



How to Install GoBoard: A Step-by-Step Guide

Durable, Ultra-Lightweight, Waterproof Tile Backer Board



Introducing GoBoard

Every tiling project requires a durable, waterproof surface under the tile, called a tile backer board.

GoBoard from Johns Manville is a new tile backer board that's:



Ultra-lightweight: Up to 80% lighter than cement boards yet engineered for durability



Easy to cut, handle & install: Simply attach with backer board screws or roofing nails



Waterproof built-in: Save time and money because you only need to seal the board edges and the fastener locations for a waterproof tile assembly*

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

GoBoard Applications & Sizes

GoBoard is available in three thicknesses:

- 1/4" for floors & countertops
- 1/2" for walls, showers, ceilings & floors
- 5/8" for walls, showers & ceilings

You can use GoBoard for any tiling project:

- Bathroom
- Basement
- Laundry
- Commercial buildings
- Kitchen



NOTE: A "fastener location" is any place where a nail or screw goes into the product

NOTE: We recommend using 1/4" GoBoard for residential floors and light commercial applications

Getting Started: Products

Step-by-step instructions are on the following pages, but first, here's everything you'll need to complete your project, in addition to GoBoard, by application type:

1/4" GOBOARD TO INSTALL ON WOOD FLOORS, CONCRETE FLOORS & COUNTERTOPS:

- 1 Dry set mortar or polymer modified thinset mortar to bond GoBoard
- 2 Galvanized roofing nails (1½" long) or backer board screws (1¼" long) to fasten GoBoard (skip if fastening to concrete floors)
- 3 Fiber glass mesh tape embedded in mortar to seal all joints and fastener locations
- 4 Two coats of liquid waterproofing membrane to seal all joints and fastener locations*

1/2" GOBOARD TO INSTALL ON WALLS, STEAM SHOWERS, CEILINGS & FLOORS:

- 1 To seal all joints and fastener locations:
 - a. Polyurethane sealant/caulk
 - OR
 - b. Fiber glass mesh tape embedded in dry set mortar or polymer modified thinset mortar**
- 2 Galvanized roofing nails (1½" long) or backer board screws (1¼" long) to fasten GoBoard
- 3 Two coats of liquid waterproofing membrane to seal all joints and fastener locations*

Make sure you have all the right tools (pictured to the right):

- Utility knife
- Pencil or pen for marking
- Straight edge (like a ruler or t-square)
- Measuring tape
- Putty knife
- ¼" square notched trowel
- Caulk gun
- 1"-3" paint brush (for liquid sealant)
- Appropriate roofing nail or backer board screw fastening device (nail gun on a lower pressure setting or drill)

*You must waterproof steam shower applications with two coats of liquid waterproofing membrane, or use a separate vapor barrier. It is optional, but recommended, to add waterproofing membrane to all additional installations for a full waterproof installation. If you use polyurethane sealant/caulk, that is already considered a waterproof seal, and you don't have to add the additional waterproofing membrane.

**If you use mesh tape and mortar, you don't have to also use polyurethane sealant except between GoBoard and your shower pan or bathtub, if applicable for your installation.

Getting Started: Prep Steps

Prior to installation, make sure your space is fully prepped:

- Remove fixtures in bathroom and shower like faucets and towel racks
- Remove any nearby electrical outlets, trim, old tile and setting materials down to wall studs and subfloor
- Address signs of mold on the studs and subfloor and make repairs as needed
- Ensure subfloor is in good condition with no squeaks or loose boards
- Replace any subfloor sections and install additional fasteners as needed
- Shim or replace any bowed studs to make sure you have a flat wall
- Add additional studs if they are spaced more than 16" on center
- Follow shower pan instructions for drain location and wall preparation for shower pan
- Reroute plumbing and electrical if you're changing the layout of the bathroom
- Mask doorway and studs
- Turn off the power to the room being tiled



NOTE: Use backer board screws if fastening GoBoard to steel

NOTE: Shorter screws can be used if fastening GoBoard to thinner countertops

NOTE: Please ask a professional if you have any questions about how to safely prep your space!

How to Measure & Cut GoBoard

Measure for the first board placement, and with your pen or pencil, mark where you need to cut it to fit. For big tiling areas, you will have pieces of GoBoard that you won't need to cut.

For every piece of GoBoard you need to cut, simply:

- 1 Lay it on any flat and durable surface, and draw your cut line using a straight edge (like a ruler) to ensure a straight cut
- 2 To score, cut through outer facing with a utility knife along your measured line
- 3 To snap, bend the board at the edge of the surface, and quickly apply downward pressure at the scored line, snapping GoBoard along the cut line

Alternate method:

- After scoring with your utility knife, stand the board on edge
- Place your knee against the back of the board, directly behind the scored line
- Bend the board backward against your knee

For circular cuts:

- Use this method for GoBoard going around pipe holes, drain cutouts or around the sink
- Use a ruler to measure a circle:
 - Draw a dot in the middle of the circle to be cut
 - Mark additional dots the same distance around to form the area that you need to cut
- Cut GoBoard completely through with a utility knife
- Pop the cut piece out with your fist, hammer or other tool



How to Attach GoBoard to Walls & Ceilings

- 1 After you place each board to see that it fits snugly, mark the stud location on GoBoard so you know where to attach it
- 2 Liberally apply a continuous layer of polyurethane sealant on the bottom edge, making sure that it squeezes out when you position, set, or butt the boards next to each other to ensure the seal is waterproof
- 3 Fasten the first piece of GoBoard to the stud using the backer board screws or roofing nails
- 4 Make sure your nails or screws are flush with the surface of the GoBoard, hammering the nails down if necessary
- 5 Nails or screws need to be a maximum of 6 inches apart and within ½" to 1" of the edge

Continue attaching GoBoard pieces until the entire space is covered.

