

Schlüter®-KERDI-DRAIN

Marks a New Era in Shower Stall Assembly

By Larry Horton



▲ The introduction of the KERDI-DRAIN by Schlüter®-Systems highlights common sense modifications that combine superior functionality with time and labor-saving installation methods.

The standard North American two-stage shower drain has served its purpose well. However, with the evolution of new building materials and methods, this drain system has seen its time pass. The introduction of the KERDI-DRAIN by Schlüter®-Systems highlights commonsense modifications that combine superior functionality with time and labor-saving installation methods.

Let's take a look at the current "standard" ceramic tile shower stall assembly. When a tile contractor walks on a new construction project for the purpose of installing a traditional ceramic tile shower floor, he is likely to face some considerable prep time. This often includes cutting back existing sheet rock, which has been run to the floor, and installing solid "blocking" between the studs. Before the membrane can be installed, the floor must be "pre-sloped" (1/4" per foot) to the weep holes of the sub-drain assembly. After the pre-slope is cured, the contractor can install the pan liner. Once the pan liner has been installed, he must check that the shower pan has not been damaged or that nails or screws have not been driven through, as is sometimes the case. The

next step is to float a primary mortar bed on top of the liner, making sure to first surround the weep holes of the sub-drain with crushed tile or stone. [Note: Smart contractors will install a drainage mat on top of the pan liner before floating the primary mortar bed so that water can freely run off the pan liner and into the weep holes. Using a drainage mat eliminates the need for placing crushed tile or

A saturated mortar bed leads to the harboring of fungus and bacteria, and, eventually, deterioration of the mortar bed itself.

stone around the weep holes.] The contractor will then lay the tile, making difficult cuts around a round drain grate.

Although this system will perform when installed correctly, it has some obvious drawbacks. For one, it is extremely labor intensive. The multiple steps involved result in labor *days* instead of what could

be labor *hours*. Additionally, when water migrates through the grout joints of the tile floor and into the mortar bed, saturation of the mortar bed can occur, especially if no drainage mat is used. A saturated mortar bed leads to the harboring of fungus and bacteria, and, eventually, deterioration of the mortar bed itself. The commonsense question here is, "Why allow saturation of the mortar bed in the first place?"

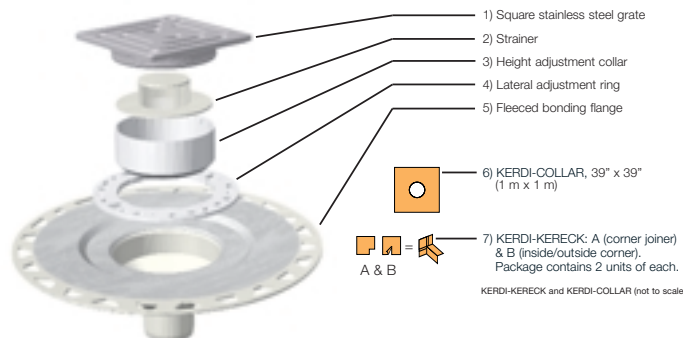
The inception of load-bearing, bondable waterproof membranes for thin-set ceramic tile and dimensional stone installations allowed installers to place the waterproofing on top of the mortar bed instead of below it. However, a new drain system was needed to accommodate such a membrane. This drain system would have to allow a secure, watertight connection between the bonded waterproof membrane and the top of the drain assembly rather than below it. Schlüter®-KERDI-DRAIN does just that. KERDI-DRAIN has an integrated bonding flange that successfully allows a watertight connection to bondable membranes at the surface of the drain assembly. Now, by achieving a 100% watertight connection to the drain on the surface, no sub-drain assembly is needed. The two-step mortar pan (pre-slope and primary) now becomes a single-step system, because no pre-slope to the sub-drain is required. Nearly all of the prep work required with the old system is eliminated since there is no water penetration or saturation of the mortar bed. Consequently, what used to take days now takes hours, with superior results. This innovation in floor drain technology will be reflected in the 2001 TCA Handbook, method B421-01. This new detail will greatly simplify shower stall construction and, no doubt, will be a step forward for our industry in helping to eliminate failures.

Schlüter®-Systems packages KERDI-DRAIN with all the necessary accessories.

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Schlüter®-KERDI-DRAIN



Schlüter®-KERDI-DRAIN continued...

