

Well-Known Tile Industry Experts Choose FIBEROCK® Products for New Southern Coastal Home

Application/Building Type:

Single-Family Construction

Project Name:

Bob Daniels' House

Location:

St. John's Island, South Carolina

Contractor:

Michael Byrne

Featured Products:

DUROCK® Cement Board Next Gen

FIBEROCK® Tile Backerboard

FIBEROCK® Underlayment Panels



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When it comes to choices in underlayments and backerboards, it would be an understatement to say tile industry gurus Bob Daniels and Michael Byrne know a thing or two. Daniels is the former executive director of the Tile Council of America and Byrne, author of the recently published *Tiling for Contractors*, has 40 years of experience as an installer and consultant on residential and commercial projects. He was also the first president and executive director of the Ceramic Tile Education Foundation.

One of their latest projects is personal—Bob Daniels' 8,200 square-foot waterfront retirement home on St. John's Island, a suburb of Charleston, S.C. The three-story European-styled home is built to withstand hurricane winds and flooding with a ground floor that rises seven feet above the 500-year flood plain. The home's expansive main floor is finished with travertine, a natural forming stone that adds to the home's European feel. Other features include a lower-level indoor exercise pool and six bathrooms, including a large master and accessible bathrooms. Daniels and Byrne installed USG FIBEROCK® tile backerboard and underlayment in each of these spaces.

"For the flooring we wanted something very, very high density that would work well for any tile material whether ceramic or stone," explains Byrne. "And, because this job has a large floor that runs in and out of rooms, we had to do a lot of cutting. FIBEROCK panels are much easier to cut than other boards. It made it a lot faster to get through the job. Anything that saves time is a good thing."

FIBEROCK tile backerboard and underlayment are fiber-reinforced gypsum products that provide a smooth, uniform surface that serves as an excellent substrate for a variety of residential interior floor coverings in both wet and dry areas. The tile backerboard and underlayment are engineered to resist water, mold and indentation damage. FIBEROCK panels are also lighter weight and easier to cut than fiber-cement panels. So typically a utility knife is all that's needed.

Byrne says the easy cuts saved more than time. "It's the frustration factor. There is a safety issue. Some boards require you use a dry cutting diamond blade that generates clouds and clouds of dust. Nobody in the business likes to wear a dust mask. But, all the cuts we made in FIBEROCK were done using score and snap methods with a conventional backer board scoring tool. It was quick, easy and we had clean cuts."

Products Perform as Expected When Industry Recommendations Are Followed

In total, the crew installed about 300 sheets of ¼" 3'x5' FIBEROCK underlayment panels. Compared to tile, travertine is a softer but thicker material and usually larger. Byrne and Daniels say working with stone can be more challenging than tile. But by following industry guidance to back butter thinset mortar on each piece of stone in addition to spreading an adhesive layer on the FIBEROCK underlayment, both tile experts were confident from the start about successful adhesion and performance.

"Michael doesn't scrimp on technique or perfections," Daniels says. "The adhesive on both sides is pretty thick so when we pressed it in, we had a thick, level bonding coat."

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Another industry recommendation Byrne and Daniels followed, and encourage other tile professionals to do the same, was to make sure the setting bed was “absolutely clean” of any dust or debris that might have interfered with the adhesive’s bond.

“We wiped down the setting bed with a damp sponge. This is the one thing you want to do regardless of setting bed material. The industry recommends this to maximize adhesion,” Byrne advises. “Installers who follow instructions and use products properly can increase their confidence that products will perform as intended and expected.”

Added Peace of Mind and Versatility

FIBEROCK’s durable panels are made from a gypsum and cellulose-fiber combination and resist water and mold, scoring a 10, the highest possible rating on ASTM D3273. With no paper face to delaminate, tear or scratch, FIBEROCK tile backerboard and underlayment maintain their integrity, even when wet.

In addition to an integral water-resistant core, FIBEROCK tile backerboard can be finished with ceramic tile or painted. It’s an ideal choice for where tile only covers a portion of the walls, such as the Daniels’ exercise room where he installed about three feet of tile along the walls. The home’s six bathrooms and four showers feature a combination of FIBEROCK tile backerboard and DUROCK® cement board Next Gen.

“Bob Daniels had the choice of any manufacturer in the business, but when you build a home of this magnitude and caliber, you want the quality of USG standing behind the project and he knew he would get that,” comments Steve Rausch, field marketing and technical manager, Substrates and Specialty Products Division with United States Gypsum Company.

“Ease of use. No frustration. Good bond. Water resistance. That sums it up,” says Byrne about his experience with FIBEROCK tile backerboard and underlayment in the Daniels’ home.

“In my latest book, *Tiling for Contractors*, there are only two backerboard brands that I use in the whole book and they are FIBEROCK and DUROCK. That’s primarily because of the reliability of the company and their products. I’ve never had any problems.”

About USG Corporation

USG Corporation is a manufacturer and distributor of high-performance building systems through its United States Gypsum Company, USG Interiors, Inc. and L&W Supply Corporation and other subsidiaries. Headquartered in Chicago, USG’s worldwide operations serve the residential and non-residential construction markets, repair and remodel construction markets, and industrial processes. USG’s wall, ceiling, flooring and roofing products provide leading-edge building solutions for customers, while L&W Supply branch locations efficiently stock and deliver building materials nationwide. For additional information, visit the USG website at usg.com/tileandflooring.