finishes.



#### Schluter®-DILEX-HKU

Allows for easy cleaning, will not trap debris. Stainless steel finish.



#### Schluter®-DILEX-PHK

Allows for easy cleaning and will not trap debris. PVC profile.



#### Schluter®-DILEX-EKE

Provides a straight and discreet joint that eliminates sealant at inside corners.



Please refer to our Illustrated Price List or our website at [www.schluter.com](http://www.schluter.com) for details on the complete line of available Schluter shelves and profiles.

# TILE SELECTION CONSIDERATIONS

## Discussion of different tile types in shower applications

The Schluter-Shower System is an integrated family of products that creates a sealed system for showers, steam showers, steam rooms, and bathtub surrounds. The KERDI/-KERDI-DS membranes and KERDI-BOARD substrates are waterproof and provide a bonding surface for tile coverings. Typical covering materials include ceramic, porcelain, and natural stone tiles. The following information is intended to be used as input for tile selection in shower applications.

### Ceramic and Porcelain

In general, ceramic and porcelain tiles are excellent choices for shower applications. They are not adversely affected by moisture and are easily cleaned. Furthermore, they can be installed using unmodified thin-set mortar within the Schluter-Shower System. However, some specific categories of these materials require special consideration.



#### Mounted Mosaic Tiles

Schluter-Systems does not specify a minimum tile format for use over the KERDI-SHOWER series of prefabricated foam trays, but when using small tiles with heavy loads, a mortar base is recommended.

Mosaic tiles are typically mounted and sold as sheets for ease of handling and installation. There are various methods used to mount the tiles, some of which can present installation or application challenges.

Back-mounted and edge-mounted tile assemblies may have paper, mesh, resin, polyurethane, or other bonding material on the back or edges of each tile, which becomes part of the tile assembly. In some cases, the adhesive used to mount the tiles is moisture sensitive and may lead to debonding once the shower is put into service. According to the TCNA Handbook for Ceramic, Glass, and Stone Tile Installation, mounted tile assemblies must feature sufficient exposure of the bonding surface of the tile to allow for 95% contact with the setting material in wet areas. Confirm with the tile manufacturer that the back- or edge-mounted tile is suitable for use in wet areas and never use paper back-mounted mosaics in shower applications.

Face-mounted tiles may use a clear film that is removed after final set or paper that is removed during the installation process before adjustments are made and final set is reached. In general, this approach is superior because the back of the tile is in full contact with the bond coat.



#### Pebbles

Pebble tiles have been used on shower floors for years, but due to their irregular shape there are some items to address with installation. For example, rounded pebble tiles can create barriers to drainage in showers since the grout is typically not flush with the surface of the pebbles. Maintaining sufficient slope for drainage is essential, perhaps even in excess of the typical 1/4" per foot. Rounded pebble tiles may also require a relatively thick bond coat to ensure proper coverage and bond to the shower base. Pebble tiles with flat surfaces can be easier to install with respect to the issues described above. Grout joints in pebble tile applications are typically wider than those in square or rectangular tile applications. Follow the tile and setting material manufacturer's instructions for grout selection.

#### Large Porcelain Tile Panels

Large porcelain tile panels are growing in availability and interest in North America. Some of these tile panels feature resin or urethane backings, which require special setting materials, such as modified thin-set mortars or epoxy adhesives. Panel manufacturers may require modified thin-set mortars to install panels without backings as well. Often, these manufacturers have tested and recommend specific mortars to install the panels, not just any mortar within a category or meeting an ANSI specification. Contact the panel manufacturer and setting material manufacturer to obtain a recommendation for a specific setting material to install the panel over a bonded waterproofing system.



## Natural Stone

Natural stone tiles are a product of nature and have various characteristics that provide beauty and features not found in manufactured tile products. According to the Dimension Stone Design Manual published by the Marble Institute of America (MIA), selection of stone for a shower is critical since the impact of water on certain stones (e.g. polished marble, limestone, etc.) may cause deterioration (e.g., surface dulling, warpage, etc.) over time. Selection of a dense, moisture-resistant stone will provide the best results in a shower.

