

Bathroom Tile Maintenance

Another issue relating to bathrooms with tiles showers or walls, is water is getting behind the tiles which if it does so in any quantity, ends up creeping to a carpeted area, or descends to the room / apartment below. Smaller quantities of water quietly stay behind the wall and potentially rots away the building material behind the tiles.

This water often gets behind the tiles in two ways;

- 1) where a mixer or shower fitting has a join or fitting that is leaking, or
- 2) where there is a failure in the tile grouting.

In both cases this can be checked with the use of a moisture meter.

Tile grouting defects can be found by visually looking for gaps in the grouting either between the tiles or between the tiles and a floor waste. Cracked tiles will also allow water to pass through to the wall.



Moisture measured above the gap in the grout - Moisture measured below the gap in the grout

Tile Grout Repair

Where a gap in the grout is noted in an inspection, if you are so inclined they can be easily repaired with a few items bought from your local hardware store.



A grout saw is used to hack out the out the defected grout, a tube of pre-coloured pre-mixed grout can then be squeezed into the cleaned and dry gap between the tiles, then use the small grout finisher tool to give you a good consistent finish.

Normally once finished, a clean-up of the tiles can be done with a damp sponge -this gets rid of any grout left on the tile surface.

If the repair is good the moisture behind the wall should dry away; this can only (and should) be checked with a moisture meter.

For dampness behind tiles (or indeed any bathroom wall) that cannot be attributed to a visible defect, a tiler tradesperson needs to be contacted.

In a constantly wet area where there is a gap in the grout, there will be moisture that will get behind the wall. This needs to be addressed as soon as it is found.