The grate is high-grade stainless steel and is 4 inches square to better accommodate grout joint and tile patterns. Below the grate is a debris strainer that can be easily removed and cleaned. A height adjustment collar that adjusts to accommodate tile thicknesses of 1/4" to 1-1/4" holds the grate in place. A lateral adjustment ring, which accommo-

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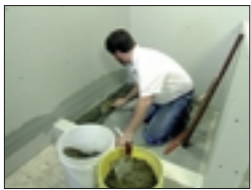
dates grout joint and tile patterns, holds these components in place. The fleeced bonding flange facilitates bonding to the adjoining membrane on the mortar bed surface. The package also includes a Schlüter®-KERDI-COLLAR (39" x 39", with a pre-

cut hole for ease of installation) and KERDI-KERECK inside and outside corner joiners for addressing the shower curb connections. This package, in conjunction with Schlüter®-KERDI membrane (ANSI 118.10) and dry-set mortar, is all that is needed for a completely waterproof shower installation.

For more information or to ensure successful installation of the revolutionary Schlüter®-KERDI-DRAIN, an informative installation video is available in both VHS and CD formats. Contact your Customer Service Representative to order. The video can also be viewed on our website at <http://www.schluter.com/english/products/h8.2-kerdi-drain.htm>.



Schlüter®-KERDI-DRAIN, Simple Shower Installation, Reliable Waterproofing



1. Place a mortar screed around the base of the shower.



6. The walls are permanently protected from moisture penetration, simply and effectively, using Schlüter®-KERDI.



2. Place a ring of loose mortar around the inlet hole in the floor and firmly press the drain into the mortar. Fill the remainder of the shower base with mortar.



7. Seal the shower dam using Schlüter®-KERDI-KERECK corners.



3. Slope the mortar bed using the bonding flange and the perimeter screed as a screeding guide.



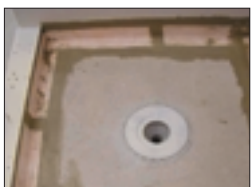
8. The height adjustment collar accommodates tile 1/4" (6 mm) to 1-1/4" (32 mm) thick.



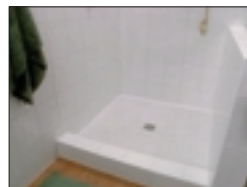
4. As soon as the mortar bed can be walked upon, waterproofing with Schlüter®-KERDI matting can begin.



9. The lateral adjustment ring and square grate simplify tile layout, reducing the amount of cutting around the grate.



5. Construct floor/wall connections using Schlüter®-KERDI-BAND or cut sections of Schlüter®-KERDI. Seams are easily constructed by overlapping the edges of Schlüter®-KERDI or Schlüter®-KERDI-BAND by 2" (50 mm) using an acrylic/latex dry-set mortar.



10. The final result: A fully waterproof shower installation that is both beautiful and maintenance-free.

NEW PRODUCTS

Improved Schlüter®-DITRA continued ...

Q. What is the advantage of the new fleece backing?

A. The anchoring fleece on the underside of the matting locks the DITRA securely to the substrate, while keeping the thinset from blocking the interconnected air channels.

Q. Can you walk on the Schlüter®-DITRA after it is installed?

A. You can walk on and set tile on Schlüter®-DITRA directly after it is installed; there is no wait time. The configured portion of Schlüter®-DITRA is positioned above the anchoring fleece that is in contact with the thinset. Given this design, any loads placed on the membrane while installing tile are distributed over a relatively large area. This greatly reduces the possibility of breaking the bond between the fleece and the thinset.

2001 Price List / Catalog Available with New Format

The new Illustrated Price List / Catalog, available as of March 2001, presents the entire Schlüter®-Systems product line in a fresh, easy-to-use format. Product codes and descriptions, detailed photographs and graphic illustrations, website locations, and suggested retail prices have all been brought together to provide you with a powerful referencing tool. To receive your copy, contact your customer service representative.



Premier Schlüter®-Systems course at the CTEF a Success!

The first Schlüter®-Systems course, held on August 9-11, 2001, was a great success. A diverse group of students, including contractors, distributors, and dealers, experienced a comprehensive overview of Schlüter®-Systems' products and installation methods. The classroom combined both academic and hands-on instruction to cover the principle of uncoupling with DITRA, waterproofing with KERDI, and the revolutionary Schlüter®-KERDI-DRAIN.

"I am very happy with the outcome of this class," said Peter Nielsen, Technical Director for Schlüter®-Systems. "The students were enthusiastic, and their feedback was very positive. I'm looking forward to the next one."



For information about future educational opportunities, contact your Schlüter®-Systems representative.

