

# AQUABAR® “B”

HARDWOOD FLOOR & TILE UNDERLAYMENT

In the battle against interior moisture damage, the best defense is a strong offense. When you block moisture vapor from creeping behind finish materials or reaching moisture-sensitive substrates, you help increase the useful

“*An extremely effective moisture vapor retarder for use in a variety of interior construction applications.*”

life and appearance of finish surfaces. To help win the battle, the Fortifiber Building Systems Group® offers Aquabar “B” as inexpensive insurance to reduce moisture-related problems.

Aquabar “B” hardwood floor and tile underlayment is an extremely effective moisture vapor retarder for use in a variety of interior construction applications. Consisting of two layers of kraft paper laminated with asphalt, Aquabar “B” is a nono-reinforced 30/30/30 duplex type Grade “B” paper.

## An Investment That Pays Dividends

Aquabar “B” passed the stringent requirements of California’s Section 01350 Indoor Air Quality emissions standard. Aquabar “B” is often considered to be cleaner and easier to work with than other materials, such as roofing felt, coated paper and poly film. It has little or no odor. Because it is an effective moisture vapor retarder, Aquabar “B” reduces vapor migration to help protect wood floors and tile substrates from the damaging effects of moisture.

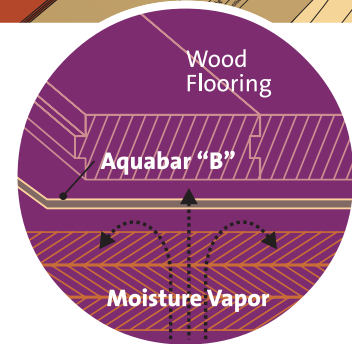
## Ideal for Wood Flooring and Tile

With a moisture vapor permeance of less than 1, Aquabar “B” is a superior vapor retarder under wood flooring applications. Aquabar “B” helps slow moisture vapor originating below the floor system, allowing the wood flooring to acclimate gradually. By reducing the rate of moisture migration, Aquabar “B” protects against moisture vapor related floor problems such as buckling, cupping or cracking. As a semi-permeable material, Aquabar “B” is much less likely than impermeable common poly film to trap moisture condensation between it and the sub-floor. Aquabar “B” also acts as a “slip sheet” to minimize dust and reduce noise.

Aquabar “B” is also suitable in interior tile and stone applications as a Class II moisture vapor retardant membrane (or cleavage membrane) for use behind cement backer units. It is also suitable for use as a cleavage membrane in mortar bed applications over wood or concrete substrates. Aquabar “B” reduces the potential for and extent of damage caused by moisture vapor migration in tile installations. Meets ANSI A108.02 Sec. 3.8.7 materials standard for tile.

## Decades of Proven Performance

Aquabar “B” is a product manufactured by the Fortifiber Building Systems Group. With more than a seventy-five year history of proven performance, technical expertise and practical know-how, the company has become a trusted partner to builders, architects and code officials.



*Aquabar “B” helps slow moisture vapor originating below the wood floor system.*

- HIGH MOISTURE RESISTANCE
- LOW VAPOR PERMEANCE
- CLEAN & EASY INSTALLATION
- SEMI-PERMEABLE CLASS II MEMBRANE
- MADE IN USA
- PASSED CALIFORNIA CA01350 INDOOR AIR QUALITY REQUIREMENTS



**Product Description:** Aquabar "B" is a semi-permeable Class II vapor retarder or cleavage membrane for use under wood floor installations and behind or below tile substrates. Aquabar "B" is rated for "moderate" water-vapor resistance.

**Composition:** Aquabar "B" is a 30/30/30 Grade B asphalt laminated duplex type kraft paper.

**Size & Weight:** Aquabar "B" is supplied in 36.5" +/- 1/4" wide by 167' (nominal 500 sq. ft.) and 334' (nominal 1000 sq. ft.) rolls; product weight is approximately 3 lbs/100 sq. ft. Asphalt coverage is limited to nominal 36".

**Applicable Standards:** Meets the International Building Code® and International Residential Code® as a Class II vapor retarder.

Meets CA01350 Indoor Air Quality Emission Requirements.

Meets ANSI A108.01 Sec. 3.3.3.1 General Requirements: Subsurfaces and Preparations by Other Trades.

Meets ANSI A108.02 Sec. 3.8.7 Materials, Environmental & Workmanship.

Exceeds Federal Specification UU-B-790a, Type I, Grade B, Style 1a.

Meets NWFA accepted product criteria.

American Society for Testing & Materials (ASTM)

- ASTM D-779 - Standard Test Method For Water Resistance of Paper, Paperboard and Other Sheet Materials by the Dry Indicator Method
- ASTM D-828 - Tensile Properties of Paper and Paperboard Using Constant-Rate-of-Elongation Apparatus
- ASTM E-96 - Water Vapor Transmission of Materials

**Physical Properties:** Aquabar "B" is continually tested in accordance with ASTM procedures. The values shown in Table 1 are averages obtained in these tests.

