



Issue Date	February 27, 2006 – Updated November 7, 2018
Code/Section	IBC Section 1209.2 – 1209.3.2
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References:	2018 International Building Code

Question:

The IBC Section 1209.2.1 – 1209.2.4 states 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 (152mm). Section 1209.2.2 states “walls within 2 feet (610 mm) of urinals and water closets shall have a smooth, hard, nonabsorbent surface, to a height of 4 feet (1219 mm) above the floor, and except for structural elements, the materials used in such walls shall be of a type that is not adversely affected by moisture.” Section 1209.2.3 states “shower compartments and walls above bathtubs with installed shower heads shall be finished with a smooth, nonabsorbent surface to a height not less than 70 inches (1778 mm) above the drain inlet.”

What wall and floor surfaces are acceptable?

Interpretation:

The intent of these sections is to allow materials which provide easily cleaned, sanitary and water-resistant surfaces in toilet and bathing rooms. Ordinary paint films on wall surfaces do not meet the intent of the Code. The following list represents generally approved materials that meet the intent of the Code.

<p><u>Approved materials for toilet floors:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concrete with sealer Ceramic tile with sealed grout Commercial grade sheet vinyl meeting, specification ASTM F 1303 VCT (Vinyl composite tiles) 	<p><u>Materials not approved for toilet floors:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Wood Carpet
<p><u>Approved materials for walls within 2 feet of urinals and water closets:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sealed plaster Sealed Concrete Ceramic tiles with sealed grout Epoxy gloss paint on concrete or CMU walls FRP wall panels (48” wide with moisture sealed joints) 	<p><u>Materials not approved for walls within 2 feet of urinals and water closets:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plastic Coated hardboard Paint, other than epoxy gloss on CMU or concrete Textile fabrics Gypsum wall board