### Moisture-Sensitive Stone

According to the TCNA Handbook for Ceramic, Glass, and Stone Tile Installation, many green-colored marbles and serpentines warp when exposed to water, including the water mixed in cement-based setting materials. Additionally, White Carrara Marble is very porous and may darken when exposed to water and not lighten back to its original hue. Such stones may not be suitable for use in shower applications and/or may require special setting materials. Schluter-Systems recommends consulting with the stone supplier to help determine if a particular material is suitable for use in wet areas and that a 100% solids epoxy tile adhesive is used to install the stone.

### Fiberglass Mesh Reinforced Stone

According to the TCNA Handbook for Ceramic, Glass, and Stone Tile Installation, many stone products have mesh reinforcement attached to the back surface of the tile, typically using an epoxy or polyester-based adhesive. Cement-based setting materials will not bond to these backings and Schluter-Systems recommends using a 100% solids epoxy tile adhesive to install the stone.

### Mounted Mosaic Stone Tiles

Similar challenges as ceramic and porcelain mounted mosaic tiles. See mounted mosaic tiles section under ceramic and porcelain tile.



## Glass

Glass tile is available in a wide variety of types (e.g., cast, fused, sintered, etc.) and formats. Entire tiles may be imbued with color, while in other cases layers of clear glass are combined with different backings of different color that show through. Some backings are dusted with quartz (sand) to provide texture to improve bonding characteristics. However, other backings are smooth and glossy, making it difficult to achieve a bond.

Furthermore, some glass tile manufacturers do not recommend use of their clear glass tile directly over bonded waterproofing membranes. They want the substrate to be able to wick water away from the bond coat (e.g., CBU or mortar walls) to help maintain a uniform bond coat appearance. Confirm with the glass tile manufacturer that the glass tile is suitable for use in wet areas and can be installed directly over a bonded waterproofing membrane such as KERDI.

Check with the glass tile manufacturer and setting materials manufacturer for setting materials recommendations.

### Mounted Mosaic Glass Tiles

Similar challenges as ceramic and porcelain mounted mosaic tiles. See mounted mosaic tiles section under ceramic and porcelain tile.

# THIN-SET FACTS

## Discussion on thin-set mortars and Schluter®-KERDI installations



Schluter-Systems offers thin-set mortars designed for use with Schluter membranes and boards. All Schluter-Systems' thin-set mortars, including the Schluter ALL-SET® and Schluter FAST-SET® modified varieties, can be used to set tile over Schluter®-DITRA, DITRA-HEAT, KERDI, KERDI-BOARD non absorptive substrates. If Schluter thin-set mortars are not used, we require unmodified thin-set mortar when setting ceramic or porcelain tile over KERDI.

**QUESTION: Should a latex-modified thin-set mortar or an unmodified thin-set mortar be used to install the KERDI membrane?**

**ANSWER:**

The type of bonding mortar used to apply the KERDI membrane must be suitable for the substrate and mechanically anchor the fleece on the membrane. For all the substrates listed in this Handbook (e.g., gypsum board, cement backerboard, etc.), Schluter SET®, Schluter ALL-SET®, Schluter FAST-SET® or an unmodified thin-set mortar is recommended. When installing KERDI with unmodified thin-set mortar over particularly dry and porous substrates, it is recommended to wet the substrate first, in order to help prevent premature drying or skinning of the thin-set mortar. Schluter SET®, Schluter ALL-SET®, Schluter FAST-SET® or an unmodified thin-set mortar must be used to construct all KERDI seams to ensure watertight performance of the system. Learn more below.

**QUESTION: Can ceramic tile, including porcelain tile, be set on the KERDI membrane with unmodified thin-set mortar?**

**ANSWER: YES. In general, we recommend it. Here's why:**

Portland cement-based unmodified thin-set mortars are dependent on the presence of moisture for hydration in order to gain strength. Since the KERDI membrane is impervious, it does not deprive the mortar of its moisture. This allows the cement to properly hydrate, resulting in a strong, dense bond coat. In fact, after the mortar has reached final set (usually within 24 hours), unmodified thin-set mortars achieve higher strengths when cured in continually moist conditions.