EDUCATION

Schlüter®-Systems Promotes Education

As the industry's source of innovative solutions for ceramic tile and natural stone installations, Schlüter®-Systems strongly advocates education and training in industry-approved ceramic tile and natural stone installation methods. In an effort to realize this objective, a number of educational opportunities have been implemented. Schlüter®-Systems is pleased to provide support for the Ceramic Tile Education Foundation by distributing a limited number of tuition



Vouchers valid toward the CTEF's 40-hour course, *Understanding and Installing Ceramic Tile*. The 40-hour course is an entry-level overview of installation materials and methods for floor and wall tile, and is ideal for anyone who is seeking a working knowledge of tile work. In addition, Schlüter®-Systems is sponsoring a series of 2-day courses at the CTEF's training center in Clemson, SC. These

courses will highlight installation of the innovative KERDI-DRAIN, as well as educate installers about the concept of uncoupling. Specified in the 2001 Handbook for Ceramic Tile Installation, uncoupling systems ensure the success of tile installations by allowing the substrate and the tile to move independently.



Schlüter®-Systems is also dedicated to providing quality educational opportunities for professionals such as Architects and Designers seeking to meet AIA requirements by obtaining knowledge about installation methods and materials relevant to the Tile and Stone Industry.

We offer a complete program to help our customers determine which products will meet their installation needs. In addition to providing competent and qualified technical support both in-house and in the field, we also offer a variety of nationwide seminars and training sessions. Attendees will earn 1.5 Learning Unit Hours (LU's) toward their annual AIA membership requirement. All programs are Health, Safety, and Welfare certified (HSW).

The entire industry stands to benefit from the successful tile and natural stone installations that will result as an increasing number of individuals and companies take advantage of these quality educational opportunities. For more information on Schlüter®-Systems' course offerings, call us at: 1-800-472-4588.

Always striving to improve.

Schluter Systems LP Receives Award



Schluter Systems LP was honored with the Small Business Excellence Award at a ceremony celebrating local outstanding businesses on May 21, 2001.

"The job growth we have been experiencing in Upstate New York and across the country is largely due to the innovations of small businesses like Schlüter®-Systems," said Bernard J. Paprocki, District Director for the Small Business Administration in Syracuse.

Today, the North American subsidiary is the second-largest operation in the International corporation, the first being the home company in Germany. An original staff of 4 people in 1989 has increased to over 50 employees as of July 2001. To accommodate this growth, an additional building is in the works. A three-story administrative building, duplicating the style of Schlüter®-Systems' main office in Germany, is expected to be completed by the spring of 2002.

According to Reinhard Plank, President, Schlüter®-Systems follows the business concept of the future: "We are a small-to-medium-sized company that produces very specialized products and is able to distribute worldwide."

The ceremony was held in Albany, New York. Ed Martin, Controller for Schluter Systems LP, accepted the award. Nineteen local businesses received excellence awards in recognition of the impact they've had on the local economy and quality of life in their communities.



Please fill out, cut along dotted line, and fax to:
In the US, 1-800-477-9783
In Canada, 1-514-336-2410

For further information on the items below, please circle the corresponding number.

- 1. Schlüter®-KERDI-DRAIN
- 2. Schlüter®-RONDEC-STEP
- 3. Integrated Joint Spacer
- 4. Improved Schlüter®-DITRA
- 5. 2001 Price List
- 6. AIA Program

Other (specify): _____

- Please send me more information
- Please have a representative call me
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Name _____ Title _____

Company Name _____

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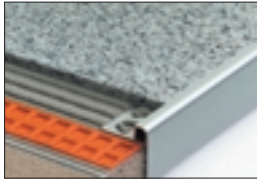
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NEW PRODUCTS

Schlüter®-RONDEC-STEP

Schlüter®-Systems has introduced the newest addition to its successful RONDEC profile series. Schlüter®-RONDEC-STEP is a versatile finishing and edge-protecting profile, particularly suited for stairs and countertops.

On stairs, Schlüter®-RONDEC-STEP acts as a stair nosing, hiding and protecting the exposed edge of the stair tread. The curved surface



▲ Schlüter®-RONDEC-STEP

of the profile provides a smooth finish along the tiled edge. On countertops, Schlüter®-RONDEC-STEP eliminates the need for special trim such as V-cap. The vertical wall of the profile extends 1-3/4" below the tile to cover and hide the tile assembly.

Schlüter®-RONDEC-STEP is available in gold-anodized and clear-satin-anodized aluminum.

Integrated Joint Spacer

Better function, appearance, and ease of installation

Protecting and finishing your tile installation is even easier than before. Introducing the Integrated Joint Spacer, the enhanced design of the New Generation of Schlüter®-Systems profiles.



