Creating a Traditional Shower Pan for Tile
Creating your own shower floor for tile

Properly built shower – That’s what we’re gonna build – no, really.

The image above is a badly made diagram of a properly built shower. I’ve included the common aspects for a typical shower. Although some showers may vary these are the base parts of any traditional shower floor. And your moisture barrier does not need to be lime green.
Before you start

If you have not yet done so you should browse through my site at FloorElf.com to make certain that the shower floor described in this ebook is, in fact, the proper substrate you want to create for your shower. If you are using a topical waterproofing membrane such as Schluter’s Kerdi or a similar sheet membrane, or Redgard, Hydro-ban, or another liquid membrane as your waterproofing for the floor - this is not the proper way to create the floor for your shower.

If you are using one of those methods there are other things to take into consideration such as the type of drain, your curb or base, and the number of mud layers – these methods only require one layer rather than the dual layer described below for the traditional shower base.

If you are not using any of the above methods – what are you waiting for? Let’s get started!

How to Make Deck Mud

To create a shower floor from scratch we use what is commonly referred to as “dry pack mortar” or deck mud. Deck mud contains three ingredients: regular portland cement, sand, and water. That’s it. Don’t let anyone tell you that a latex additive or anything else is necessary. It is not. Properly mixing and installing deck mud will create a shower floor that will last for years and years.

The ratio is very important to achieve the correct consistency and stability. You want 5 parts sand to 1 part cement. Your ratio can vary from 4 to 6 : 1 but the 5 : 1 is what I use and find to be the easiest to work. You want just enough water to dampen the mixture. It’s not a lot. Too much water will cause your mud to shrink as it cures and compromise the stability of your base. You just want it damp – really.
Properly mixed deck mud is sandy and will hold together when squeezed similar to a snowball except it hurts more when hit by one – don’t ask.

The easiest and most convenient way to get your mixture correct is to buy the quikrete “sand and topping” mix which is sold at all the big home centers. This is already mixed at a 3 : 1 ratio. For a 60lb. bag you need only add 30lbs. of sand to it. This is how I mix mine – it’s convenient. The easiest way to mix it is with a regular shovel or garden hoe in a mixing box or regular wheelbarrow, although you can mix it with and in anything that works for you.

After it’s mixed it should just be damp. When you pick up a handful of it you should be able to squeeze it without water dripping from it. It should be able to hold its shape when you squeeze it, just like a snowball.

Whether you mix the entire batch from scratch or use the sand and topping mix it should all have this same consistency. If it is any wetter it will shrink as it dries and it will not be as solid and stable as it should be. I usually start with about 1/2 gallon of water and work up from there. I think. I really can’t tell you exactly how much water to use because I don’t measure it. I’ll have to do that and include it here.
As you install and shape your base, slopes, and shower floors you want to pound the mix with a wooden or magnesium float. I mean beat the hell out of it. You want the mud packed very well with no voids. The harder you pack it the more stable it will be.

A couple of companies also make a mix specifically for shower floors and mud beds. I’ve only used one and it worked quite well. Just follow the mixing instructions on the bag and start with the minimum amount of water they suggest and work up from there.

When set (about 24 hours) the mud bed will be a perfectly suitable substrate for your tile installation. It will be sandy on the top. You can scratch it with your fingernail – stop doing that! It’s normal. I understand it’s counter-intuitive, but it really is normal.

Although you may have been led to believe that creating a shower floor from scratch is a very difficult thing to do, it is not. With careful planning and attention to detail you can create a shower that will last for years without any problems. Getting your mud mix correct is at the core of the proper method.

Creating your shower floor

Curb and Pre-slope

There are a couple of options to create a shower floor for tile using deck mud. The first is a single-layer shower floor which can then be coated with RedGard or a similar product or covered with kerdi to waterproof it. The other is a normal shower floor with a liner which will have two layers – a preslope, the liner, then the top slope which is then tiled. This ebook of describes the latter.

Before we start I should note that unless you are using the kerdi waterproofing method or utilizing a liquid membrane as your floor liner you should not have the backerboard installed in the bottom part of the shower. Your waterproof membrane for a shower floor will be installed behind your backerboard. The curb and pre-slope need to be completed before installing the lower wall substrate.

Creating the curb for a wooden floor

The first thing you must do is create the outside curb of your shower. You need to create the “box” which will become the inside of your shower floor. Depending upon whether your shower will be created on a wood or concrete floor will dictate what material you use for your curb.

