

PLANNING

Read all warnings on pages 5-6 prior to installation.

Prior to the installation of KERDI-BOARD-SNLT, the Schluter®-LIPROTEC-CW connection cable must be run, with the cable gland positioned to be connected at the top of the niche.

Use the KERDI-BOARD-SNLT Planning Guide to help select the LED power source (the Schluter®-LIPROTEC-ECX all-in-one driver and dimmer or the Schluter®-LIPROTEC-ECD dimmable driver), and to calculate the proper length of LIPROTEC-CW connection cable for your application. The Planning Guide is available on schluter.com.

Follow the installation steps in precise order.

- Connectors may be damaged by repeated connection/disconnection.
- DO NOT install the LED strip into the profile until grouting is complete.

DO NOT install the KERDI-BOARD-SNLT in a commercial, continuous use steam shower. KERDI-BOARD-SNLT can be installed in residential, intermittent use steam shower applications. Please contact Schluter-Systems Customer Service if you have any questions. For residential, intermittent use steam shower applications refer to Schluter-Systems Shower System Installation Handbook detail K-SSH.

DO NOT install the LED and connection box at the bottom of the niche. Water will accumulate in the cavity and be difficult to clear. Installing in this manner will void the warranty.



1 Locating and Preparing the Niche Area

Determine the desired location and trace around the outside of the KERDI-BOARD-SNLT flange ensuring the lines are level and plumb. Cut and remove the KERDI-BOARD or solid backing (e.g. gypsum board) such that the niche will be supported on both sides by the studs or other wall framing.



2 Locating the LIPROTEC-CW Connection Cable

Once the cut piece of KERDI-BOARD or solid backing has been removed, locate the previously run LIPROTEC-CW connection cable. Please refer to the KERDI-BOARD-SNLT Planning Guide for determining and configuring the required length of the LIPROTEC-CW connection cable for your application.



3 Testing LED Functionality Safely

Test the LED function by connecting the waterproof plugs together (LED connector to end of LIPROTEC-CW cable). Check all connections are complete and correct at the LED power supply (LIPROTEC-ECD or LIPROTEC-ECX driver). Turn on the power and confirm the LED will illuminate by using the wall switch.

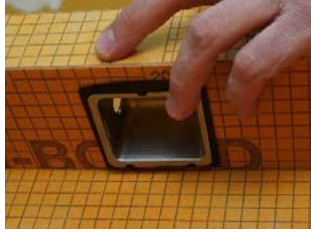
Note: DO NOT test the LED function by connecting the LIPROTEC-CW cable directly to 120V power. This will damage the LED strip light, could result in electrical shock, and will void the warranty.





4 Disconnecting LED Connectors

Separate the connectors. **INSTALLATION TIP:** Use caution when disconnecting the LED. There is a small locking tab on the connector that needs to be lifted slightly before the connectors can be separated.



5 Installing the Stainless Steel Connection Box

Insert the stainless steel connection box into the plastic cavity at the top of the KERDI-BOARD-SNLT niche. Hold in place as you locate and grab the cable gland end of the LIPROTEC-CW connection cable.

Notes:

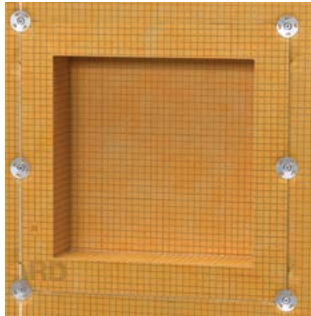
- The metal connection box can only be inserted one way; ensure that the side holes are aligned. The hole in the cavity box is oversized so that the cable gland can ONLY be installed with the stainless steel connection box in place.
- Having extra cable length in the wall allows for slight adjustments and ease of installation of the niche.



6 Securing the Cable Gland to the Connection Box

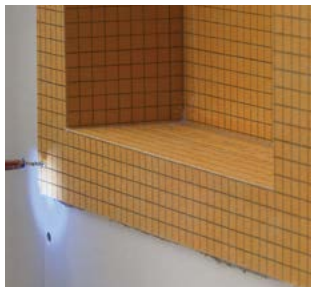
Holding the niche near the wall opening, insert the cable gland from the outside into the hole on the side of the box. **PRESS FIRMLY** and snap it into the hole. You will hear a **CLICK**. Be sure the gland is tightly sealed onto the plastic box.

Note: Do not loosen or adjust the placement of the gland on the cable. Improper tightening of the gland could compromise waterproof integrity.