A successful installation will incorporate a grout joint between the profile and the tile. This grout joint ensures the integrity of the installation in several ways. The Integrated Joint Spacer creates a space that meets the minimum requirement for grout to remain solid (in spaces smaller than 1/8" the grout will eventually turn to powder). Tiles are consistently aligned at an equal distance from the profile, creating a pre-defined joint cavity that can be filled with grout in one step. The integrated joint spacer eliminates the need for the installer to utilize plastic grout spacers or similar items to create this gap, which often results in an inconsistent grout joint. The finished result is an aesthetically pleasing straight edge. More importantly, if the metal and the tile are in direct contact, impact forces to the profile will transfer directly to the tile, increasing the chances of damaging the tile. The spacer also cleanly divides the grout chamber from the thin-set mortar below, preventing the thinset from filling the grout cavity.



▲ Schlüter®-SCHIENE

Gradually, all of the Schlüter®-Systems profiles will be equipped with the new feature. The new design can currently be found in many of the popular Schlüter®-Systems profiles, including the SCHIENE, JOLLY, RONDEC, RENO-V, RENO-U, DILEX-BWB, DILEX-BT, and DILEX-BWS lines.

Schlüter®-DITRA
The Universal Underlayment for Tile and Stone

Improvement through new grid structure

- Allows stress relief in both directions
- Interconnected air channels provide vapor pressure equalization
- Requires less adhesive for quick installation
- Thinner matting, 1/8" (3 mm) thick, makes transitioning to other surfaces simple
- 43 lbs. (19.5 kg) per 323 1/2' (100 m) roll
- Requires no special tools or fasteners
- Installs in a fraction of the time it takes to install any other underlayment

Schlüter®-DITRA is the lightweight alternative to plywood or backerboard.

"It's awesome... Schlüter® has done it again! They took a great product and made it even better. The new DITRA is faster and easier to install, and you can snap lines in both directions. I like the added benefits. Installing DITRA beats installing backerboard. It's lighter, cleaner, and easier to handle, so it takes a lot less out of you physically!"

JOHN MULLET, Mullet Tile Co., Lockport, New York, USA

Schlüter®-DITRA will forever change the way you lay tile.

PROFILE OF INNOVATION

▲ Current advertising in popular trade magazines.

uncoupling membrane allows the tiled surface to move independently from the substrate. This revolutionary system allows stresses and movement in the substrate, caused by changes in temperature and moisture, to occur without transferring those stresses to the tile covering.

Improved Schlüter®-DITRA

Schlüter®-Systems has introduced the new Schlüter®-DITRA, a pressure-stable polyethylene membrane with a grid structure of square, cut-back cavities and an anchoring fleece laminated to its underside.

The improved design has met with rave reviews. Al Schritter, from Quality Tile Service, enthusiastically remarked,

"I just wanted to call to tell you how much I appreciate the new DITRA. It saves me so much time. I love the fact that I use less thinset, and I love that it is helping me to make more money!"

Schritter, who has been installing tile for 27 years, acquires Schlüter®-DITRA at Inland Northwest Distributing in Kennewick, WA.

Schlüter®-DITRA's new grid structure enhances the uncoupling, waterproofing, and vapor-pressure-equalization functions of the matting. The square, cut-back cavities allow stresses to be neutralized evenly in all directions while the upper ridges of the matting allow a reliable connection at all seams. In addition, the cavities are thinner, only 2.5 mm (1/8") deep, so that very little adhesive is required. The interconnected air channels on the underside of the matting allow vapor pressure equalization in installations over moist substrates. DITRA's new fleece backing anchors the matting to the substrate by providing a mechanical bond with the thin-set mortar. The fleece also prevents the mortar from filling the air channels on the underside of the matting. Consequently, installation is accomplished using a very thin layer of adhesive.

Schlüter®-DITRA is ideal for green concrete, gypsum-based screeds, plywood and OSB, and other problematic substrates. Schlüter®-DITRA is the universal underlayment for tile and stone.

The following Frequently Asked Questions address the advantages of the improved DITRA design:

Q. Schlüter®-DITRA is described as being an uncoupling membrane. What does "uncoupling" mean?

A. Uncoupling, in a sense, means disconnecting. An uncoupling membrane allows the tiled surface to move independently from the substrate. This revolutionary system allows stresses and movement in the substrate, caused by changes in temperature and moisture, to occur without transferring those stresses to the tile covering.

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