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Balcony Waterproof Membranes Why Do They Fail?



Obviously there are a variety of reasons However.....

Recent projects have highlighted an interesting cause.

I have been in the construction industry for over 30 years, either as a registered building practitioner myself or the owner of F.E.W Waterproofing.

Having construction knowledge does give me an advantage when trying to work out the structural causes of water ingress.

Construction methods are always changing and adapting. I have noticed, either due to design and/or cost considerations, subtle construction changes which have a direct impact on the success or otherwise for waterproofing membranes.



Balcony floors designed with minimal falls.

Contemporary balconies are often designed with minimal falls; particularly in multi-level apartments.



This has a significant effect on the choice of waterproofing product, the application of these membranes and tile adhesives used.

Unfortunately these issues are not always taken into consideration when builders/developers/specifiers/designers consider waterproofing methodology for these projects: whether balconies, roof tops etc.

Correct selection of waterproof membrane is imperative with structures designed with minimal falls.

The waterproof membrane must be capable of "ponding water" and the application must start with meticulous preparation to ensure detailing is installed correctly.

F.E.W Waterproofing is an independent company; we choose the waterproofing product based on knowledge, experience and the requirements of the individual project.

Over the years we have become advocates of **Liquid Rubber** waterproofing membranes.



We have experienced excellent results where other products have failed.

Liquid Rubber provides a seamless environmentally safe and highly flexible membrane that will **"hold"** and **"contain"** water without breaking down – and not all waterproof products are capable of this.

Liquid Rubber is our waterproof membrane of choice for structures designed with minimal fall such as balconies, roof tops, below ground structures etc.

**Incorrect tile adhesive adversely affects
the waterproof membrane**

- Does your tiler know this?



The tile adhesive must be suitable to allow the field of tiles to expand and contract during cyclic temperature changes.

Tile expansion joints are Critical.



Successful waterproofing is not only a matter of correct membrane.

It is imperative expansion joints are inserted where the balcony floor abuts the vertical wall. This is particularly important for large balconies; expansion joints need to break up the field and allow the tiles to expand and contract.

Expansion joints are also critical for dark coloured tiles - and slate grey is currently very popular!

When the sun's rays hit dark tiles they expand and contract like the proverbial.....

Insufficient expansion joints can have a disastrous effect on the success of the waterproof membrane.

If the tiles are forced up, the membrane underneath will be damaged and compromised.

- and guess what -

you will have **LEAKS !**

Leaking structures are a builder's nightmare and major cause of clients call back.

So if you have projects with minimal fall that are prior to construction or maybe at specification or even presently under construction and require immediate waterproofing - consider some of these issues.

Kind Regards

Paul Evans



PS: Don't let other trades damage waterproof membrane after installation - a constant on-site problem.

PPS: Water test membrane BEFORE tiling - ensure the membrane is watertight.



F.E.W Waterproofing has three decades of CONSTRUCTION & WATERPROOFING experience.

Being a builder and having 30 years' experience in various types of construction, we are waterproofers who **"Think like a Builder"**.

We approach each job using structural and construction experience, methods and skills to prevent water ingress/egress.

The F.E.W Waterproofing Team provides professional services:

- Directly employed, fully certified waterproof technicians – no subcontract labour
- OH&S Compliant - Red Card, Elevated Platform, Confined Spaces, Working with Children certificates
- Guarantees, warranties and insurances
- Professional member AIW & MBAV

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