7a Installing over KERDI-BOARD

Insert the niche and fasten to the studs using the provided KERDI-BOARD-ZS screws and KERDI-BOARD-ZT washers or appropriate wood/metal screws, and place the fasteners along the seam between the KERDI-BOARD and the niche. Fasten all corners and limit fastener spacing to 12" (30 cm) o.c.



7b Installing over Solid Backing

Insert the niche and fasten to the studs using the provided KERDI-BOARD-ZS screws or appropriate wood/metal screws and place the fasteners approximately 1/4" (6 mm) from the edge of the niche. Fasten all corners and limit fastener spacing to 12" (30 cm) o.c.

Notes:

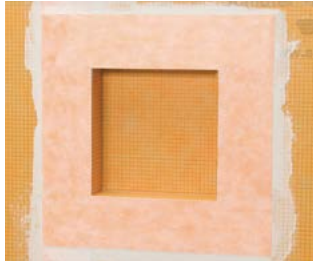
- Be careful not to pinch or pierce the connection cable during installation with the mounting screws.
- When installing the horizontal niches, be sure NOT to screw into or around the top center of the niche where the connection boxes and wires are located to prevent damage to these components.



8 Protecting the Connector

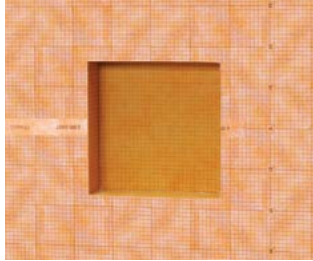
Add **masking tape** around the connector on the LIPROTEC-CW connection cable below the cable gland. The tape protects the connector from being fouled by thin-set mortar. Use extra masking tape to create a tab to pull the wire out of the box during installation.

Waterproofing



9a Installing over KERDI-BOARD

Seal the seams between the niche and walls using the provided pre-cut KERDI-BAND frame with Schluter®-SET, ALL-SET, FAST-SET, or unmodified thin-set mortar and ensure a 2" (50 mm) overlap in all directions.



9b Installing over Solid Backing

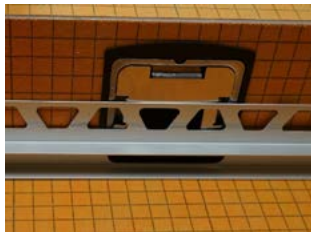
Connections between the niche and walls are made using KERDI membrane, applied with Schluter®-SET, ALL-SET, FAST-SET, or unmodified thin-set mortar. Apply the membrane over the wall and embed it into the mortar throughout its entire surface to ensure proper adhesion. Remove any air pockets. The membrane is subsequently cut to match the niche opening.

Mix the thin-set mortar to a fairly fluid consistency, yet still able to hold a notch. Apply the thin-set using the Schluter®-KERDI-TROWEL, which features a 1/8" x 1/8" (3 mm x 3 mm) square-notched design, or a 1/4" x 3/16" (6 mm x 5 mm) V-notched trowel.



10 Installing the Stainless Steel Cover and Mounting Profile

Snap the stainless steel cover into place. Tuck the LIPROTEC-CW cable into the stainless steel connection box. Determine the position and direction of the mounting profile: back or middle installation (anchoring leg facing in or out). Check the position of the slot in the mounting profile and the opening in the box cover to confirm alignment. For LED placement in the rear, the open side of the cover should be toward the back and the reverse for a middle install.



11 Applying the Self-Adhesive Patch

Dry fit the self-adhesive patch at the top of the niche. Mark the spot where the cable will penetrate. Cut a hole of approximately 1" x 1" (25 mm x 25 mm) in the patch for the connector to pass through. The self-adhesive patch is used for proper thin-set mortar adhesion and to prevent mortar from entering the connection box. It is not intended for waterproofing.

Remove the paper backing on the self-adhesive patch and adhere it to the same location as it was tested. Carefully smooth the patch from back to front, so there are no bumps or wrinkles.





12 Tiling the Back of the Niche and Preparing the Profile

Tile the back of the niche and recheck the fit of the profile.

Trowel thin-set mortar at the top of the niche, being careful not to lose the wire or damage it.

In order to prevent thin-set mortar from getting into the channel of the mounting profile, add a piece of masking tape across the slot in the back of the profile. A small hole should be added to make it easier to retrieve the tape tab on the connector, so you can pull out the connector in the next steps.

IMPORTANT!

Install the profile WITHOUT the LED strip inserted. The LED strip should only be inserted after the tile has been set and grouted as grouting can damage the surface of the LED strip.



