JetBacker – Installation Guide

CUTTING JetBacker™ SHEETS

- Use a straight edge as a guide to score the sheet's face with a carbide-tipped scoring knife or utility knife and snap upward along the score line. The use of shears (manual, electric or pneumatic) is also acceptable.

- For cutouts and small holes, score around perimeter and break out from the face side with hammer.

COUNTERTOP INSTALLATION

Note: For countertop applications, consider 1/4" JetBacker board.

1. **Ensure cabinets are level and secure**

   - Use minimum 1/2" exterior grade plywood or equivalent, positioned across the wood cabinet. Space between plywood supports is not to exceed 16" on center.

2. **Determine layout of JetBacker cement board**

   - Do not align JetBacker cement board with plywood joints.
   - Score and snap sheets to required sizes and make necessary cutouts.
   - We recommend an 1/8" gap from sheet edges.

3. **Attach JetBacker cement board to countertop**

   - Apply a supporting bed of dry-set mortar or modified thinset to plywood with a 1/4" square-notched trowel. Mastic can also be used with a 5/32" V-notched trowel.
   - Use the fastener pattern as a guide. Fasten JetBacker cement board with specified nails or screws every 8" over the entire surface. Keep fasteners 3/8" from sheet edges and 2" in from sheet corners.

4. **Tape joints prior to tiling**

   - Prior to setting the tile, fill all joints with the same mortar used to set the tiles.
   - Embed 2" wide high-strength alkali-resistant glass tape in the mortar and level.

FLOOR INSTALLATION

Note: For floor applications, consider 1/4" JetBacker™ board unless 1/2" is needed for transition.

1. **Ensure subfloor is structurally sound**

   On existing structures:

   - Ensure subfloor is not damaged. Replace any loose, warped, uneven or damaged sections of floor.
   - Make certain subfloor is a clean and flat surface.

   For all Floors:

   - Use minimum 5/8" exterior grade plywood or 23/32" exterior grade OSB, complying with local building codes and ANSI A108.11. Joists' spacing not to exceed a maximum of 19.2" on center.
   - The floor must be engineered not to exceed the L/360 deflection criteria, including live and dead design loads, for the specific joist spacing used.

2. **Determine layout of JetBacker cement board**

   On existing structures:

   - Stagger all JetBacker cement board joints. Do not align with subfloor joints.
   - Never allow all four corners of sheets to meet at one point.
   - We recommend an 1/8" gap between sheet edges.
   - Keep sheet edges 1/8" back between walls and cabinet bases.
   - Score and snap sheets to required sizes and make necessary cutouts.

3. **Attach JetBacker cement board to subfloor**

   - Apply a supporting bed of mortar or modified thinset to subfloor using a 1/4" square-notched trowel.
   - Embed JetBacker cement board firmly and evenly in the wet mortar.
   - Use the fastener pattern as a guide. Fasten JetBacker cement board with specified nails or screws every 8" over the entire surface. Keep fasteners 3/8" from sheet edges and 2" in from sheet corners.
   - Set fastener heads flush with the surface without overdriving.

4. **Tape joints prior to tiling**

   - Prior to setting the tile, fill all joints with the same mortar used to set the tiles.
   - Embed 2" wide high-strength alkali-resistant glass tape in the mortar and level.

WALL INSTALLATION
Note: For wall applications, consider nominal 1/2" JetBacker™ board.

1. **Ensure framing is structurally sound**

   - Must comply with local building codes and ANSI A108.11.
   - Use a minimum of 2" x 4" wood studs or 20-gauge metal studs, which must be straight, properly aligned and spaced a maximum of 16" on center.
   - In tub and shower enclosures, ensure that the framing is adequately reinforced at the corners.

2. **Determine layout of JetBacker cement board**

   - Sheets may be installed vertically or horizontally.
   - JetBacker can be installed with either the smooth or rough side of the backerboard toward the tile.
   - Edges of the board parallel to framing must be supported by a structural framing member.
   - Score and snap sheets to required sizes and make necessary cutouts

3. **Attach JetBacker cement board to framing**

   - If required by local building codes, install a moisture barrier between studs and cement board.
   - Install sheets 1/4" above floor, tub or shower pan.
   - Fasten cement board with specified nails or screws a maximum of 8" around perimeter and all supporting studs.
   - Keep fasteners 3/8" from sheet edges and 2" in from sheet corners.
   - Set fastener heads flush with the surface, without overdriving.

4. **Tape joints prior to tiling**

   - Fill all joints with mortar.
   - Embed 2" wide high-strength alkali-resistant glass tape in the mortar and level.

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