



GoBoard Basics

- What Is GoBoard?**
 GoBoard is an ultra-lightweight yet durable, waterproof alternative to cement and other heavy tile backer boards - and manufactured by Johns Manville, a Berkshire Hathaway Company.
- Why do I need to use a tile backer board?**
 Tile backer boards provide a stable surface upon which to bond tile. GoBoard offers the advantages of being ultra-lightweight, easy to cut, handle and install. And best of all, it has waterproofing already built-in.
- What GoBoard sizes are available?**
 GoBoard is available in 3'x5' boards in 1/4," and 1/2" thicknesses and 4'x8' boards are available in 1/4," 1/2," 5/8," 1," 1 1/2," and 2" thicknesses. 1/4" is for floors and countertops while 1/2" and 5/8" are for walls, showers, ceilings, and floors. GoBoard 1/4" and 1/2" are rated for use in residential and light commercial applications. The 1/2" and 5/8" thicknesses are available for use in transitions to higher-profile adjacent floors and coverings. For floors, we recommend using 1/4" GoBoard for residential and light commercial applications. 1," 1 1/2," and 2" are for walls, benches, shelves, tub surrounds, vanities, and countertops.
- How much does GoBoard weigh?**
 3'x5' 1/4" GoBoard weighs 6.0 pounds, and 1/2" weighs 7.5 lbs, making GoBoard up to 80% lighter than cement and other heavy boards. 4'x8' 5/8" GoBoard weighs 18.6 lbs.
- What materials are used in manufacturing GoBoard? How can it be light and strong at the same time?**
 GoBoard's exterior facers are comprised of proprietary coated fiberglass mats that provide excellent bonding and stiffness. The core is made from high density polyisocyanurate ("polyiso") closed-cell foam, providing strength, durability and waterproofness. Polyiso is a frequently used building material for insulation, roofing, and other applications. Johns Manville has been a trusted polyiso roofing products manufacturer for decades.
- Can GoBoard be painted? Will it accept drywall compound?**
 Yes, GoBoard is paintable, and drywall compound adheres to GoBoard better than it does paper-faced drywall. However, GoBoard may have surface imperfections requiring additional steps to cover.
- Will GoBoard break because it is so light? Is it strong enough for my tile installation?**
 GoBoard's high density polyiso core leads the industry in product compressive strengths of > 250 psi (1/4"), > 200 psi (1/2"), and > 200 psi (5/8"), resulting in Robinson Floor Test (ASTM C627) ratings of Light Commercial for both the 1/4" and 1/2" sizes. Plus, GoBoard's outer facing (or skin) provides incredible tensile strength, bond strength, and rigidity.
- GoBoard is "waterproof" and other tile backer boards are "water resistant." What is the difference?**
 GoBoard's core is waterproof, passing ASTM D4068 testing and easily achieving an ASTM E96 perm rating of < 1.0. Water will not pass through the board as it will with cement boards, which require separate waterproofing over the entire board. Seal only the board joints and fastener locations for a waterproof tile assembly.*
- GoBoard is more expensive. Why should I use it?**
 Despite having a higher purchase price than other heavy tile backer boards, GoBoard has a lower installed material cost because the installer avoids much of the expense of waterproofing the entire board.* GoBoard saves time due to easy transportability, and it's easy to carry and maneuver into a fastening position. It can be cut right where it's installed with a basic utility knife without crumbling or disintegrating, helping the installer avoid time spent cleaning up the mess of cutting cement boards and other heavy boards.

