

Meet the Threshold

A Seamless Solution for Your Drainage Project

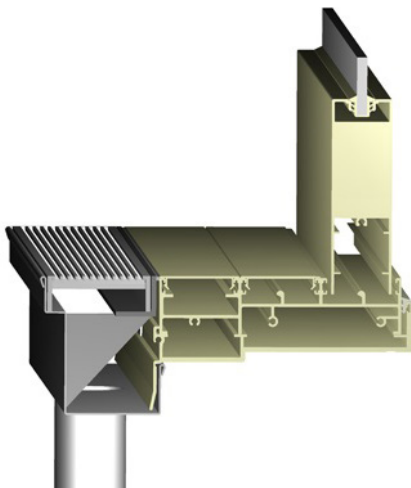


Beneath the Threshold: What is 'Threshold Drainage'?

Developed in the 1990s as a requirement for special needs access, threshold drains have evolved as mainstay of sleek, contemporary and organic home design.

Owing to their level-plane design, threshold drains provide a seamless connection between indoor and outdoor living areas, thereby eliminating the "trip and wheelchair" hazard of stepdown partitions.

Threshold's smooth integration into the door track not only delivers unimpeded access for mobility-impaired occupants (including those with wheelchairs or walkers), but creates exquisite continuity between indoor and outdoor environments – an emerging trend in today's 'bring the outdoors in' design movement.



How Does Level Threshold Drainage Work?

The threshold drain consists of an external linear grate which sits beside the doortrack. An integrated, concealed, sub-sill collects water and condensation around the doorway and conveys it to the external drainage system.

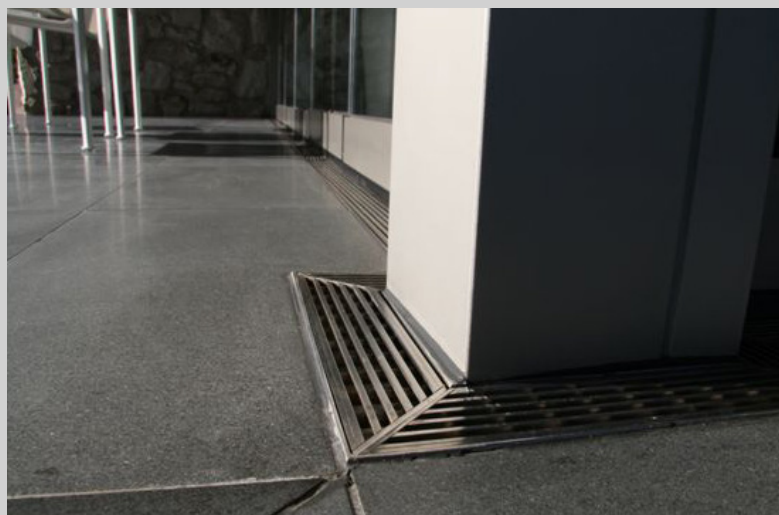
The streamlined design creates a disguised water barrier between indoor/outdoor living areas. This removes 'trip-and-slip' hazards – such as stepdowns and high gradient falls – that historically existed across doorways with rolling, sliding and bi-fold doors.

Is Threshold Right for Your Drainage Fit-Out?

Poor surface drainage is a persistent bugbear for architects and builders. Property owners know that prolonged water exposure (or "ponding"), as a result of improper drainage or insufficient gradients, can damage the building's structural integrity and create fertile ground for mould and vermin.¹

While traditional stepdown doorways merely repel water from indoor surfaces, a quality threshold drain acts as both barrier and active water conduit, providing superior drainage around the doorsill area.

So could threshold offer the best solution for your unique drainage fit-out? These **Three Key Benefits and Considerations** (overleaf) will help guide you in making the right decision.



3 Key Benefits & Considerations of Threshold Drainage

1. Equitable Access Design

Australia's Access and Mobility code (AS1428) requires a 'continuous accessible path of travel [that does] not include a step, stairway ... or [any] other impediment'.² While specifically mandated for public-access constructions, the code provides an invaluable guide for builders and architects in achieving equal access provisions.

The threshold's ingenious level-plane design overcomes a major obstacle for universal doorway access: step-barrier water containment.

