



*Durable, Lightweight,  
Waterproof Tile Backer Board*

## FAQs

### GoBoard® Basics

- **What is GoBoard?**

GoBoard is an ultra-lightweight yet durable, waterproof alternative to cement and other heavy tile backer boards and is manufactured by Johns Manville, a Berkshire Hathaway company.

- **Why do I have 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 for ¼" and ½" thicknesses and 4'x8' boards are available in ¼", ½", ⅝", 1", 1½", and 2" thicknesses. ¼" is for floors and countertops while ½" and ⅝" are for walls, showers, ceilings and floors. GoBoard ¼" and ½" are rated for use in residential and light commercial applications. ½" and ⅝" are available for use in transitions to higher profile adjacent floors and coverings. For floors, we recommend using ¼" GoBoard for residential and light commercial applications. 1", 1½", and 2" are for walls, benches, shelves, tub surrounds, vanities, and countertops.

- **How much does GoBoard weigh?**

3'x5' ¼" GoBoard weighs 6.0 pounds and ½" weighs 7.5 pounds, up to 80% lighter than cement and other heavy boards. 4'x8' ⅝" GoBoard weighs 18.56 pounds.

- **What materials are used to manufacture GoBoard? How can it be light and strong at the same time?**

GoBoard's exterior faces are comprised of proprietary coated fiber glass 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.

- **Will GoBoard break because it is so light? Is it strong enough for my tile installation?**

GoBoard's high density polyiso core leads to product compressive strengths of >250 psi (¼"), >200 psi (½"), and >200 psi (⅝"), resulting in Robinson Floor Test (ASTM C627) ratings of Light Commercial for both the ¼" and ½" sizes.

- **GoBoard is "waterproof" and other tile backer boards are "water resistant." What is the difference?**

GoBoard's core is waterproof, passing ASTM D4068 testing. Water will not pass through the board like 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 it being easy to transport, carry and maneuver into fastening position. It can be cut right where it's installed with a basic utility knife without crumbling or disintegrating. This also helps the installer avoid the mess of cutting cement and other heavy boards.

### Installation

- **Can GoBoard be used in wet areas?**

Yes! Because it is waterproof, GoBoard is an excellent tile backer board for wet areas.

- **Can GoBoard be installed over concrete floors?**

Yes, the concrete floor must be clean and fully cured, and surface imperfections must be pre-filled with mortar prior to GoBoard installation. Laminate GoBoard to a concrete floor by fully embedding it in mortar.



## Installation (cont.)

- **Can GoBoard be installed in basements?**

Yes. For linear cuts, first measure then score and snap. To score, cut through outer facing with a utility knife along your measured line. To snap, firmly grab the board edge 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 (pipe, sink, drain cutouts, etc.) cut completely through GoBoard with a utility knife and simply pop the cut-out piece with your fist, hammer or other tool.

- **How do you cut GoBoard?**

For linear cuts, lightly score GoBoard on one side with a basic utility knife, then quickly snap to desired size. For radius and interior cuts (pipe, sink, drain cutouts, etc.), cut through GoBoard with a utility knife and then pop the cut-out piece out with your fist, hammer, etc.

- **Does GoBoard have a top or bottom?**

Because the core is waterproof, either side 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 (1¼" long), GoBoard® Washers (1¼" long washer with 1½" long fastener), board screws (1¼" long), galvanized roofing nails (1½" long) or 16 gage 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 12" and within ½" - 1" of the perimeter edges. For wood floors and countertops, first laminate GoBoard with mortar (see below) 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 ½" - 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?**

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).

## Waterproof

- **How do I seal to ensure a waterproof installation?**

GoBoard itself is waterproof. To ensure a waterproof tile assembly, all fastener locations and joints (between boards, at corners and for other changes of plane) must be sealed completely with GoBoard® Sealant or a waterproof sealant (see [www.jm.com/goboard](http://www.jm.com/goboard) for approved alternative sealants). To ensure good mortar adherence and a durable installation, use a polyurethane (not silicone) caulk. For faster and easier sealing of wall joints, liberally apply a continuous bead of sealant (caulk) to the board edge, gently butt boards together squeezing the caulk out leaving a ⅛" gap, finally spreading the excess caulk across the joint with a putty knife at least 1" on either side of the joint to form a waterproof seal. Alternatively (and for floors and countertops), leave a ⅛" gap between boards, fill all joint gaps with mortar, place 2" fiber glass mesh tape on the joints and embed with mortar (ensuring tape is fully covered), then seal all joints and fastener locations with two coats of liquid waterproofing membrane.

- **Why do I have to seal the seams and fastener locations? How much sealant should I use?**

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 caulk 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 proofing membrane at least 1" beyond mortar.

- **Is a vapor barrier required for wet area wall 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 and 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 (itching) of skin, eyes and respiratory tract may occur upon exposure to fibers or dust during handling. GoBoard contains no cement.

- **Is GoBoard flammable? Does it have a fire rating?**

GoBoard passes ASTM E-84 testing per IBC requirements. If a 1-hour fire rating is required, GoBoard should be installed over materials that provide this rating.



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