**QUESTION: Can ceramic tile, including porcelain tile, be set on the KERDI membrane with latex-modified thin-set mortar?**

**ANSWER: No.**

Latex-modified mortars must dry for the polymers to coalesce and form a hard film in order to gain strength. When sandwiched between two impervious materials such as the KERDI membrane and ceramic tile, including porcelain tile, drying takes place very slowly through the open joints in the tile covering. [According to the Tile Council of North America's Handbook for Ceramic, Glass, and Stone Tile Installation, this drying period can fluctuate from 14 days to over 60 days, depending on the geographic location, the climatic conditions, and whether the installation is interior or exterior]. Therefore, extended cure times could be required before grouting if using modified thin-set mortars between KERDI and ceramic tile, including porcelain tile. If extended cure times were not observed, the results could be unpredictable. This is even more important to consider in wet areas such as showers, as there is the additional concern of latex leaching.

**QUESTION: How do I know if the thin-set mortar is modified or unmodified?**

**ANSWER:**

In general, unmodified thin-set mortar is a blend of Portland cement, sand, and water retention agents that is mixed with water by the user. The applicable product standard for unmodified thin-set mortars is ANSI A118.1. Look for this standard on the packaging (e.g., product meets ANSI A118.1 when mixed with water). Unmodified thin-set mortar may also be referred to as dry-set mortar by the manufacturer. Modified thin-set mortars are similar to unmodified thin-set mortars, but include additional polymers such as latex. The additional polymers are introduced in either liquid or powder form. In the first case, the user mixes an unmodified or dry-set mortar powder with a liquid polymer additive instead of water. In the second case, the polymers are added by the manufacturer to the dry blend in powder form. The user then mixes the powder with water. The applicable product standards for modified thin-set mortars include ANSI A118.4 and ANSI A118.11.

**QUESTION: Can Schluter ALL-SET® and Schluter FAST-SET® modified thin-set mortars be used to set tile over Schluter boards and membranes?**

**ANSWER: Yes.**

All Schluter thin-set mortars, including the Schluter ALL-SET® and Schluter FAST-SET® modified varieties can be used to set tile over Schluter®-DITRA, DITRA-HEAT, KERDI, KERDI-BOARD non absorptive substrates.

**QUESTION: How is this possible?**

**ANSWER: The key is predictability.**

Schluter-Systems' modified thin-set mortars have been specifically formulated to set and gain strength in a timeframe that fits typical installation practice, even when sandwiched between Schluter membranes or boards and porcelain tile. The proportions of cement, water-retention agents, polymers, and other components in the mixtures were balanced to ensure that extended dry times are not required. This was validated through both laboratory and practical testing. Now, the installer can select from either unmodified or modified thin-set mortar to install tiles within our systems according to his or her preference.

**QUESTION: Why did Schluter-Systems change its position on thin-set mortar?**

**ANSWER: We haven't changed our position on thin-set mortar use within our systems.**

Developing our own setting materials has given us the ability to guarantee consistently positive results. And since we control the formulas, we can be sure no changes will be made that have a negative impact on setting times and strength gain in these environments.

**QUESTION: Does this mean I can use other manufacturers' modified thin-set mortars to install tile over Schluter boards and membranes?**

**ANSWER: No.**

Our position on thin-set mortar use within our systems in general has not changed. We have no control over the formulation of other manufacturers' products, and therefore cannot guarantee consistently positive results with their modified thin-set mortars.

**QUESTION: Can I still use other manufacturers' unmodified thin-set mortars to install tile over Schluter boards and membranes?**

**ANSWER: Yes.**

We still warrant the use of unmodified thin-set mortar meeting ANSI A118.1 to install tile within our systems because we have confidence in the performance of this product category. This is based on the science of cement hydration and years of positive testing and field experience.

Please note, if Schluter thin-set mortars are used with Schluter products, an extended system warranty is available. For full warranty details, please visit [schluter.com/warranties](http://schluter.com/warranties).

## **ADDITIONAL NOTES**

- Remember, all thin-set mortars have an acceptable temperature range that must be observed during application and curing.
- Pre-mixed thin-set mortars and mastics are not suitable for use in conjunction with the Schluter-Shower System.

