



City of Ashland Building Safety Division

51 Winburn Way • Ashland, OR 97520
Phone (541) 488-5305 • Fax (541) 488-6066
Email: Building@ashland.or.us

Policies / Interpretations / Procedures

BD-PP-0025

SHOWER AND BATH SPACES

Interpretation Summary:

Specifies the areas in bath and shower spaces that must be finished with nonabsorbent surfaces.

Background:

Section R307.2 of Oregon Residential Specialty Code (ORSC) has been interpreted several different ways. This interpretation applies to the City of Ashland.

Discussion:

Section R307.2 is somewhat vague as to the specific areas that need to have a nonabsorbent surface in bath and shower areas. Some jurisdictions require that this type of surface be installed on all floors and walls in a bathroom. Other jurisdictions are much less stringent. We have reviewed the issue and developed the interpretation below.

Interpretation:

The first sentence of Section R307.2 of the Oregon Residential Specialty Code (ORSC) is interpreted as follows:

1. If a premanufactured fiberglass shower/tub unit is installed, the fiberglass is sufficient to meet the requirements of the code section and no water-resistant gypsum board or other such backing is required other than that required by the manufacturer.
2. If the unit is site-built, or if the premanufactured tub unit also has a shower head which is not part of a fiberglass unit, water resistant gypsum board or an approved equivalent will be required as backing for the required finish material for the enclosure to a height of 6 feet above the floor of the enclosure.
3. Units such as jacuzzis, whirlpools, soaking tubs, etc. meet the definition of "bathtubs" and must comply with this code section.
4. Other than within shower/bath enclosures, floors need not be finished with nonabsorbent surfaces.