Installation

- Can GoBoard be used in a wet area?**
 Yes! Because it is waterproof, GoBoard is an excellent tile backer board for wet areas.
- Can GoBoard be installed over concrete floors? Can it be installed over concrete walls?**
 Yes, the concrete floor must be clean and fully cured, and surface imperfections must be pre-filled with mortar before GoBoard installation. Laminate GoBoard to the concrete floor by fully embedding it in mortar. It is recommended to spread ribbons of sealant or adhesive approximately 6" apart or use a 1/4" x 1/4" notched trowel with thin-set mortar for concrete walls.
- Can GoBoard be installed in basements? Can it be used in exterior applications?**
 Yes. GoBoard can be installed in basements and exteriors. Visit www.JM.com/GoBoard to download the complete manufacturer's installation instructions.
- Is GoBoard easy to cut?**
 Yes. Just score and snap. To score, cut through the outer facing with a utility knife along your measured line. To snap, firmly grab the board and quickly apply downward pressure at the scored line. An alternative method would be to stand the board on edge and place your knee against the back of the board directly behind the scored line bending the board backward against your knee. For radius and interior cuts (a pipe, sink, drain cut-outs, etc.), cut completely through GoBoard with a utility knife and pop the cut-out piece with your fist, hammer, or another tool.
- Does GoBoard have a top or bottom?**
 Because the core is waterproof, either side of GoBoard can be installed face-up. However, we have provided marks every 8" on the printed side to serve as a guide to help with fastening.
- How is GoBoard fastened?**
 Use GoBoard Fasteners (1 1/4" long), GoBoard Washers (1 1/4" long washer with 1 5/8" fastener), board screws (1 1/4" long), galvanized roofing nails (1 1/2" long) or 16 gauge galvanized staples (1" x 1"), to fasten GoBoard. For walls and ceilings, fasten GoBoard to the studs with GoBoard Fasteners flush to the surface of the board at a maximum spacing of 8" or GoBoard Washers at a maximum spacing of 12" and within 1/2" - 1" of the perimeter edges. For wood floors and countertops, first laminate GoBoard with mortar to subfloor or countertop plywood base, fasten GoBoard with GoBoard fasteners flush to the surface of the board at a maximum spacing of 8" or GoBoard Washers at a maximum spacing 12" and within 1/2" - 1" of the perimeter edges (fastening is not required for concrete floors), and then embed fiber glass mesh tape in mortar at the joints.
- How is GoBoard bonded to floors? How are tiles bonded to GoBoard?**
 Use a dry set mortar compliant with ANSI A118.1 standard or polymer-modified thin-set mortar compliant with ANSI A118.4 standard. Bonding is required for both concrete and wood floors. Because you can use both modified and unmodified thin-sets on GoBoard, for adhering tile to the "top" (outward-facing side) of GoBoard, use what is recommended for tile material type used in your project. For example, you would use a modified thin-set when installing porcelain tile because porcelain is non-porous and smooth.
- Is GoBoard Wedge as easy to cut as GoBoard Tile Backer Board?**
 Because GoBoard Wedge is manufactured from the same innovative material as the original GoBoard Tile Backer Board, you can expect the same level of performance, including being easy to cut and handle.
- What is the recommended tile size for GoBoard Wedge?**
 Tile sizes larger than 2" in dimension are recommended, especially surrounding the drain placement.
- How can I reinforce the change of planes in a wet area?**
 Reinforcing the change of plane in a wet area can be accomplished by using GoBoard Seam Fabric. The use of seam fabric increases shear bond strength by 30% and increases joint strength by 50%. And best of all - it shortens the time to begin tiling.
- Should I tile the shower walls first or the shower pan?**
 It is recommended to tile the shower walls first, and this will help hide the tile angle cuts sometimes required near the shower pan for rectangular and offset drain situations.

Recommended Layouts

Visit www.JM.com/GoBoard to download the complete manufacturer's installation instructions. Discover the possibilities with even more recommended layouts.

Most shower pan areas can be accommodated using only 4 over-sized GoBoard Wedges.

No matter the layout, use the corners of the clamping collar as reference points to draw your 45° cut lines.

The GoBoard Wedge board seams will match in height, only if you cut them with 45° angles off the corners of the clamping collar.

Waterproofing

- **How do I seal GoBoard to ensure a waterproof installation?**
GoBoard itself is waterproof. To ensure a waterproof tile assembly, all fastener locations and joints (between boards, corners and other changes of plane) must be sealed completely with GoBoard Pro Sealant or a waterproof sealant (see www.JM.com/GoBoard for approved alternative sealants). Using a paint stick as a guide follow this preferred method: leave a 1/8" gap between boards when fastening to the studs. Fill all joints by squeezing GoBoard Pro Sealant into the 1/8" gaps, and spreading the excess sealant across the joint with a putty knife, at least 1" on either side of the joint. This method creates a waterproof seal. Alternatively, another method: liberally apply a bead of GoBoard Pro Sealant to the board edge, and then gently butt the boards together squeezing the sealant out, and then spread sealant across the board joints with a putty knife, at least 1" on either side of the joint.
- **Why do I have to seal the seams and fastener locations? How much sealant should I use? Can I use mortar and tape?**
When GoBoard is penetrated with fasteners, channels are created through which water can pass. Similarly, the joints between boards and all changes of plane also serve as channels. For walls, use a liberal amount of sealant between each board so that the excess squeezes out. Spread the excess caulk with a putty knife at least 1" on either side of the joint to form a waterproof seal. Alternatively (and for floors and countertops), fill the joints with mortar, embed fiber glass mesh tape and then seal the joints and fastener locations with two coats of liquid waterproofing membrane making sure to extend the liquid waterproofing membrane at least 1" beyond the mortar.
- **Is a vapor barrier required for wet area applications?**
GoBoard does not require a vapor barrier for wall applications unless required by local building codes or when installed in steam shower applications.

Health & Safety

- **Is GoBoard hazardous?**
GoBoard is non-hazardous. We recommend wearing gloves, safety glasses, long sleeve shirts and pants, and following good safety practices when installing GoBoard. Temporary mechanical abrasion of skin, eyes, and respiratory tract may occur upon exposure to fibers or dust during handling. The fibers are non-hazardous, and GoBoard contains no cement.
- **Is GoBoard flammable? Can it be used on a fireplace project?**
GoBoard passes ASTM E-84 testing per IBC requirements. GoBoard is polyisocyanurate foam and will not melt and flow. The maximum surface exposure temperature is 250° F.

Warranty

- **Does GoBoard have a warranty?**
Yes. Download the warranty certificate at www.JM.com/GoBoard.



Resources

- **Is GoBoard rigorously tested to meet or exceed standards?**
Yes. Visit www.JM.com/GoBoard to download product certificates.
- **Have other questions?**
Visit www.JM.com/GoBoard/... to contact us directly.

**Board joints and fastener locations require a waterproof sealant per GoBoard installation instructions.*



GoBoard®

JM Johns Manville
A Berkshire Hathaway Company



*Durable, Ultra-lightweight, Easy To Cut & Handle,
Waterproof Tile Backer Board & Shower Pan System*

FAQs