# TESTING, LISTINGS, & APPROVALS

## Products and system evaluation

Schluter-Systems is committed to providing reliable installation systems for tile and stone. As part of this commitment, we have invested considerable resources in testing our products and obtaining listings and approvals through various certification organizations to provide our customers and local code officials with relevant data that supports the efficacy of our system.

### TEST DATA

KERDI, KERDI-DS, DITRA, DITRA-XL, DITRA-HEAT, and DITRA-HEAT-DUO have been independently tested and found to meet or exceed the requirements of the American National Standard Specifications for Load Bearing, Bonded, Waterproof Membranes for Thin-set Ceramic Tile and Dimension Stone Installation A118.10-S. Data for KERDI and KERDI-DS are presented in the table below.

Property	Requirement	Performance	
		KERDI	KERDI-DS
Fungus and micro-organism resistance	The membrane shall not support mold growth	Pass	Pass
Seam strength	8 lb/in width min.	21.6 lb/ 2 in width	37 lb/2 in width
Breaking strength	170 psi	1084 psi	1275 psi
Dimensional stability	0.7% maximum length change	Pass	Pass
Waterproofness	No moisture penetration	Pass	Pass
7-day shear strength	50 psi	84 psi	87 psi
7-day water immersion shear strength	50 psi	77 psi	99 psi
4-week shear strength	50 psi	88 psi	93 psi
12-week shear strength	50 psi	90 psi	87 psi
100-day water immersion shear strength	50 psi	88 psi	116 psi

KERDI, KERDI-DS, and KERDI-BOARD have also been independently tested to determine the water vapor permeance of the products. Please see further discussion on the importance of water vapor permeance on page 52.

Product	Test method	Performance
KERDI	ASTM E96*	0.90 perms
KERDI-DS		0.19 perms
KERDI-BOARD 1/2" (12.5 mm)		0.36 perms

\* Using the desiccant method at 100°F (38°C) and 90% RH

KERDI and KERDI-DS have been evaluated according to the "Standard Method for the Testing and Evaluation of Volatile Organic Chemical Emissions from Indoor Sources Using Environmental Chambers, Version 1.1" for California Specification 01350 and found to comply with the VOC requirements. California Specification 01350 is referenced by various green building standards and rating systems.

### PRODUCT EVALUATIONS AND LISTINGS

#### Schluter®-Shower System (Membranes and Drains)

- ICC-ES PMG Report No. PMG-1204

#### Membranes (KERDI/DITRA/DITRA-XL/DITRA-HEAT/DITRA-HEAT-DUO)

- ICC-ES Report No. ESR-2467
- cUPC® listed to meet ANSI A118.10-S
- Los Angeles Research Report

'DITRA-HEAT and DITRA-HEAT-DUO membranes are not included in the Los Angeles Research Report.

**Note:** DITRA-HEAT-PS and DITRA-HEAT-DUO-PS are not included in above ICC-ES Report No. ESR-2467 or ICC-ES Report No. PMG-1204.

#### Drains (KERDI-DRAIN and KERDI-LINE)\*

- UPC® listed - Report No. 4591
- Certified by CSA to meet CSA B79
- Los Angeles Research Report

\*KERDI-DRAIN and KERDI-LINE are available in various configurations.

#### Drain - KERDI-LINE-VARIO

- UPC® listed - Report No. 4591
- ICC-ES PMG Report No. PMG-1204

### APPROVALS

#### Schluter®-Shower System

- Massachusetts
- Michigan
- Kentucky
- Wisconsin

Copies of the aforementioned test reports, listings, and approvals are available upon request. Listings and approvals may also be accessed via our website at [www.schluter.com](http://www.schluter.com).

# MOLD

## The importance of mold control

The term “mold” is used to describe visible fungal growth. Mildew is another common term which refers to the type of fungi found growing on window sills and in bathrooms. Fungi are everywhere in our environment and are found both indoors and outdoors. However, the type and amount found in the home can be an important health issue. Understanding how to effectively control mold growth is very important.

