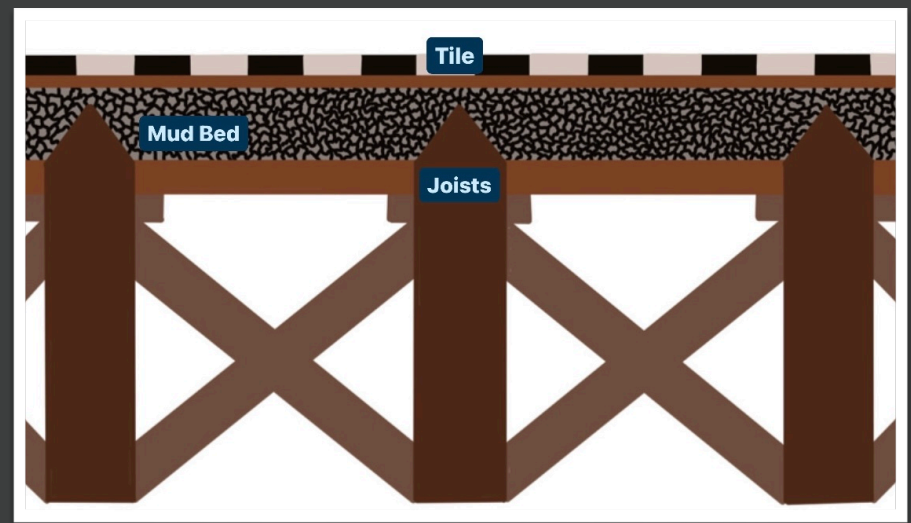


Main Street Memo: Bathroom Floors

Photo Credit: Chris Tobin, Joe Pronesti, and Lex Shady



Things to Know

- ▶ Found in tiled bathrooms over wood joist construction in buildings built prior to 1940.
- ▶ The mud bed and chamfered joists was to allow even tile placement.
- ▶ Joists were notched and chamfered which weakened the floor assembly.
- ▶ 3-5" of mud set added significant weight which posed a collapse hazard.
- ▶ Due to tile, sounding is not a reliable technique to assess floor integrity.
- ▶ Due to thickness and tile, TICs are not reliable in detecting heat signatures.
- ▶ Years of water damage would commonly rot joists under cast iron tubs.
- ▶ Legacy tiled bathrooms pose an incredible collapse hazard due to a culmination of aforementioned factors. Use extreme caution when overhauling.