

Mapeguard Pre-Formed Niche

Pre-Formed Shower Niche



DESCRIPTION

Mapeguard® Pre-Formed Niche is made from high-density, extruded polystyrene (XPS) and coated with an acrylic polymer finish. It provides a fast and easy way to create a recessed shelf in showers, steam rooms and bathrooms. Lightweight and ready to tile, *Mapeguard Pre-Formed Niche* installs in minutes with adhesive, eliminating the risk of penetrations to the niche. The sizing has been designed to sit flush with 2" x 4" (5 x 10 cm) wall construction with a 1/2" (12 mm) backer board. The waterproof attributes of *Mapeguard Pre-Formed Niche* do not contribute to mold or mildew.

FEATURES AND BENEFITS

- Mounts flush with 1/2" (12 mm) backer board in a wall cavity that is 2" x 4" (5 x 10 cm) deep
- No mechanical attachments required
- No outside flanges to feather in or build up
- Designed for a better fit with tile
- Available in a variety of sizes
- Installs easily and quickly
- No cross-bracing required
- Lightweight, waterproof, durable and seamless
- Ready to receive tile

WHERE TO USE

- Interior use
- Shower stalls, steam rooms, steam showers, tub surrounds and bathrooms
- Industrial, commercial and residential wet areas
- Decorative applications in walls

LIMITATIONS

- The temperature range for installation is 40°F to 90°F (4°C to 32°C).
- Mortars and grouts for ceramic tile, pavers, brick and stone are not replacements for waterproofing membranes. When a waterproofing membrane is required, use an approved MAPEI waterproofing membrane.
- Do not expose *Mapeguard Pre-Formed Niche* to solvents or other harsh chemicals.
- *Mapeguard Pre-Formed Niche* must be covered with ceramic tile, stone or another suitable finish.
- If *Mapeguard Pre-Formed Niche* is removed from the packaging, do not expose it to sun or weather for more than 30 days.
- The R-value of niche is approximately 2.5. In cold climates, this may not be sufficient for exterior walls, which may require additional insulation.

SUITABLE SUBSTRATES

- Wood- or metal-framed walls properly constructed and plumb

SURFACE PREPARATION

- All substrates must be structurally sound, flat, stable, dry, clean and free of any substance or condition that may reduce or prevent proper adhesion.
- Surfaces must be structurally rigid enough to support the weight of ceramic/stone tile, thin brick and similar finishes on the niche. Otherwise, bracing will be required as detailed in the “Product Installation” section below.

See the “Surface preparation requirements” reference guide in the Tile & Stone Installation Systems section on MAPEI’s Website.

PRODUCT INSTALLATION

Read all installation instructions thoroughly before installation.

1. Determine desired placement of the niche and use niche as a template.
2. Cut out traced portion of the backer board and remove panel.
3. In some situations, it may be necessary to brace the niche with a 2" by 4" (5 x 10 cm) board installed between the studs.
4. Use a 100%-silicone sealant or hybrid sealant to adhere the niche to the back wall.
5. Fill any gaps larger than 1/8" (3 mm) but not exceeding 1/2" (12 mm) in width between the niche and backer board. Use an approved MAPEI polymer-modified thin-set mortar (herein referred to as "MAPEI polymer-

modified mortar").

6. Option A: When dry (as appropriate for grouting per the Technical Data Sheet [TDS] for the selected MAPEI polymer-modified mortar), waterproof joints between niche and backer board by applying MAPEI's *Reinforcing Fabric* in combination with *Mapelastic® AquaDefense* or *Mapelastic Turbo* [NA] to the joints, overlapping the outside perimeter of the niche. Begin with the bottom, follow with the sides and finish with the top. Place the *Reinforcing Fabric* into wet liquid and apply pressure, working out wrinkles or bubbles while embedding the fabric into the waterproofing. Overlap seams and ends of the fabric by a minimum of 2" (5 cm). While fabric is still wet, apply additional liquid membrane over the fabric until completely covered. Let it dry completely.

Option B: *Mapeguard WP ST* waterproofing sealing tape can instead be used to waterproof the system along with an approved MAPEI polymer-modified mortar troweled with a 1/4" x 3/16" (6 x 4.5 mm) V-notched trowel. Press *Mapeguard WP ST* firmly into the mortar on each side of the seam and embed the tape. Remove any trapped air and ensure full adhesion to the material by spreading the mortar from the inside out using a trowel or straight-edge with rounded corners.