By integrating drains into the door-track, threshold provides an unbroken path between internal and external surfaces, allowing uninhibited movement between the doorway.

2. Is Your Threshold Waterproof Compliant?

One of the unique features of the threshold drain is that it spans across the indoor/outdoor divide. This presents a fundamental challenge for threshold systems: the ability to withstand the erosive forces of windblown and debris-loaded water outside whilst maintaining a low-impact and low-profile structure for use indoors.³

Due to its proximity to indoor areas, any breach of the sub-sill could see water penetrate wall and floor finishes, causing extensive damage to moisture-sensitive materials and structural foundations.⁴ It is therefore imperative that your threshold solution can guarantee adequate waterproofing as well as structural integrity.

Threshold drains were a belated addition to Australia's Waterproofing codes, first appearing in 2010. As such,

extra vigilance is required to ensure your threshold complies with the requirements of both internal and external waterproofing standards (AS-3740 & AS-4654).

To ensure you meet the highest standards of Australia's Waterproofing code, make certain your threshold drain† –

- is manufactured with 316 marine grade (corrosion-resistant) stainless steel that withstands high water flows, harsh chemicals and suspended solids;

- can resist shrinkage and expansion of substrate materials, framing and finishes, and temperature variations from -5°C to +50°C;

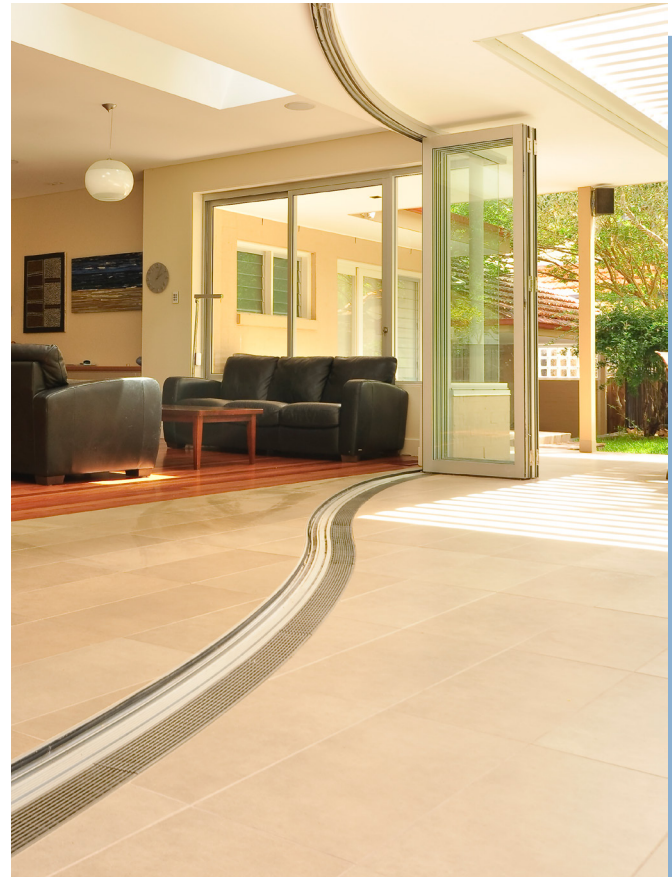
- substrate area is supported by waterproof membranes that meet strict requirements of AS/NZS 4858 (Wet Area Membranes).

3. 'Bring the Outdoors in': Threshold as a Trendsetter

The increasing popularity of open-plan living is dissolving the traditional barriers between indoor and outdoor spaces. In the push to harmonise these once discrete environments, designers must find creative ways to integrate practical building elements seamlessly into the design fabric.

Threshold drains provide the ideal means to integrate high-quality drainage into low-impact organic design, creating a seamless link between indoor and outdoor environments.

Threshold's narrow-profile stainless steel design marries the traditional with the contemporary, and is versatile enough to meet any doorway shape.



Grate Decisions: Choosing the Ideal Threshold Design for Your Drainage Project

Threshold drains come in two principal design standards: **Linear Stainless Steel & Tile Inserts Frames.**

Linear Stainless Steel

A full stainless steel construction, these systems come with an integrated sub-sill, featuring a unique wedgewire grate design.