If you have a wooden floor you want to use regular dimensional lumber. The 2 x 4’s they carry at Home Depot – those. That is the easiest and most readily available material. Ideally you want to use kiln-dried lumber. That is lumber that is, well, dried in a kiln. By
removing moisture in this manner the moisture content of KD lumber is normally between six and eight percent compared to regular dimensional lumber at close to 15%. Why does that matter? Well moisture and wood don’t mix. As it dries wood has a tendency to warp and twist. The less moisture initially in the wood the better. KD lumber is best and regular air-dried dimensional lumber is also acceptable. NEVER use pressure treated lumber – ever.

I usually use three or more stacked 2 x 4’s to create my curb depending on the size of the shower. Simply screw the first one to the floor (with correct non-corrosive screws), stack the next one on top and screw it down, and so on until the desired height is reached. That easy.

**Creating the curb for a concrete floor**

![Creating the curb for a concrete floor](image)

Using Bricks for a shower cub

For a concrete floor you want to use bricks. Yeah, bricks. Just stack ‘em. I use gray concrete bricks (no holes) and stack them two or three high for my curbs. You can use regular thinset to adhere them to the floor and to each other. Just stack them in the shape you want.

You do not want to use wood for your curb on concrete. Wood will actually absorb moisture from your concrete and start to swell.

**Creating the pre-slope**

This is one of the steps most often skipped by a lot of people – amateurs as well as professionals. It is imperative! You need it – it’s that simple. Without a pre-slope your waterproof liner will lay flat on the floor. This does not give water anywhere to go. It will sit there, stagnate, mold, . . . you get the idea. With a proper pre-slope any water will drain to the weep holes in the drain and go where it needs to – away.
A properly prepared pre-slope

You need to first make sure your shower floor will stay where you put it. On wood you can use regular metal lathe. Just cut it to the shape of your shower floor and lay it flat on the floor and staple or nail it down. This gives your mud bed something to grab onto.

For a concrete floor you need to mix up some regular thinset except you need to mix it “loose”. That just means you need to add a bit more water than the instructions call for to make it thinner. Cover your shower floor area with this before you start installing your deck mud. The deck mud itself does not “stick” to anything, you need to supply something that will adhere it to your substrate.

**Oh crap – Math??**

To make the installation easier you’ll want to mark your height lines on your wall studs. To figure out how high it needs to be off the floor you need to figure out your slope. This involves a bit of math – don’t panic! It’s easy. Figure out which corner is farthest from the center of your drain. Your slope needs to go up in height 1/4” for every foot. If your furthest corner is three feet from your drain center your slope needs to rise 3/4”. Easy enough so far, right?

Your finished floor (after your liner and top mud bed are installed) needs to be 1” to 1 1/4” thick at the drain. So, if we make the pre-slope 3/4” thick at the drain it needs to be a total of 1 1/2 inch thick at all your walls. So mark a line 1 1/2” from the floor all the way around the wall studs. This will be the height of your pre-slope at the walls. I try to make my pre-slope the correct thickness at the drain so it will be 1 1/2” at the walls. This way you do not need to draw lines, just level your perimeter with the top of the 2 x 4 studs along the bottom of the wall. Depending on the size of the shower it doesn’t always work, but it saves time if you can work it out that way.
If your shower is not a square, and they rarely are, you still need to have the same thickness at the walls all the way around the perimeter. This means that you will have a steeper slope on the walls closer to the drain. This is normal. If you don’t do it this way you will have uneven tile cuts at the bottom of your wall. By doing it this way you will ensure a level line and, in turn, a level floor around your perimeter.

The height of your pre-slope at the drain can vary. It needs to be level with the top of the bottom flange of your drain. Regular drains have two flanges which bolt to each other. The pre-slope needs to be at least level or a touch higher than the bottom flange. Your liner then goes between the top and bottom flange to utilize the weep holes in the drain. This allows any water atop the liner to drain. The pre-slope supports the liner so it needs to be level or above every point of the lower flange. Does that make sense?

This is why planning is so important. Your drain needs to be high (or low) enough and your curb needs to be higher than your shower floor – naturally. So figure all this out before you build anything.

Playing with mud

Now we need to mix up a batch of deck mud. Check out that link (or the first part of this ebook, I’ll wait . . .

