Stone and timber in *wet areas*

Wet areas are four conditions, not one: dry, splash, wet and poolside. What the sources we could read say about stone and timber in each, and wording for the surface, falls and waterproofing, slip, thresholds and care. No verdict on any stone: the partner workshop and the system maker confirm.

Compliance guidance. Read on 5 November 2026. The Stone Federation's wet-room code and the tiling standards were not read, and most statements about stone come from one supplier's manual for one limestone; those about timber come from two flooring makers. This is guidance, not engineering or legal advice: waterproofing and falls are set by the system maker and the installer, slip resistance by a test, and suitability by the partner workshop.

AT A GLANCE

Surface	Dry and splash areas	Shower, wet room, steam room	Pool surround
Limestone, honed (one Portland stone: a supplier's manual)	Used in bath and shower surrounds.	Used in steam rooms; take specialist advice on sealing and upkeep. Not recommended for shower trays or public toilet floors.	Used for surrounds; advice depends on how often pool water wets it. Not recommended for pool linings.
Marble	The Natural Stone Institute says many marbles suit tub decks and showers. Acids etch it, so check bathroom cleaners.	A polished face grips least when wet (Singapore BCA guide). Choose the finish by a wet, barefoot test.	No source read. Ask the stone partner.
Granite and other low-absorption stone	Stone Federation: granite has high strength and low water absorption.	The finish still decides grip. Test wet. No source read for steam or heated floors.	No source read.
Terrazzo	Cement terrazzo is porous and is sealed; resin terrazzo is effectively non-porous (our terrazzo sheet).	No source read for wet floors. Ask for a wet pendulum test on the finished surface.	No source read.
Timber floor (engineered, oiled or lacquered)	One maker describes a multi-layer oak floor for a damp bathroom, with conditions; another says engineered wood suits most rooms but not wet rooms.	Both makers read do not recommend timber in wet rooms.	No source read.
Slatted hardwood (for example teak)	No source read. Ask for the species' durability class (BS EN 350) and the use class (BS EN 335).	No source read. If it is a removable platform, the question is the drained floor under it.	No source read.

What the sources read say, not a verdict. 'No source read' means we found nothing usable, not that the surface is unsuitable. Partner workshops confirm suitability for each stone and timber.

SPECIFICATION WORDING

SURFACE AND ZONE

Floor and wall surface to [shower / wet room / steam room / pool surround]: [stone and quarry reference / timber species and system], [finish], format [ ] mm, to match approved sample [ref] taken from the production slab. Suitability for the [zone] is to be confirmed in writing by [stone workshop / joinery partner] before order, with its sealing and maintenance regime.

FALLS, DRAINAGE AND WATERPROOFING

Falls of [ ] to [drain type and position], formed in the substrate before waterproofing. Waterproofing: [proprietary tanking system, sheet or liquid applied], installed to the system maker's instructions by an installer approved by the system maker, continuous over the floor and [height per system maker] up the walls, and sealed to the drain. Testing and curing before use: [as the system maker instructs and BS 5385-4, not less than [ ] days].

SLIP

Wet pendulum test per [slip resistance clause] with Slider [55] for barefoot areas, on a production sample finished and sealed as the works will be. Target PTV [ ] set by [designer / duty holder].

MOVEMENT, THRESHOLD AND TIMBER BOUNDARY

Movement joints carried through the full depth of the build-up as drawing [ref], sealed with [flexible sealant] and detailed with the waterproofing system maker where the waterproof layer crosses them. Threshold between wet floor and dry timber floor as detail [ref]: wet floor falling away from the timber, timber on its own substrate with a gap of [ ] mm sealed with [ ].

CARE

Cleaning and maintenance products to be those approved in writing by [stone workshop or joinery partner] and [sealer or oil maker]. No bleach, household soap, detergent or acid descaler unless so approved. Sealer or oil renewal interval [as the maker states].

TERMS USED

Tanking

A waterproof layer, either a sheet membrane or a liquid-applied product, applied to the floor and walls of a shower or wet room before the finish, so that water passing through the joints does not reach the structure.

Fall

A slope in a floor so that water runs to the drain. The steepness comes from the system maker and the installer; no figure is given on this sheet.

Movement joint

A deliberate break or flexible joint in a floor finish that allows thermal or moisture movement without cracking or lifting.

Impregnator

A liquid that soaks into stone pores to reduce staining without forming a surface film, as distinct from a topical coating.

STANDARDS AND SOURCES

- Stone Federation Great Britain: Natural Stone, Installation in Bathrooms, Shower Enclosures and Wet Rooms: publication page read 5 Nov 2026; the code (free to members) was not read.
- The Tile Association: FAQs and a presentation on BS 5385-1:2018: tanking and the 14-day wait, as reported there; read 5 Nov 2026. The BS 5385 parts were not read; BSI listings of BS 5385-3:2024 and -4:2015 only.
- HSE: Assessing the slip resistance of flooring (GEIS2) and slips FAQ: Slider 55 for barefoot areas, R9, acid etching; read 5 Nov 2026.
- Workplace Regulations 1992, reg 12(2)(b); Approved Document M volume 2, paras 5.18 (o) and 5.21 (c): drainage; slip resistant and self-draining shower floors. Editions as on the slip sheet; read 5 Nov 2026.
- BS EN 335:2013 and BS EN 350:2016: use classes; natural durability. BSI listings only; not read.

Full guide: https://makebespoke.com/trade/technical/stone-and-timber-in-wet-areas. Make Bespoke Studio coordinates manufacture through its partner workshops. Figures are guidance only and your specification governs; some may be superseded, so contact the studio to verify.