



# **SHOWER KITS INSTALLATION MANUAL**

[CURAVA.COM](http://CURAVA.COM)

# HOW TO HANDLE CURAVA PANELS



When handling Curava panels it is very important to **NEVER** carry them flat.



**ALWAYS** carry Curava panels vertically as shown in picture above.



When storing Curava panels, make sure they are leaning against a wall and resting on a soft surface so as not to chip the edge that is resting on the floor.

## IMPORTANT NOTES

- Be very careful with the four corners of each panel. These are the most fragile parts of the panel. Make sure they do not hit any objects, walls or floors while you are transporting them.
- Always wear protective equipment (gloves, work glasses, etc.)

# HOW TO UNPACK CURAVA PANELS



**1** Cut nylon strapping.



**2** Remove wood horizontal top boards.



**3** Remove top cardboard honeycomb panel.



**4** Lift each Curava panel by grabbing it from one long side and pivoting it vertically before removing from the crate.



**5** ALWAYS carry Curava panels vertically as shown in picture.



**6** When storing Curava panels, make sure they are leaning against a wall and resting on a soft surface so as not to chip the edge that is resting on the floor.

## INSPECTION OF CURAVA PANELS

Inspect all panels for damage upon unpacking crate.  
Panels damaged after unpacking will not be accepted for return.

# CUTTING CURAVA PANELS

## Choosing How To Cut

Both porcelain and quartz Curava panels can be cut using diamond blades. Although the best cuts are obtained using water to cool down the blades and reduce to a minimum the amount of dust created during the cut, the panels can also be cut “dry.”

## RECOMMENDED TOOLS

Follow all instructions on the Alpha website for cutting.



### Wet Cutting

Alpha AWS-110

[www.alpha-tools.com/Product.aspx?PageCode=130](http://www.alpha-tools.com/Product.aspx?PageCode=130)



### Dry Cutting

Alpha Ecocutter

[www.alpha-tools.com/Product.aspx?PageCode=1350](http://www.alpha-tools.com/Product.aspx?PageCode=1350)

# PREPARING THE INSTALLATION SURFACE

## Cement Backer Board

Prior to beginning installation of Curava panels ensure that all surfaces that will be covered by the panels are covered with cement backer board. We recommend the following products:

### Hardiebacker by James Hardie

[www.jameshardie.com/Products/HardieBacker-Cement-Board](http://www.jameshardie.com/Products/HardieBacker-Cement-Board)

### Durock by USG

[www.usg.com/content/usgcom/en/products-solutions/products/tile-and-flooring-installation/backerboards/usg-durock-cement-board.html](http://www.usg.com/content/usgcom/en/products-solutions/products/tile-and-flooring-installation/backerboards/usg-durock-cement-board.html)

## Waterproofing

The cement board needs to be waterproofed using a waterproofing membrane. We recommend the following products:

### Hydro Ban by Laticrete

[www.laticrete.com/en/our-products/tile-and-stone-installation-and-maintenance/shower-systems/installation-accessories/hydro-ban](http://www.laticrete.com/en/our-products/tile-and-stone-installation-and-maintenance/shower-systems/installation-accessories/hydro-ban)

### AquaDefense by Mapei

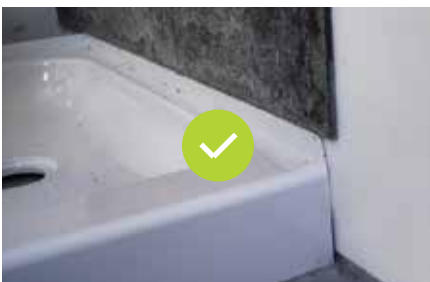
[www.mapei.com/US-EN/Mapelastic-AquaDefense](http://www.mapei.com/US-EN/Mapelastic-AquaDefense)

### Red Guard by Custom Building Products

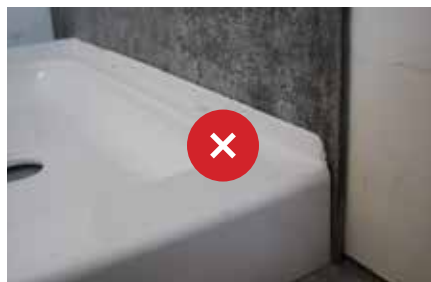
<http://www.custombuildingproducts.com/tds/tds-104.pdf>

These products are readily available at box stores and are easy to install and apply. Please follow instructions of manufacturer.

## NOTES



The bottom of the backer board substrate (cement board) should rest on top of the lip of the shower pan or tub deck lip



In no case should the cement board be installed behind the lip of the shower pan or tub deck as this can result in water leaks



This is a tub surround with cement board and waterproofing - ready for Curava installation.

## INSTALLATION OF PANELS - GETTING STARTED



### Back Panels Are Always Installed Before The Side Panels

The goal is to install Curava panels that are square, true, and plumb, regardless of the condition of the back walls. Having this as the goal will eliminate the need to scribe and/or make oblique cuts.