Okay, once your mud is mixed up you want to start packing it in there. If you are going over concrete and have your thinset slurry down, cover the entire bottom of the shower floor first to ensure the entire base will stick. If you have a large shower only spread as much thinset as you can reach over at a time. Start at the walls and pack your mud down really well – beat the hell out of it. Seriously, beat it like the last DMV employee you spoke with. You want to eliminate any voids and create as dense a bed as possible. Don’t worry, it won’t hit back.

Pack it down around the perimeter to just above your line. When you get that done get yourself a 2 x 4 about 18 – 24 inches long. Lay that on top of your mud bed against your wall and tap the 2 x 4 down with your hammer until it is even with your line. This ensures a level, even line all the way around your perimeter. Perfect! Now don’t touch the edges.
Properly prepared deck mud

Continue to pack mud into your shower base all the way from the perimeter down to the drain. You should have a straight line from the perimeter to the drain without any dips or humps. This will allow water to drain correctly without pooling anywhere. While this particular layer of your shower floor does not have to be exact, you do need to make certain it is fairly flat in regards to the line from the perimeter to the drain.

Ensure a consistent slope
That’s it. When you get it all packed in there it should have a shape similar to a very, very shallow bowl. Now leave it alone. Really, leave it alone. The next day it will be ready to install your liner and all that fun stuff. Don’t play with it until then.

After it sets for at least 12 hours we’ll install your waterproof liner. Until then leave your pre-slope alone. It’s fine. Quit trying to perfect it. We’ll do that tomorrow. Get away from it. Really. Stop staring at it . . .

The waterproof liner

Now that you have your curb built and your pre-slope done you are ready to install your waterproof liner.

Purchasing a waterproof liner

When you order or buy your liner you need to get one large enough for your shower. The liner you get has to be at least one additional foot larger than each of your measurements. For instance, if your shower floor is three feet by five feet your liner needs to be four feet by six feet. This allows enough to run the liner up the wall behind your backerboard six inches each way. You also want to purchase two “outside” corners for your curb. These are pre-formed corner pieces to waterproof the ends of your curb after you cut the liner.

I usually order mine two feet larger in each direction. Six inches is the minimum. Specifications state that your liner must run up the wall at least three inches above your curb. So if your curb is three inches high your liner needs to run at least six inches up each wall. I usually go a foot above the curb – overbuilding your shower is rarely a bad thing.
Preparing your shower floor for a waterproof liner

It's supposed to be sandy!

Before you install your liner I need to say type this: your preslope will be sandy, it’s suppose to be sandy – it’s normal, don’t panic. If you have any high areas in your preslope you may want to scrape or sand it down so it runs in a flat, straight line from the wall to the drain. Notice I said typed “flat, straight” and not level – if its level water won’t drain.

You can scrape it down with a regular razor scraper or sandpaper – yes, sandpaper. If there is a significantly large dip in your pre-slope you can fill it with more deck mud. You’ll need to coat the pre-slope with thinset under the patch to ensure it will stay put. Don’t get all OCD about this, it doesn’t have to be perfect. Just make sure there are no major humps or dips and water will run from the wall to the drain without problems.

The next thing to do is take a chisel to your wall studs. You weren’t expecting that, were you? You want to notch out your studs about 1/8” up to the height of the top of your liner. This is so you can place your backerboard over the front of your liner on the wall without them jutting out at the bottom. It allows your walls to remain flat all the way down to the shower floor. You will create “cavities” in your wall studs for the liner. 1/8” is a bit larger than the thickness of your liner but it’s better to be larger than smaller.
Alternatively you can use cardboard drywall shims to bump out your studs so the wall is a flat, linear plane from top to bottom. The shims will be stapled or taped to the front of the wall studs above your liner. They happen to be the same thickness as your liner so provided your studs are straight and level this will keep your wall the same way.

When you place your liner in the shower you will be folding the corners so you want to allow enough room on one of the corner studs for three layers of the liner. I usually notch my corner studs out 1/4” or double up the shims. This allows enough to keep your corner square after the walls are up.

**Placing the liner in your shower**

Liner placed over pre-slope

Now it’s time to lay your liner in the shower and get it all lined up. DO NOT cut anything until you have the liner exactly where you want it. Make sure you have the top half of the drain flange removed before you place your liner over it. I’m not talking typing about the round part that unscrews, I mean the top half of the lower part which bolts onto the lower half. (Take a look at the cutaway diagram at the beginning.) After removing the top half of the flange replace the bolts, this will serve as a guide when you cut the liner.

