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Waterproofing (Flood Test Procedure) for Balconies and Bathrooms

Performing a flood test is a crucial step in ensuring the effectiveness of waterproofing systems for balconies and bathrooms. This procedure helps identify potential leaks or weaknesses in the waterproofing before finalising the construction or renovation project. Below is a comprehensive guide on how to conduct a flood test for balconies and bathrooms:

Items Needed for the Flood Test:

1. **Water Source:** Arrange for a sufficient water supply to flood the test area.
2. **Water Containment:** Use barriers or dams to prevent water from spreading beyond the designated test area.
3. **Water Level Measurement:** Employ a water level or other suitable tools to ensure an even water depth during the test.
4. **Balloon, Tapes and Sealants:** Prepare high-quality tapes and sealants, or balloon, to close off any potential openings.
5. **Bucket or Hose:** Use a bucket or hose to fill the test area with water gradually.
6. **Protection for Surrounding Areas:** Use protective materials to safeguard internal timber flooring or any adjacent vulnerable areas from water exposure during the test.

Flood Test Procedure:

1. **Preparation:**
 - Ensure that the waterproofing membrane or system has been installed correctly, following manufacturer's guidelines and industry standards.
 - Check that all joints, connections, and penetrations have been properly sealed and are in good condition.
 - Verify that any required primers or surface preparations have been applied and allowed to dry according to the manufacturer's recommendations.
2. **Setup and Containment:**
 - Secure the test area with barriers or dams to contain the water during the flood test.
 - Seal off any drains or outlets in the test area to prevent water from escaping.
3. **Filling the Test Area:**
 - Gradually fill the designated test area with water, ensuring an even and controlled water level.
 - Start the flood test by allowing the water to reach a specific depth, typically between 25mm to 50mm, or as recommended by the waterproofing system manufacturer.
4. **Monitoring:**
 - Observe the test area closely for a specified duration (e.g., 24 to 48 hours) to detect any signs of water leakage or seepage.
 - Inspect the entire test area systematically, paying attention to joints, corners, and other potential weak points.
5. **Identification of Leaks:**
 - If any leaks or seepage are detected, identify the areas of concern and determine the potential causes.
 - Mark the areas where leaks are found to facilitate repairs or further investigation.
6. **Addressing Issues:**
 - If leaks are found, promptly address the identified issues by repairing or reapplying the waterproofing system in the affected areas.
 - Allow the repaired areas to dry and retest the waterproofing.
7. **Final Approval:**
 - Once the waterproofing system passes the flood test without any issues, it is considered effective and ready for final approval.
 - Obtain approval from relevant authorities, project managers, or building inspectors.

Important Notes:

- Always conduct the flood test under controlled conditions to avoid any damage to adjacent areas or property.
- Follow the specific guidelines and recommendations provided by the waterproofing product manufacturer.
- In case of significant leaks or failures during the flood test, consult with waterproofing professionals to assess the best solutions for a successful waterproofing system.
- Take extra care to protect surrounding areas, such as internal timber flooring, from any potential water exposure during the test. Use appropriate coverings and sealants to prevent water from reaching vulnerable surfaces.