

## ⚠️ 6 Warning Signs Your Waterproofing Is Failing

- Grout stays dark 30+ min after shower**  
Water absorbing into substrate behind tile  
**MONITOR**
- Musty smell after hot showers**  
Moisture trapped behind tile breeding mold  
**ACT NOW**
- Grout cracking at corners & curb**  
Structural movement from moisture damage  
**ACT NOW**
- Tiles sound hollow when tapped**  
Thinset bond has failed, water behind tile  
**ACT NOW**
- Discoloration spreading from shower**  
Water migrated past shower into drywall  
**EMERGENCY**
- Soft spots on wall near shower**  
Substrate degraded — structure compromised  
**EMERGENCY**

## ★ Good / Better / Best

**GOOD** **RedGard Liquid** ~\$420  
2 coats, roller-applied, visual cure indicator

**BETTER** **Schluter Kerdi** ★ **MOST POPULAR** ~\$560  
Sheet membrane, sealed seams, lifetime warranty

**BEST** **Full Schluter System** **Varies**  
Integrated substrate + membrane + heated floors

## \$ The Cost Math (70 sqft)

Cement board (70 sqft × \$6.00)	\$420
Membrane labor (70 sqft × \$4.30)	\$301
Materials (RedGard, ~2 gal)	~\$120
<b>TOTAL INVESTMENT</b>	<b>\$841</b>

### WHAT SKIPPING IT COSTS

Waterproofing	\$84
Niche leak	\$3K-\$8K
Full tearout	\$8K-\$15K
Structural + mold	\$12K-\$25K+

## ? 5 Questions to Ask Any Contractor

1. "What waterproofing system do you use?"

▶ **Red flag:** "Cement board is waterproof"

2. "How many coats do you apply?"

✓ **Correct:** TWO coats, 24hr cure between

3. "Do you waterproof niches & curbs?"

▶ **Red flag:** "Just walls and floor"

4. "How high is the membrane?"

✓ **Correct:** 6" above shower head or ceiling

5. "What warranty does your waterproofing carry?"

✓ **Best answer:** Schluter Kerdi = lifetime warranty from manufacturer

### MONITOR

1 sign only — check again in 30 days

### ACT NOW

2+ signs — schedule a free inspection

### EMERGENCY

Soft walls, spreading stains, mold — call this week