Center your liner in the shower with the ends running up the walls evenly. Also make certain you have enough of the liner draped over your curb so that you can attach it on the
outside of the curb. I will usually place it so that the liner drapes up and over the curb all the way to the floor on the outside of the shower.

**Cutting the hole for the drain out of your shower liner**

![Cut only on the outside of the flange bolts](image)

Drain hole cut out of liner

After you have it properly positioned you can cut out the hole for your drain. Do this very carefully – there is no second chance. Take your utility knife and poke a hole through the liner directly in the center of the drain. From there cut in a circular motion toward the outside of the drain in a spiral. Only cut it out to the outside of the four bolts which attach the top half of the flange to the bottom.
Silicone under the liner around the drain

Remove the bolts from the flange. Now you need to place a bead of silicone under the liner around the perimeter of the lower flange. The easiest way to do this is to place the
nozzle of the tube of silicone into the hole you just cut for the drain. Place a good size bead around the lower flange outside of the bolt holes, don’t get any in the bolt holes. This prevents any minute amount of moisture from getting under you waterproof liner. Press the liner into the bead of silicone all the way around the drain to ensure full contact.

Now you can bolt the upper half of the flange to the lower. Do not overtighten the bolts. You want to squeeze the liner between the two but not so much as to crack the flange – they are only plastic, after all. That’s it, the drain is finished.

Now take your liner and place it up the walls into the notches you cut out of the studs. You can tape the top of them to hold them in place. If you do nail it only place one nail into the very top of the liner, never lower. In the corner you will fold the liner over on itself, never cut it. Place the folded part into the larger notches. There should be enough room in the notches so your backerboard will set flush onto the studs.

**Curb and flood testing**

Well now we’re ready to waterproof your curb. At this point you should have your pre-slope done and the liner correctly placed over it with the drain cut out and correctly fastened with the top part of the flange bolted in. Now you’re ready to get the curb cut and waterproofed - let’s get it done.
And yes, I know my pictures suck – I’m a tile guy for cryin’ out loud, not a professional photographer. Until you try to balance a liner, a razor knife, a margin trowel, and a camera while trying to take a photo don’t give me any crap about it. I made them all fairly large, too, so you may partake in the full glory of how much my photography sucks.

We need to start by finding the inside lower corner of your shower pan and making certain that the liner is pressed firmly against it. Then follow it up the corner of the curb and wall to the top inside corner of your curb. This is the spot at which you will start the cut in your liner.

Cutting a liner for a curb when shower walls will be backerboard

Deciding in which direction to make your cut depends upon how you plan to waterproof the walls. If you are simply using a cementious backerboard on your walls with a moisture barrier behind it you want to cut from that point straight up. Or, more precisely, cut your liner so that when it is placed flat against the studs the cut will go straight up from that point.

If, however, you are using a topical waterproofing membrane (that’s just fancy-ass, pinkie in the air talk for waterproofing that goes right behind the tile) I cut it a bit
differently. Start from the inside top corner of the curb and cut straight out to the outside corner of the curb.

Cut this way from the top inside corner of the curb

Cutting a liner for curb when using a topical membrane

The reason for this is simple – to me anyway – if you are using a cement backerboard or any type of substrate where moisture will get behind your wall, you want to have as much liner at the ends of the curbs as possible to run up the wall. With a topical membrane such as Schluter Kerdi or a liquid such as Redgard you don’t have to worry about that. By the time any water behind the tile gets to the bottom of your waterproofing it should be well below your curb – provided you’ve installed it correctly.

On the inside corner of the curb you should install a ‘dam corner’. These are pre-formed outside corners which are glued to the liner to cover the spot where you’ve made the cut. I do not have a picture of these because I don’t use them, I’m a hypocritical bastard like that. But you should. (Use the dam corners, not be a hypocritical bastard.)

When you do glue your dam corners in you need to make sure you use the correct type of glue. Just like drain pipes – pvc glue for pvc liners and cpe glue for cpe liners. The glue WILL NOT work the other way around. Really, don’t try it, it’s an expensive lesson. Take my word for it.
Now that you have the ends of the curb cut we need to move on to preparing the curb for tile. Take your 2 x 4 that you used to level your pre-slope perimeter (you did that, right?) and place it in the inside corner of your liner against the curb and the floor. This ensures that the liner lies completely against the floor and the curb without air pockets or empty space beneath it. Then nail the OUTSIDE of your liner to the curb – only the outside, never the inside.