7. Use MAPEI polymer-modified mortar to secure adjustable shelf/shelves (as provided with the customizable version) to the inside of the niche at the preferred height. Allow curing.
8. Install tile or stone using an approved MAPEI polymer-modified mortar according to TCNA guidelines.

Note: For fast-track installations, use a MAPEI rapid-setting, polymer-modified large-and-heavy-tile mortar that is rated as ANSI A118.FH or better.

Note: MAPEI mortars must meet ANSI A118.4H, ANSI A118.11 or ANSI A118.15H standard or better, or be classified as at least ISO 13007 C2E or C2F.

CLEANUP

- For recommended cleanup procedures, refer to the TDS for the appropriate sealant, polymer-modified mortar and waterproofing membrane.

PROTECTION

- Do not store in direct sunlight.
- Protect *Mapeguard Pre-Formed Niche* from exposure to weather before installation.
- If the finished surface is punctured or penetrated during installation or from jobsite construction activity, recoat the punctured area and 2" (5 cm) around the area with *Mapelastic AquaDefense* or *Mapelastic Turbo* [NA] along with *Reinforcing Fabric*, or install *Mapeguard WP 200* waterproofing sheet over the affected area. Refer to the appropriate TDS for instructions.
- Regarding protection and curing requirements of the waterproofing system products and mortars that are used, refer to their TDSs.

Packaging

Product Dimensions	Product Shape	Packaging Size
Outer: 14.25" x 14.25" x 3.875" (36.2 x 36.2 x 9.8 cm) Inner: 12" x 12" x 3.5" (30 x 30 x 8.9 cm)	Square niche	Box: 15" x 15" x 4.5" (38 x 38 x 11.4 cm)
Outer: 27.75" x 14.25" x 3.875" (70.5 x 36.2 x 9.8 cm) Inner: 25.5" x 12" x 3.5" (64.8 x 30 x 8.9 cm)	Double-square niche	Box: 28.5" x 15" x 5" (72.4 x 38 x 12.7 cm)
Outer: 22.5" x 14.25" x 3.875" (57.2 x 36.2 x 9.8 cm) Inner: 20" x 12" x 3.5" (50.8 x 30 x 8.9 cm)	Rectangular niche with shelf	Box: 23" x 15" x 4.5" (58.4 x 38 x 11.4 cm)
Outer: 22.5" x 14.25" x 3.875" (57.2 x 36.2 x 9.8 cm) Inner: 20" x 12" x 3.5" (50.8 x 30 x 8.9 cm)	Rectangular niche with customizable shelf location	Box: 23" x 15" x 4.5" (58.4 x 38 x 11.4 cm)

RELATED DOCUMENTS

- Reference guide: "Surface preparation requirements" for tile and stone installation systems*

*At www.mapei.com

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

For information on MAPEI's commitment to sustainability and transparency, as well as how MAPEI products may contribute to green building standards and certification systems, contact sustainability_USA@mapei.com (USA) or sustainability-durabilite@mapei.com (Canada).

WARNING

The test results shown in the TECHNICAL DATA table were obtained in compliance with test methods and curing cycles, if applicable, defined in the industry standards referenced on the Technical Data Sheet. Please note that the use of test procedures or methods other than those indicated in the table could lead to different values and that, in such cases, any liability of our company is excluded.

LEGAL NOTICE

The contents of this Technical Data Sheet ("TDS") may be copied into another project-related document, but the resulting document shall not supplement nor replace requirements per the TDS in effect at the time of the MAPEI product installation. For the most up-to-date TDS and warranty information, please visit our website at www.mapei.com. **ANY ALTERATIONS TO THE WORDING OR REQUIREMENTS CONTAINED IN OR DERIVED FROM THIS TDS SHALL VOID ALL RELATED MAPEI WARRANTIES.**

Before using, the user must determine the suitability of our products for the intended use, and the user alone assumes all risks and liability. **ANY CLAIM SHALL BE DEEMED WAIVED UNLESS MADE IN WRITING TO US WITHIN FIFTEEN (15) DAYS FROM DATE IT WAS, OR REASONABLY SHOULD HAVE BEEN, DISCOVERED.**

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Edition Date: April 14, 2026 MK 3000519 (26-1576)

For the most current product data and BEST-BACKEDSM warranty information,
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