### Make Sure the Shower Base or Tub Are Level

Before starting installation of Curava panels, check that the shower base or tub are level. If they are not level, try to make them level. If that is not possible, it will be necessary to shim under the Curava panels to make them level. Plastic horseshow shims (shown in photo to the left) are ideal for this purpose.



### Choose An Approved Adhesive

There are three approved adhesives to adhere Curava to the walls. Inspect the walls prior to deciding which adhesive to use. Read about each adhesive on the next page of this manual.



## INSTALLATION OF PANELS - CHOOSING AN ADHESIVE



### Silicon

Silicone should only be used for walls that are plumb and straight to within 1/8" over 10'. When using silicone apply a bead around the perimeter of the panel approximately 1" in from the edges. Additionally apply 1" diameter circles approx. 6-8" apart across the entire back surface of the panel.



### Latapoxy 310 Stone Adhesive

Latapoxy 310 by Laticrete is a strong two-component epoxy adhesive for spot-bonding large format tile and panels on vertical surfaces. It allows for quick plumb adjustment while panel is in place to compensate for uneven walls. For more information see [www.laticrete.com/~media/datasheets/lds6790.ashx](http://www.laticrete.com/~media/datasheets/lds6790.ashx)



### Thin Set Mortar

Thin set mortar should only be used for walls that are plumb and straight to within 1/8" over 10'. When using thin set mortar it is important that there be "full coverage"- i.e., the mortar has to fully cover the entire panels as well as wall. Use notched trowel and follow instructions of thin set manufacturer.



**NO NOT** use spot bonding method in which daubs of mortar are used in lieu of full coverage. This can cause delamination in the future.

## INSTALLATION OF BACK PANELS



**1** Measure width of back wall first. Deduct approx. 3/8" from the width of the back wall where it is narrowest. This will be the final total dimension of the back panels. For example if the back wall measures 59.5" at the narrowest point the back panels should add up to 59.125" (59.5" minus 0.375"). This space allows for the possibility of the back wall being out of square. The side panels will cover whatever gap is left between the back panels and the left and right side walls.



**2** Cut back panels to total width of back wall minus 3/8". For instructions on how to cut Curava panels see section on "CUTTING CURAVA PANELS".



**3** Decide whether the height of the back panels needs to be reduced. If so, cut the back panel to the appropriate height.



**4** Place horseshoe shims at back corners of tub or shower base so that the back panel will rest on the shims and not directly on the tub or shower base.



## INSTALLATION OF BACK PANELS (CONT'D)



- 5** Dry fit back panel on back wall. Lift panel and maneuver into position by first resting one corner and then the other on shims on tub or shower base. Be sure that it fits easily and that the gaps between the back panel and the side walls are smaller than 3/8". Do not rest panel directly on shower base or tub. This can result in damage to panel, shower base and/or tub. When back wall requires two panels, both back panels will have to be dry-fitted at the same time.



- 6** Check level of top of panel. Adjust shims until panel is level.



- 7** Make additional cuts/adjustments as required before proceeding to adhering the panel(s) to the wall.



- 8** Ensure that all surfaces are clean, dry and free of dust before applying adhesive. Apply adhesive to the back of the panel as outlined in section "CHOOSING AN ADHESIVE".

## INSTALLATION OF BACK PANELS (CONT'D)

Image Coming Soon

Image Coming Soon

Image Coming Soon

**9** Maneuver the back panel into position in the same way as when dry fitting. Shim as required to make panel level.

**10** When two back panels are used, Curava recommends using a tile leveling device such as [www.idontknowwhichyet.com](http://www.idontknowwhichyet.com). This will leave a 1/16" gap but it will ensure that the panels will be level with each other and lippage will be eliminated.

**11** If panels are bowed, use Curava "straightclamp" to hold panels in place while adhesive cures.



**12** Make sure back panel(s) is/ are plumb using a level.



**13** Once back panel is straight, plumb, and level, use a hot glue gun to keep the panel in place while adhesive cures.

## INSTALLATION OF SIDE PANEL(S)



- 1 Measure required width and height of side panels. Width should be measured from back wall to edge of tub or shower base. Remember that you have the option of using 1.5" wide trim if needed.



- 2 Cut side panels to correct size if necessary.



- 3 Measure exact location and size of cut-outs required for plumbing. Use diamond core bits or blades to make cutouts.



- 4 Dry fit side panels making sure that the side panels butt up to the back panel.

## INSTALLATION OF SIDE PANEL(S) (CONT'D)



**5** Make sure side panel(s) is/ are plumb using a level.



**6** If there is a small gap, it can be filled with silicone and you have the option of using inside corner trim as well.



**7** Now that the panels have been installed caulk around perimeter of panels, including at inside corners and between tub or shower base and bottom of panels.



**8** Remove shims when silicone is cured. Fill in gaps left by shims but make sure to leave some small weep holes where the shims were. This will allow any water that gets trapped behind the panels to escape.