

	<b>STANDARD OPERATING POLICY AND PROCEDURE</b> <b>BUILDING SAFETY DEPARTMENT</b>	<b>Number:</b>  <b>4-1</b>
<b>Subject: Surrounding Materials for Toilet and Bathroom Floors</b>		<b>Approval Date:</b> March 31, 2008
<b>Approval:</b> Suzanne Smith, Building Official		<b>Effective Date:</b> March 31, 2008

### 1.0 PURPOSE

This defines the materials and installation methods that will satisfy the code requirement to provide sanitary surfaces that are non absorbent and washable in public toilet and bathing rooms.

### 2.0 DISTRIBUTION

Public, Building Safety personnel

### 3.0 REVISION HISTORY

### 4.0 CODE REFERENCE

IBC 2006, Section 1210 Surrounding Materials

### 5.0 POLICY

The code requires that, in other than dwelling units, toilet and bathing room floors shall have a smooth, hard, nonabsorbent surface that extends upward onto the walls at least 6 inches. The purpose of this requirement is to provide nonabsorbent surfaces that can be maintained in a sanitary condition. The 6-inch extension of the surface up the surrounding walls is so that the wall will not absorb moisture during cleaning and, thus, will be left in a clean condition. The following materials and installations are acceptable to meet this code requirement:

- 1) Vinyl Sheet Flooring - The material shall be self-coved and extend upward onto the wall a minimum of 6 inches and the top secured and caulked to form a water tight seal.
- 2) Ceramic Tile Base – The tile base shall be coved and grouted to the floor and wall surfaces. The grouted joint shall be filled solidly and sealed using a commercial waterproof sealer.
- 3) Epoxy Coatings – The material may be used to seal the floor and walls as a unit per the products listing. The material must be applied to cover the substrate, typically CMU, to provide a non-porous surface. These coatings shall not be applied over materials such as drywall or other materials considered soft and absorbent. A Polyamide type epoxy paint is the most commonly listed for this application.

The following materials are not an approved installation due to the ability of liquids to pass under the floor joint into a void that cannot be cleaned, and/or they absorb moisture, and/or they do not provide a washable surface: glue adhered rubber base cove, vinyl composite tile (VCT), and wood floor trim.