Please note: these photos were taken after my final mud bed was in place. I installed the curb last on this particular project. You can do it before or after your final mud bed is fabricated. Dealer’s choice.
Nailed only on the outside of the curb

To hold the liner in place over the top of the curb you need some metal lathe. Provided your curb consists of 2 x 4’s your lathe needs to be cut into strips sized to fit over your curb from the floor on the outside to the inside bottom corner of your shower. Bend the lathe into a ‘U’ shape (length-wise) and place it over the top of your liner over your curb. Something else I do not have a photo of. Just because I’ve never taken one, not because I do it differently.

You only need to do this if you have a wooden curb. If your shower is on a concrete subfloor you used bricks for your curb – right? Pay attention, if you fail the quiz later you owe me a Pepsi.

I have one more photo for this part and this is it. Isn’t that spectacular? It’s just to show you how I do the ends of the curb when using Kerdi on the walls. “But why don’t you use Kerdi on the floor too?” Glad you asked. It’s a very technical answer and requires you pay attention to every part of it or you may get lost in all the details. Ready? Because some people don’t wanna pay over 100 dollars for a shower drain. Whaddya gonna do?
Shower pan liner on the end of the curb.

Couple of things I’d like to point out about that last photo before you go bustin’ my chops too hard. First, the excess liner is not yet cut out. I cut it straight down the edge of the drywall there and everything gets tucked straight back into the wall. Secondly, yes, I put a nail through the liner. A foot above the curb. You can light it on fire that high if you choose to do so. (I wouldn’t recommend that, though. And no, I don’t want to talk type about it.)

Now we have to water test your pan to make sure it does not leak. Note: most cities and counties REQUIRE this to be done – don’t skip it. The test simply ensures that all your hard work is indeed correct and your pan does not leak. That’s it.

You need to plug the drain (or you’ll be there all night trying to get enough water into it) which you can do with either a $75 specialty plug, or a water balloon. You pick. You need to make absolutely sure that (and I’m assuming you chose the balloon option) the balloon is pushed far enough down into the drain to block the weep holes as well. If they are not it will let you know that your weep holes work correctly. Unfortunately it does nothing to reassure you about the liner. If you look carefully into the drain you should be able to see the holes for the weep holes, get below them with your plug.

Then just fill ‘er up. All the way up to just a hair below the top of the curb. (take the 2 x 4 out of it first if it’s still in there) and leave it set for 24 hours. After the 24 hours have elapsed and you are reasonably recovered from your recently induced hangover, check to make sure the level of the water has not gone down. If it hasn’t you are ready to go.
Final mud bed

Well, you’ve made it to the final step.

Now that we’ve ensured that your shower liner is indeed waterproof and won’t leak into your dining room and carve the Grand Canyon into your basement we’re ready for the final portion. The top mud bed is the surface onto which your shower floor tile is actually installed.

What we will now be doing is fabricating your top mud bed directly over the top of your waterproof liner. The top bed will be 1 1/4” to 1 1/2” thick – consistent throughout from the drain to the wall. Since you have a pre-slope beneath your liner (umm, you DO have a pre-slope beneath your liner, right?) you already have the correct slope for drainage. By making a consistent mudbed for your top slope it will follow the slope for the same amount. Know what I mean?

Take a look at the badly created diagram at the beginning and that may help explain it – and don’t give me any crap about my lack of photoshop skills!

The top mud bed is what we have left for your shower provided you’ve followed in order. See how the top mud bed is properly sloped toward the drain even though it is a consistent thickness? That’s what I mean.

A couple of notes before we start making a mess. You can install your moisture barrier and backerboard on the walls at this point if you want to. DO NOT put any screws through the liner, stop them above the top of the liner. The top mud bed will hold the bottom of your walls in place if you choose to do it like this. Your moisture barrier must go over the top of your pan liner as in the diagram. This ensures that any moisture will run down into the shower rather than into your framing behind your wall.

In my wonderful diagram I have the wall substrate or backerboard installed after the top mud bed is fabricated, you can also do it in this manner. Installing it before, though, assists in getting a level perimeter around the base of your shower since you can draw lines on the wall. It’s up to you.