Tile Insert Frame

This stainless steel frame blends seamlessly into any chosen surface finish, including tiles, marble, stone or polished concrete. Perfect for bathroom and other tiled surfaces.



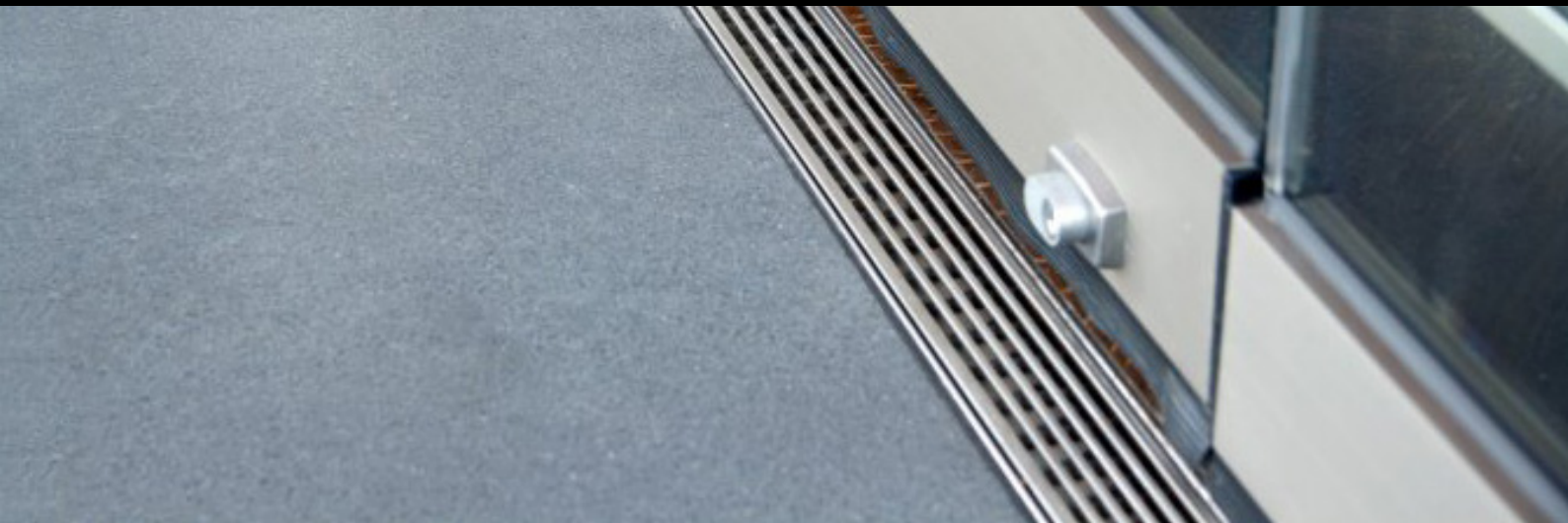
Superior Quality Meets Sophisticated Design: **The Stormtech Solution**

For over 25 years, Stormtech has delivered superior quality and elegant solutions for residential and commercial drainage projects.

Stormtech was a pioneer of the level threshold drainage system. From its advent in universal access, to its emergence as a popular design solution, Stormtech remains at the forefront of threshold drainage innovations and sleek contemporary designs.

Stormtech was directly involved in the development of Australia's Waterproofing standards (AS-3740 & AS-4654) and continues to work closely with certifiers, architects and inspectors to ensure their threshold solutions are of the highest quality and fitted for purpose.

With an unrivalled range of grates, doortracks and sub-sill configurations, Stormtech can help tailor a customised threshold solution for your unique drainage project.



¹ WA Government, 'Mould and Condensation in Your Home', Public Health - Government of Western Australia,

² Standards Australia, 'Design for Access and Mobility - General Requirements for Access' (AS1428.1), 2009, p. 9

³ B. Schafer, 'Waterproofing', tiletoday.com.au, Issue 61, 2008-09 p. 74

⁴ Standards Australia, 'Waterproofing of Domestic Wet Areas', 2010, p. 34

† Please note: this is not intended to provide an exhaustive list of requirements for the Waterproofing Standard (AS3740). For specific stipulations please refer directly to AS3740-2010 Code.