### What is Mold?

Fungi are different from plants and animals. Fungi cannot produce their own nutrients as plants do and reproduce differently than both plants and animals. Molds reproduce by making spores which travel through the air to deposit on surfaces. If the conditions are right for reproduction they can grow and continue to multiply. The filamentous parts of mold attach to nutrients and form networks called mycelia. It is these networks that are visible to us in the indoor environment. Molds come in a variety of colors, but we commonly see them as green or black.

Over 1000 different species of mold have been identified in homes, but they are not all toxic to humans. Molds growing inside a home may release chemicals and spores and some may even produce mycotoxins. The chemicals released by fungi are called volatile organic compounds (VOC). For example, ethanol is a common VOC that is responsible for the distinctive musty or earthy odor associated with mold.

### Health Effects

Mold can cause damage to building materials and may have adverse health effects on some individuals. The susceptibility of people to develop symptoms depends on the nature of the fungal material, genetic predisposition, age, state of health, and extent of exposure. Although there is insufficient evidence in the scientific community to determine with certainty the association between mold exposure and the effect on human health, it is of course recommended to control mold exposure in the home and workplace. Common health effects associated with exposure to mold are a variety of upper and lower respiratory tract symptoms: cough; nose, throat and eye irritation; rhinitis; sneezing; and wheezing. These symptoms are similar to allergies and associated with asthma. Mycotoxins are fungal metabolites that have a toxic effect on humans. Toxic effects are associated with symptoms such as fever, nausea, headaches, and skin irritations.

### Factors for Mold Growth

Fungi need a source of moisture, organic material to serve as a source of nutrients, and a warm environment with a temperature range from 50 to 107 °F (10 to 42 °C) to grow. For most species of fungi, a neutral to acidic pH is preferred, with a high pH level indicating an alkaline environment that is generally not conducive to mold growth. Mold will reproduce in such conditions as long as moisture is present. Once the area is dry, the mold may stop reproducing but can continue to be allergenic to susceptible people. If moisture is reintroduced, the mold will again start the reproduction cycle and grow.

### Controlling Mold Growth

As stated above, four conditions must be satisfied to support mold growth.

1. Mold spores
2. Food source (organic material)
3. Warm temperatures: 50 to 107 °F (10 to 42 °C)
4. Moisture

Mold spores travel through the air indoors and outdoors and are impossible to eliminate. The use of organic materials in construction is common in today's building environment. Examples include wood framing members (e.g., studs, joists, I-joists, and trusses), plywood or OSB subfloors, paper-faced gypsum boards on walls and ceilings, etc. Room temperature falls within the temperature range suitable for mold growth. Therefore, the control of moisture, including liquid water and water vapor, is the only viable method for controlling mold growth in the indoor environment.

Showers are critical areas with respect to mold and moisture control. They are commonly exposed to thousands of gallons of water per year and high humidity levels. The tile covering alone will not prevent water and moisture penetration. As such, it is essential that an effective moisture management system be designed and installed properly to protect surrounding building materials and prevent mold growth.

The traditional method for installing tiled shower assemblies creates a water in/ water out system. Since shower pan liners are placed below the mortar setting bed in these assemblies, moisture is allowed to saturate the mortar bed before exiting the system through the weep holes in the drain. When the pan liner is placed on a level substrate instead of a sloped surface, a relatively common error, moisture in the system will have no means to exit through the weep holes in the drain and the mortar bed will remain saturated for extended periods of time. The continued presence of moisture, combined with organic materials carried into the mortar bed by the rinse water, warm temperatures, and reduced pH as soluble salts are washed out of the mortar bed, increases the risk of mold growth within the system.

The Schluter-Shower System is an integrated family of products that creates a sealed system. KERDI is a bonded waterproof membrane that is installed on top of the mortar bed and solid backing on walls. Tile is installed directly over the membrane using thin-set mortar. The KERDI-DRAIN was designed specifically to ensure a simple and secure connection to bonded waterproof membranes, such as KERDI, at the top of the assembly rather than below it. The resulting assembly does not permit moisture penetration into the solid backing or mortar bed, thus limiting the amount of water behind the tile covering and allowing the shower to dry out between uses. Furthermore, KERDI is a vapor retarder that protects wall cavities from water vapor penetration. Thus, the Schluter-Shower System provides superior moisture management and reduces the potential for mold growth within the system.

