

About Slip Resistance

The principal methods employed to test slip resistance in Australia are the ramp ('R' rating) and pendulum slip testing classifications. Some specifiers use both methods to evaluate the suitability of a particular tile for a specific project.

Slip resistance can be a complex issue. From the consumer's perspective application of a little common sense goes a long way. Always give careful consideration to conditions the tile will be exposed to in the area you propose to tile and remember that some ceramic tile products will require more post installation maintenance than others. In some instances these treatments and a variety of other factors may change a products slip resistance performance;

- Poor cleaning practices
- Build up of grime or cleaning material residues
- Exposure to chemicals which may effect the surface of the tile
- Surface wear which abrades the surface of the tile and reduces its natural slip restiveness.

Seek the advice of your tile supplier, who should be able to supply slip resistance data. Tiles tested using 'The Pendulum Test Method' will be given a Slip Resistance Value (SRV);

SRV 0 – 25	Dangerous or high potential for slipping
SRV 25-35	Marginal or moderate potential for slipping
SRV 35-65	Safe or low potential for slipping
SRV 65 +	Very safe, extremely low potential for clipping

The Ramp Test ('R' Rating) involves an individual standing on a ramp at various angles of incline. There are two test methods:

1. An individual stands barefoot on a water lubricated ramp.
2. The operator is shod with rubber soled boots and stands on an oil lubricated ramp.

Many tile retailers in Australia will quote the test results obtained from application of method 2 which is expressed as follows:

R9	Person slips at a 3 to 10 degree angle of elevation
R10	Person slips at a 10 to 19 degree angle of elevation
R11	Person slips as a 19 to 27 degree angle of elevation
R12	Person slips at a 27 to 35 degree angle of elevation
R13	Upwards of 35 degree

Based on the test results obtained manufacturers will classify their products for use in specific locations. Some products labelled R9 can be fairly slippery, others are fine for general use. It pays to ask the tile supplier about the suitability of the tile in question for its intended use.

The barefoot test conducted on a ramp is often considered as the best indicator of a tile's suitability for use in wet conditions.

- A 'B' rating indicates suitability for use around pools
- A 'C' rating indicated suitability for use in showers

The majority of tiles produced are suitable for residential application, it's a matter of choosing the right surface finish. Tiles laid in public places, commercial or industrial locations will require very careful evaluation.

Specifiers can refer to ISO 10545 for further definitions employed to determine a products Coefficient of Friction.

Natural Stone

The previously described pendulum test method is generally preferred by stone industry professionals operating in Australia, as it is a more flexible option than the ramp test.

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