

BC BUILDING CODE INTERPRETATION COMMITTEE

A joint committee with members representing

AIBC, EGBC, BOABC

File No: 18-0103

INTERPRETATION

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Interpretation Date:	April 20, 2021
Building Code Edition:	BC Building Code 2018
Subject:	Waterproof Finishes at Stand-alone Bathtub
Keywords:	Bathtub, waterproof finishes, walls, floors
Building Code Reference(s):	9.29.2.1.(1), 9.30.1.2.(1), A-9.30.1.2.(1)

Question:

For stand-alone bathtubs (not physically positioned immediately against or attached to adjoining walls), what are the waterproofing requirements for:

- 1) Walls,
- 2) Floors?

Interpretation:

1. Sentence 9.29.2.1.(1) sets out minimum dimensions for adjoining wall finishes to be waterproofed, where the bathtub is immediately against adjoining walls. In the case of a bathtub without any shower, the minimum extent of waterproof finish required above the bathtub rim is 400mm; and for a bathtub provided with a shower, 1.2m above the bathtub rim.

This gives some guidance as to minimum clearances that should be provided for stand-alone bathtubs if no waterproof finish is contemplated for the walls in the vicinity. In other words, if the bathtub has no shower and is positioned at least 400mm horizontally away from the wall, there should be an acceptable reduced level of risk of water posing a threat to the deterioration of the wall finishes or structure.

This clearance should be increased to at least 1.2m horizontally if a shower is provided. However, since specific layouts, designs, and fixture specifications differ, judgement and prudence must be exercised for each specific situation to ensure the integrity and durability of walls in the vicinity are adequately protected.

2. Sentence 9.30.1.2.(1) and related Notes commentary A-9.30.1.2.(1) addresses the expected performance of floors such as in bathrooms, susceptible to the presence of water escaping from use of showers or bathtubs. Measures are set out to prevent deterioration of finishes or supporting floor assemblies.



Patrick Shek, P.Eng., CP, FEC, Committee Chair

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