DIYmodify Factsheet

Slip Resistance

All new ramps and stairs in new and existing homes must be slip resistant, as set out in the Building Code of Australia (BCA). However, the BCA does not have requirements for slip resistance for bathroom floors in general housing. It is suggested that the minimum level of slip resistance that is given in this factsheet be used for your bathroom floor to help avoid slipping.

New multi-dwelling buildings must also have a slip resistant path to the entry of some apartments, and to, and within, common areas of the building. These include parking garages and any gardens, pool, or shared laundry.

The path to the entry of the home and interior floors within new specialised housing for older people and people with disability are also required to have slip resistant floor surfaces. This further lowers the risk of slipping for people who are at most danger of falling and being badly injured. However, for all other housing, there are no BCA requirements for slip resistant floor surfaces inside or outside the home, other than on new stairs and ramps. It is up to the owners and residents to have floors that will help them to avoid slips and falls.

MEASURING SLIP RESISTANCE

There are a variety of different ways to measure ‘slip resistance’.

If you are interested, more information on ‘slip resistance’ can be found on the HMinfo website.

Go to: http://www.homemods.info and in the Search box, type in ‘slip resistance’.

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DOORWAY RAMPS

A doorway ramp, also called a ‘threshold ramp’, in the BCA will have a maximum slope of 1:8. When ramps are wet, they can become more slippery than when they are dry. It is best to have an external doorway ramp under cover to prevent it becoming wet. If a doorway ramp can get wet, it should have a minimum slip resistance value of P5 or R12.

Ramp materials such as tiles, pavers and composite timber decking, can be bought with a slip resistance classification, so you can check if it will be suitable for your ramp.

If there is no slip resistance classification, you could ask the people who make your preferred material what its slip resistance ratings are, when both wet and dry. If you get the answers and you don’t know what they mean, make sure you ask someone else, such as your health professional, a hardware person or a building professional, to explain it to you.

If you can’t find out what a material’s slip resistance is, you could choose not to use it for your ramp or ask a hardware person for advice

Remember you need to know how slippery the material is when it is dry as well as when it is wet.

Remember too that over time, dirt, dust and soap can build up on your ramp and this will make it more slippery. You will need to clean your ramp by sweeping and washing it regularly.

BATHROOM FLOORS

The slip resistance of bathroom floors in general housing is not regulated by the BCA. However, it is recommended that a best practice approach is taken when putting in any new floor and this would include selecting a bathroom floor finish that isn't too slippery!

It is suggested that you use the following slip resistance values, as a minimum, for your bathroom.

	Surface conditions	
Application	**Wet pendulum test**	**Barefoot Wet Inclining Platform Test**
Bathroom Floors	P3	B

Check what the slip resistance value of the selected flooring product is. If you can't find out what the slip resistance value is, and you are worried, it is better to select an alternative flooring product with the value you want.

***This information was correct at time of printing.*