13 Embedding the Profile and Setting Surrounding Tiles

Embed the profile at the top of the niche. Pull the wire tape tab down through the thin-set mortar and slot in the profile. Be sure the wire can move freely. Clean away all thin-set mortar from the tape, wires, and channel.

Apply additional thin-set mortar over the anchoring leg of the profile and back-butter the tile as required. Set the surrounding tile and finishing profiles.



14 Installing tiles in the niche

Install tiles on the sides and bottom of the niche.

Note: A space is created intentionally at the end of the profile above the side tiles. The LED strip will be inserted into this area. Keep this space clear of thin-set mortar.



15 Preparing for LED Installation

Allow thin-set mortar to cure and apply grout. If you do test the fit of the LED strip into the mounting profile, it must be removed prior to grouting. A tab can be made with masking tape to facilitate removal. It is important to remove the LED strip from the profile prior to grouting to avoid damage.

Once the tile has been set and grouted, the LED strip can be inserted.

Installation of the LED Strip into the Mounting Profile



16 IMPORTANT: take care not to pinch the wires or stress the LED in the following steps.

- Pull the wire down through the slot in the profile.
- Remove the tape and clean any thin-set mortar off the cable and connector.
- Plug the LED into the cable; it should click.
- Test LED function.
- Tuck the connectors into the stainless steel connection box above.
- Push the ends of the LED strip into the space above the side tiles first.
- Let the LED strip bow slightly in the center and position the cable so that it is aligned directly below the slot of the profile.
- Press the LED strip into the profile channel while guiding the cable through the slot into the connection box.
- **Ensure that all cable is properly inserted into the connection box.** If cable is positioned in the channel of the mounting profile, behind the LED strip, the LED strip will not sit flush.
- Press the LED strip firmly into the channel until completely flat. Run a clean cloth or finger back and forth to fully seat it.



GENERAL DETAILS

- **Before installing and operating this product, the user and/or installer must read, understand, and follow these instructions and keep them handy for future reference. If you have a question, please contact Customer Service by phone 800-472-4588 (USA) or 800-667-8746 (Canada) or from our website at schluter.com.**
- ⚠ **If this installation handbook and these instructions are not followed, the warranty will be considered null and void and the manufacturer deems no further responsibility for this product.**
- ⚠ **The following instructions must be adhered to in order to avoid personal injuries or property damages, including serious injuries and potentially fatal electric shocks or fire.**
- ⚠ **This product must be installed by a qualified person in accordance with this installation handbook and with the Canadian Electrical Code Part I (Canada) or the National Electrical Code (U.S.) as applicable. All electric connections must be made by a qualified person, according to the electrical and building codes effective in your region.**

ELECTRICAL DETAILS

- Never power the LED light strip directly to a 120 V power source. This will damage the LED light strip. The power must be converted to 24 V in order to illuminate the LED light strip.
- ⚠ **De-energize all power circuits before installation and servicing.**
- Schluter®-KERDI-BOARD-SNLT niche, mounting profile, and all electrical components for interior use only.
- A 120 V power source must be available within the range of the ECX or ECD drivers in order to connect the power supply.

INSTALLATION DETAILS

- For permanent mounting of the LED light strips, the mounting profiles must be fixed in accordance with code requirements.
- All cables, plug connections, and system components outside of the shower must be kept permanently dry.
- The minimum bending radius for the LED light strips is 1.64 ft (500 mm).
- LED light strips must not be bent laterally over the edges.
- Use care when removing the LED light strips. Do not use sharp objects (i.e., screw drivers, etc.) to remove the LED light strips as this will lead to damage.
- The LIPROTEC-CW low voltage cable can be extended using Class 2 (CL2 or FT4 in CA) in-wall rated LED cable or equivalent but must be spliced in an accessible electrical box and following local code. Contact a qualified electrician in your area for guidance.

See **National Electrical Code, NFPA 70**, especially

- o Article 300 General Requirements for Wiring Methods and Materials
- o Article 400 Flexible Cords and Flexible Cables
- o Article 725 Class 1, Class 2, and Class 3 Remote-Control, Signaling, and Power-Limited Circuits

National Building Code of Canada

- o Section 2 — General Rules
- o Section 12 — Wiring methods
- o Section 16 — Class 1 and Class 2 circuits
- All wiring shall be attached to the permanent building structure.
- All low-voltage electrical work shall be done in a workmanlike manner (neat and organized).
- Penetrations in fire barriers shall be sealed.
- All splices and terminations shall be done in appropriate electrical boxes.
- Low-voltage wiring shall not be strapped to conduit.
- Low-voltage wiring shall not be attached to sprinkler piping.
- Wire shall not be run on top of the drop ceiling panels.
- Wiring shall not be attached to the support grid for the drop ceiling

OPERATING TIPS

Intended Use of the Product

- To produce accent lighting in:
 - Interior areas
 - Areas with intermittent humid conditions (e.g., showers, bathrooms).
 - Residential, intermittent use steam shower applications.
 - **DO NOT** install the KERDI-BOARD-SNLT in a commercial, continuous use steam room.

