

TECHNICAL BULLETIN

»» SHOWER PAN DRAINS

SUBJECT: Hot-Mop Shower Pans with ABS/PVC Drains

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PAGE: 1 of 1

The practice of “hot-mopping” or spreading layers of hot asphalt is sometimes used to waterproof surfaces in shower areas. Hot-mop practices vary widely with regard to how and when the asphalt (which typically ranges from 450 °F to 500+ °F) is applied. ABS and PVC materials are thermoplastic, which become soft enough to deform at higher temperatures – around 150 °F for PVC and around 175 °F for ABS. For this reason, when hot-mop methods are used, a cast iron drain is recommended.

However, many ABS/PVC drains are used in applications where hot-mop waterproofing methods are used. In any installation where ABS/PVC drains are used in hot-mopped shower areas, care must be taken to ensure the temperatures affecting the drain do not become high enough (see above) to cause deformation of the ABS/PVC components. Deformation of the drains may lead to leaks and property damage.

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