Regardless of the system used to waterproof a tiled shower, it is important to provide adequate ventilation (e.g., exhaust fans) in the bathroom to effectively manage water vapor and reduce condensation on all bathroom surfaces.

Further discussion and recommendations for mold remediation can be found in various sources, including the following.

- “A Brief Guide to Mold, Moisture, and Your Home” – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- “Mold Remediation in Schools and Commercial Buildings” – U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- “Mould Guidelines for the Canadian Construction Industry” – Canadian Construction Association

# VAPOR

## The importance of water vapor management



### Why is water vapor management important?

It is important to consider that water exists as both liquid and vapor in showers, and must be managed in both forms. The prime example of this is the steam shower. Steam showers that are not designed to manage water vapor have caused mold growth in wall cavities, rot in wood framing, and damage to moisture-sensitive wall coverings on the opposite side of the stud cavities.

### Do all waterproofing membranes manage water vapor?

The ANSI A118.10-S standard for bonded waterproof membranes was developed to provide a framework for determining the suitability of these products to serve as barriers to liquid water only. As such, the standard does not include a minimum criterion to establish the ability of products to limit vapor transmission. Thus, simply selecting a membrane that meets the requirements of the ANSI A118.10-S standard for a steam shower application is not enough. The ability of the product to limit vapor transmission must be considered as well.

### How can I identify a waterproofing membrane that manages water vapor?

Water vapor permeance is a measure of how quickly water vapor is transmitted through a material and can be determined according to the ASTM E96 Standard Test Method for Water Vapor Transmission of Materials. The higher the vapor permeance, the less effective a material is at slowing vapor transmission.

There is no universal requirement for vapor permeance of membranes in the building industry. The environmental conditions (i.e., differences in temperature and relative humidity), building materials, etc., and relevant field experience will determine the appropriate membrane performance for a given application. The consensus within the tile industry in North America has been that a vapor permeance of 1.0 perm or less will manage vapor effectively in showers and intermittent use steam shower applications.

The TCNA Handbook for Ceramic, Glass, and Stone Tile Installation and the TTMAC Specification Guide 09 30 00 Tile Installation Manual specify a water vapor permeance of 0.5 perms or less for bonded waterproofing membranes used in continuous use steam rooms (e.g., those found in health clubs, spas, etc.) when tested using the desiccant method at 100°F (38°C) and 90% RH.

### Does the Schluter-Shower System manage water vapor?

Schluter-Systems has tested the various options within the Schluter-Shower System for moisture management, including KERDI, KERDI-DS, and KERDI-BOARD in the more aggressive conditions referenced above. The table below summarizes Schluter-Systems' recommendations for the use of these products and respective water vapor permeance values.

Product	Recommended Applications	Water Vapor Permeance (perms) <sup>1</sup>
KERDI	Showers, intermittent use steam showers, and bathtub surrounds	0.90
KERDI-DS	Continuous use steam rooms	0.19
KERDI-BOARD	Showers, intermittent use steam showers, and bathtub surrounds	0.36 <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> Tested according to ASTM E96, using the desiccant method at 100°F (38°C) and 90% RH

<sup>2</sup> 1/2" – 12.5 mm-thick KERDI-BOARD tested

While the water vapor permeance of KERDI-BOARD meets the water vapor permeance recommendations for continuous use steam rooms in tile industry standard guidelines, Schluter-Systems has chosen to require the KERDI-DS membrane for these demanding applications in an effort to be conservative and provide the best possible solution for our customers.

Thus, the Schluter-Shower System has solutions that provide superior moisture management for virtually any tile application.

# WARRANTY

Schluter-Systems products and systems are covered under our warranty program, as applicable. For details and to access Schluter Systems' warranty documents:

Visit [www.schluter.com/warranties](http://www.schluter.com/warranties)

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To obtain hard copies, please contact Customer Service at: 800-472-4588 (USA) or 800-667-8746 (Canada).







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