Misuse of the Product

- Only use with Schluter®-LIPROTEC and Schluter®-KERDI-BOARD-SNLT shower niche with white LED components.
- ⚠ **DO NOT trim or cut into LED strip.**
- ⚠ **DO NOT loosen or adjust the placement of the gland on the cable. Improper tightening of the gland could compromise waterproof integrity.**
- Connectors may be damaged by repeated connection/disconnection.
- **DO NOT** install the LED strip into the profile until grouting is complete.
- **DO NOT** install the LED and connection boxes at the bottom of the niche. Water will accumulate in the cavity and be difficult to clear. Installing in this manner will void the warranty.
- Only use the LED system in the manner described in the installation and operating instructions.
- Never install the LED system in areas that are completely underwater – continuously or temporarily (e.g., swimming pool lighting).
- **DO NOT** use the self-adhesive patch for waterproofing.

MAINTENANCE

Clean the mounting profile and LED light strips with neutral cleaners. Avoid the use of strong acids (e.g., hydrochloric, hydrofluoric) and bases/alkaline cleaners (e.g., bleach, ammonia, chlorides). Do not use abrasive cleaning agents or tools.

FAQ'S

QUESTION	ANSWER
What are the components I need to properly install my KERDI-BOARD-SNLT niche?	KERDI-BOARD-SNLT Niche is sold as a 3-part system: a. Waterproof niche with integrated junction box and LED kit b. Power supplies (all-in-one or dimmable driver) c. LED connection cable in (3) lengths. Low voltage (24V) two-wire cable NEC rated for in-wall use.
Why is my KERDI-BOARD-SNLT LED flashing?	The driver of your KERDI-BOARD-SNLT is overloaded or overheated. Check the sum of wattage on the driver and make sure it is below the rated output (LIPROTEC-ECX: 60W or LIPROTEC-ECD: 24W). Confirm the ambient temperature at the driver is less than 80°C for the LIPROTEC-ECD and 40°C for the LIPROTEC-ECX.
Why isn't my KERDI-BOARD-SNLT LED lighting up or is flickering?	The LED in your KERDI-BOARD-SNLT is flickering or not lighting up due to incorrect OR poor wiring connection. The polarity of low voltage V+ (RED) and V- (Black) are reversed OR the circuit breaker is OFF or tripped. Recheck all connections.
Is there an easy way to keep the grout out of the mounting profile when installing KERDI-BOARD-SNLT?	Yes, a 11mm tall strip of 12.5mm Schluter-KERDI-BOARD or Gray Foam Caulk Backer Rod can be temporarily inserted into the channel to protect it from the grout overflow.
What should I do if I'm having difficulty inserting the LIPROTEC LED into the mounting profile or above the tiles at the ends?	The mounting profile and end areas must be free of any debris, grout or thin-set. Review all areas for obstructions. Remove with a pick or scraping tool before reinstalling the LED.
The LED is sticky from dirt or thin-set/grout dust and is difficult to insert to the profile.	Clean the LED with soapy water. This same solution can but used in a spray bottle to help lubricate the interface between the LED and the profile.
What if I lose the self-adhesive patch for my KERDI-BOARD-SNLT niche?	A piece of Schluter®-KERDI-BAND can be cut to 3-3/16" x 4-3/4"-6" (88 x 120-150 mm) and substituted. Use Schluter® Thin-set or Schluter®-KERDI-FIX to hold in place. The self adhesive patch is used for proper thin-set mortar adhesion and to prevent mortar from entering the connection box. It is not intended for waterproofing.
Why is there a lump in the middle of the KERDI-BOARD-SNLT LED, causing it not to sit flat?	The wire above the LED may not be properly inserted into the connection box or could be lying between the LED and the profile channel. Remove the LED and check the wire placement. When reinserting it into the connection box, make sure to coil the wire off to the side. This will prevent the wire from hitting the top of the box and ensure that the LED is seated correctly.