Determining the thickness of your top mud bed relies mostly upon the amount of vertical movement you have in your drain. You need to make sure that you can unscrew the center portion (this moves the top of the drain up) enough to be level or a hair below the top of your mudbed with tile. The easiest way to determine this is to start at 1 1/4” – that’s just the thickness I prefer to have if possible.
Location of Weep holes in shower drain

Weep holes in case you missed it
Weep holes in drain covered with pea gravel

You need to place pea gravel, spacers, or something similar around the drain where the weep holes are located. This prevents deck mud from clogging up your weep holes and nullifying all of your hard work. If plugged up the shower cannot properly drain beneath your floor tile and your house will fall down and your dog will burst into flames. Okay, maybe your house won’t collapse, but it won’t be a good thing. Make sure you place something there that prevents clogging of your weep holes.

Place a piece of your floor tile on the base of the drain – on the upper part of the flange – and unscrew the barrel of the drain until you reach one inch. As long as the barrel is still firmly screwed into the flange at this height you have enough to create a 1 1/4” top mud bed. If the drain falls out before you reach 1 1/4” (it won’t) – go with 1”. 
Figure 1
Now the fun part – we’re gonna make your lines so you can see what you’re doing, where you need to be, and make your slope correct and consistent. Get your 2 x 4 (which is actually 3 1/2” x 1 1/2” – economy I guess) and set it on top of your drain (Figure 1). Measure from the liner to the top of the 2 x 4. In this photo it is (or close enough to) 4 3/4”.

You then need to make that mark at the same height all the way around the perimeter of your shower walls (figure 2). If you have installed your backerboard you can just make that mark on the wall at a height of 4 3/4”. I use a laser because I’m a big Star Wars fan and that’s how I roll. Get one, they’re great for building showers and annoying small animals. That’s a versatile tool right there!

This may look a bit confusing at first, the 2 x 4 and all, but it will make sense shortly. Or not . . .
Overfill the perimeter and use a 2 x 4 to beat down and level the deck mud to your level line.
Beat down deck mud until the top of your 2 x 4 is even with your level line

Figure 4
Now we need to prepare some more deck mud. Get out your shovel and mixing box. If you need the recipe again it’s here: How to Make Deck Mud or at the very beginning. Start with the perimeter of the shower and dump your mud in there. I always start along the back wall of the shower.

Get a good amount of deck mud packed along the walls higher than where you want it to be. Once you have a good amount packed against the wall grab your 2 x 4 and place it flat against the wall. Get your hammer and beat the deck mud down with the 2 x 4 until the top of the 2 x 4 is level with the line you’ve made on the wall or your laser line (figures 3, 4, and 5).

Simply continue to do this around the entire outside perimeter of your shower keeping all the edges level with your line. By utilizing the 2 x 4 with the laser or the drawn line you can be certain that the floor is level all the way around (Figure 6).

Some people have asked me why I have a hole in one of my 2 x 4's. It's a very detailed explanation - ready, pay attention - so I can hang it on a nail when I'm not using it. That's all, stop overthinking everything, it's a hole in a 2 x 4. You don't need a hole in your 2 x 4 unless you have a storage problem.
Once you have your entire perimeter done you simply need to pack deck mud into the rest of the base from the perimeter to the drain. Once again - beat the hell out of it. Seriously, pack it in there really well. The more dense your floor is the better. You need to ensure that the line of the floor is straight from the wall to the drain all the way around without any major humps or dips. It takes time and patience - use both. This step is critical since this is the substrate your tile will be installed upon.
Completed Mud Bed
*Finished mud bed has a sandy finish*

Mud Bed Around Drain
Once you get the remainder of the deck mud packed into the shower and have it correctly packed and leveled just let it set for at least 12 hours, 24 would be better. Really, leave it alone. There is something about a freshly packed mud bed that makes people want to pick and poke at it - it's alluring - and a bit disturbing. But you need to leave it alone. So quit poking at it.

After it sets for about 12 hours you can fine tune it, so to speak, if you need to. Any un-flat spots can be scraped, rubbed, or sanded down to flatten them out. You want this surface absolutely flat.

If you have not yet done so you can now install your moisture barrier and backerboards. Now that you have a large waterproof box you are ready to install your tile and make it look all pretty. The hard part is finished. As with any proper tile installation the underlying substrates are the most important. Take your time with the preparation, it is imperative. Without proper preparation any tile installation is doomed to fail.

And your dog may burst into flames.
Completed mud bed ready for tile.
That’s it. Congratulations! My next ebook will describe proper preparation for your walls, or how to fix a flat tire on your pet yak – I have not yet decided. Have a beer Pepsi – you deserve it!

If you have any comments, questions, or just wanna email someone with a very warped sense of humor you can contact me at FloorElf@FloorElf.com.