ALTERNATE METHOD:

- Leave about ¼" gap between each board
- Fill the joint gaps with mortar (see instructions for mixing mortar on page 7)
- Place fiber glass mesh tap on the joint and embed with mortar, ensuring it is fully covered

How to Attach GoBoard to Steam Showers

Follow the instructions for installing GoBoard to walls and ceilings when installing a steam shower. However, a separate vapor barrier must also be installed.

INSTALL A VAPOR BARRIER (pick one):

- Install a manufacturer-approved vapor barrier directly to the wall studs and ceiling framing behind GoBoard (per the manufacturer's instructions)
- Install a manufacturer-approved vapor barrier or waterproof membrane over the external surface of GoBoard (per the manufacturer's instructions)



NOTE: Be sure to leave ¼" space between each board, floor or wall joint for the sealant or mortar to fill the gap to create a seamless structure

NOTE: A steam shower is different from a regular shower because it's essentially a spa-like steam room that also offers typical shower features

NOTE: If you choose to use mesh tape and mortar, you do not need to also use polyurethane sealant unless you are installing GoBoard above a bathtub or shower

How to Seal & Waterproof GoBoard to Walls & Ceilings

Remember, GoBoard is inherently waterproof, but any edge, joint, change of plane, and fastener location must be sealed to protect the whole system against water damage and mold.

- 1 Apply sealant on every nail or screw hole
- 2 Use a putty knife to spread the sealant

Check every edge, joint, change of plane and fastener location to ensure complete coverage and no pinholes. The slightest pinhole may result in a leak, so careful attention is required when sealing joints.

Additional, Optional Waterproofing

It is recommended, but not required, to use a liquid waterproofing for wall applications if you use mesh tape and mortar instead of polyurethane sealant. If a waterproof installation is required:

- Seal all joints and fastener locations with two coats of liquid waterproofing membrane
- Extend the membrane at least 1" beyond the mortar
- Allow to completely dry



NOTE: Sealant must extend onto GoBoard surface at least 1" beyond the joint on either side

NOTE: Make sure each fastener location is completely covered with at least a 2½" diameter patch of sealant, centered over the fastener

How to Attach GoBoard to Floors & Countertops

Before you attach GoBoard to floors, you need to apply thin-set mortar directly on a clean, dry and flat subfloor or countertop plywood base.

- 1 Mix mortar until it's the consistency of peanut butter
- 2 Take a notched trowel to apply and comb the mortar
- 3 Only apply enough mortar at a time for one piece of GoBoard so it doesn't set up (harden) before you get the board down
- 4 Press your piece of cut GoBoard into the mortar
- 5 Fasten using either backer board screws or roofing nails
- 6 Apply mortar to all joints, edges and fastener locations, wiping flush against the board
- 7 Embed fiber glass mesh tape along the joints and edges, then allow to completely dry

How to Waterproof GoBoard on the Floors & Countertops

It is recommended, but not required, to use a liquid waterproofing for floor and countertop applications. If a waterproof installation is required:

- Seal all joints and fastener locations with two coats of liquid waterproofing membrane
- Extend the membrane at least 1" beyond the mortar
- Allow to completely dry



NOTE: Be sure to follow the manufacturer's instructions when mixing and applying the mortar

NOTE: Stagger all board joints to make sure they do not line up with the subfloor joints

NOTE: Skip the fastening step if you are applying tile to concrete floors

Product Checklist

Here's everything you'll need to complete your project, in addition to GoBoard and your selected tile:

TO ATTACH (pick one):

- 🔧 Galvanized roofing nails (1½" long)
- 🔧 Backer board screws (1¼" long) to fasten GoBoard to wood

TO BOND TO FLOORS & COUNTERTOPS:

- 🔧 Dry set mortar or polymer modified thinset mortar

TO SEAL WALLS, CEILINGS & SHOWERS (pick one):

- 🔧 Polyurethane sealant/caulk
- 🔧 Fiber glass mesh tape with mortar

TO SEAL FLOORS & COUNTERTOPS:

- 🔧 Fiber glass mesh tape with mortar

TO WATERPROOF (optional):

- 🔧 Liquid waterproofing membrane

Tool Checklist

- 🔧 Appropriate roofing nail or backer board screw fastening device (nail gun on a lower pressure setting or drill)
- 🔧 Utility knife
- 🔧 Pencil or pen for marking
- 🔧 Straight edge (like a ruler or t-square)
- 🔧 Measuring tape
- 🔧 Putty knife
- 🔧 ¼" square notched trowel
- 🔧 Caulk gun
- 🔧 1"-3" paint brush (for liquid sealant)



For more detailed installation instructions, technical information and how-to videos, please visit www.JM.com/GoBoard