**Limitations:** Aquabar "B" hardwood floor and tile underlayment is not a vapor barrier or waterproof membrane and should not be used in waterproofing assemblies or where a moisture or vapor barrier is specified. Do not leave exposed to direct moisture contact or use in areas that are soaked or saturated for extended periods of time, such as gang showers, saunas, steam rooms, hot tubs and exterior areas.

Aquabar "B" has no offensive odor; it does contain asphalt. Individual sensitivity to chemicals varies and should be considered prior to purchase of any product. Aquabar "B" may be used as a vapor retarder over radiant heat as long as the sub-floor temperature is limited to a maximum 85°F.

Not recommended for use on exterior surface of studs in wall assemblies as a weather resistant barrier. Properly prepared walls, sub-floors or job site conditions and proper installation of flooring and tile are the responsibility of the installer. In applications where a duplex type reinforced asphalt paper, meeting ASTM C-171, is specified use Fortifiber's Orange Label Sisalkraft®.

**Installation - General:** Cut Aquabar "B" to length as required for proper coverage and overlap all seams a minimum of 4 inches. Aquabar "B"

may be loose-laid or stapled over sub-floors. Sweep sub-floors of debris to avoid tearing or puncturing. Avoid puncturing Aquabar "B" except with required fasteners. See the Aquabar installation guide for complete details.

For best results when installing wood flooring or tile and stone, Fortifiber suggests using a properly trained or certified installer, such as National Wood Flooring Association Certified Professional, CTEF Certified Installer, NTCA contractor or TCAA contractor.

**Installation - Wood Floors:** For wood flooring, obtain, read and follow the wood flooring manufacturer's instructions, NWFA Installation Guidelines, and local building codes for proper installation of wood flooring over Aquabar "B" and sub-floor. Concrete or wood sub-floor must be dry and tested for moisture, flat, structurally sound, and free of protrusions, debris or contaminants.

For installations **above a crawl space**, make sure the ground has been properly covered by Moistop Ultra®, a Class I vapor retarder meeting ASTM E-1754 with a maximum perm rating of 0.1 or less, and the crawl space is properly cross vented or meets code requirements as a closed crawl space.

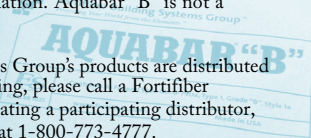
**Over concrete** under a floating wood sub-floor system, screed system or floating floor, apply Fortifiber's Moistop Ultra 6 or FortiFlash® 40 for Floors. Under mechanically-attached wood panels, FortiFlash 40 for Floors is required as the Class I vapor retarder between concrete and plywood. Then install Aquabar "B" over the plywood followed by the wood flooring.

**Installation - Tile:** Aquabar "B" may be installed on interior walls, floors, and countertops where a moisture retarding cleavage membrane is specified or required by code. Read and follow the architect/specifier's installation instructions or applicable ANSI A108 installation procedures as referenced by the TCNA Handbook for ceramic tile installation. Aquabar "B" is not a waterproof membrane.

**Availability:** The Fortifiber Building Systems Group's products are distributed nationwide. For product information and pricing, please call a Fortifiber distributor near you. If you need assistance locating a participating distributor, please call our Customer Service Department at 1-800-773-4777.

**Warranty:** Fortifiber Corporation warrants that its products are in compliance with their published specifications and are free from defects in materials and workmanship for a period of two years from the date of purchase. This warranty does not apply to loss due to abuse. Material found to be defective will be replaced at no charge by Fortifiber, but in no event shall Fortifiber be liable for any other costs or damages, including any labor costs.

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**SPECIFICATION SUMMARY:** Provides moderate moisture and moisture vapor retarder underlayment beneath wood flooring, ceramic tile and stone veneer.

**MOISTURE VAPOR RETARDER:** Fortifiber/Aquabar "B" two-layer, asphalt laminated kraft Grade B paper.

**REFERENCE SPECIFICATION:** Federal Specification UU-B-790a, Type 1, Grade B, Style 1a.

Table 1 - Physical Properties

CHARACTERISTIC	TEST METHOD	RESULTS	INDUSTRY STANDARD
Water Vapor Transmission	ASTM E-96 (A)	0.87 perms	0.7 ≤ 10 perms <sup>1</sup>
Water Resistance	ASTM D-779	16+ hours	16 hours (min.) <sup>2</sup>
Tensile Strength	ASTM D-828	MD - 20 lb. <sup>f</sup> /inch CD - 20 lb. <sup>f</sup> /inch	MD - 20 lb. <sup>f</sup> /inch <sup>2</sup> CD - 20 lb. <sup>f</sup> /inch <sup>2</sup>

<sup>1</sup> NWFA Vapor Retarder Guidelines

<sup>2</sup> UU-B-790a



**Fortifiber Building Systems Group®**  
Protecting Your World from the Elements®



Call 1-800-773-4777 or 1-775-333-6400 for sales and technical assistance. On the Internet visit [fortifiberflooring.com](http://fortifiberflooring.com).

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