



HardieBacker installed in a shower. Photo courtesy of James Hardie.

You're totally dependent on whose applying the membrane."

He noted that consumers should always pick a contractor who is knowledgeable

and trains his or her staff. "I would ask for an Advanced Certifications for Tile Installers (ACT) certified person to be doing my showers and membranes."

James Woefel, NTCA first vice president: "For the shower pans I use Noble. If I'm doing crack isolation I use Custom Building Products' RedGuard."

Those are probably the two products I use most on showers."

Woefel said poorly installed showers are a major problem in the industry. "Showers are your biggest liability in installation, and as a tile contractor I would like to stop seeing these failures. The industry is getting a black eye, and as a result we're all working for a smaller pie. Everyone having a bigger pie is what we should be focusing on."

Other Shower Products

Steve Padgett, Dap's Kwik Seal Grout Recolor Kit: "When using the kit, make sure the existing tile is sound. If tiles are pulling off or shifting, you will need a little bit more work around the shower area. If it's a cosmetic issue — the grout is very dirty or discolored or you just don't like the color, you can use our product to freshen it up."

"When cleaning it, make sure you use a neutral pH cleaner," he added. "If you're in a commercial environment and using a really caustic cleaner, that's going to affect it."

Joe Phillips, Luxe Linear Drains: "The most common question is, if I have a 4" shower, will a 4" drain fit? My question back is, is this the rough opening or the finished opening? If I'm talking to a contractor, that usually means it's a rough opening. A 48" drain is not going to fit when you close it up with the tile. The next size down is 40". Some may not think that's ideal, but it's far easier to put a 40" drain in a 46" opening, rather than trying to force in a 48" drain."

He added, "We also make custom sizes, but it's going to take a lot longer lead time. If you can, it's better to accommodate the customer right off the shelf."

Farrell Gerber, Tile Redi: "Our Redi Trench consists of a tileable shower pan with an integrated linear trench drain and also, the choice of either a tileable linear grate or designer grate caps. Furthermore, contractors are able to offer their customers shower bays with single curb, double curb, barrier-free or ADA entrances." **PEI**

Note: See more shower product photos in our digital edition.

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Tile Redi's Redi Trench. Photo courtesy of Tile Redi.