

- #1 Granite or corian shower curbs can be an excellent choice over tile.** Aside from the aesthetic value, it reduces the number of grout joints that can collect grime and cause leaking issues. Regardless of the curb materials used, ensure there's an inward pitch of 1/8" to 3/16" to help with water drainage.
- #2 Durock or cement board should be used on the lower half of the shower at the very least.** Even if it does get wet, it will not deteriorate like water resistant drywall. Also, all joints should be taped for added rigidity.
- #3 Mastic vs. Thinset: Thinset is the choice of professionals for several reasons.** Most importantly, it stays strong and holds tight even in wet areas. Also, mastic cannot be built up like Thinset can. Do not use mastic anywhere on the lower half of the shower, particularly on the curb or seat areas.
- #4 Wood blocking is always recommended on the wall where a door will be hinged.** The 2x material should be laid flat (on the wide side) to allow a wider surface for structural support.
- #5 Wood blocking is always recommended on the wall where a door will be hinged.** The 2x material should be laid flat (on the wide side) to allow a wider surface for structural support.
- #6 Ensure bench seats are pitched downward towards the drainage area to avoid sitting water.** As a rule: 1/4" to 1/2" on bench seats and 1/8" to 3/16" on curbs is sufficient.
- #7 Glass tiles are increasingly popular, but should always be kept away from areas where hinges or hardware will be set.** Drilling through glass tiles leads to cracked tiles, no matter how careful one is. Choosing an alternate material for these areas, such as a complementary color of tile or marble, is the best way to eliminate this issue.
- #8 Detail or listello tiles that sit higher than the field tile can create issues when placed on a wall where hinges will be.** Terminating a detail pattern prior to the door area is highly recommended. Detail tiles in places where stationary panels will sit can be notched out for glass or u-channel though.
- #9 Steam units usually require floor to ceiling glass at above average heights.** Units over 84" require 1/2" glass due to bowing and warping issues. Frequently, we'll recommend either a stationary or swivel transom above the door on floor to ceiling applications to eliminate a large door. In the pre-build or design phase, you can also consider using a bulk head from the ceiling to keep the unit height relatively standard. For neo angle or corner units, it's important that the bulk head aligns with the curb below, so that the reveals stay consistent from top to bottom.
- #10 We recommend exhaust fans in all floor-to-ceiling steam shower enclosures to ensure proper ventilation of fully-enclosed steam units, even ones with glass transoms.** Otherwise, beautiful showers can begin to look like active petrie dishes over time. Also, consider having an inline filter between your water line and the steam unit. This will filter out the chlorine and other toxins frequently found in water, keeping your shower lovely and your body healthy.
- #11 Glass sealant is a product we highly recommend to reduce maintenance and keep your shower looking spotless.** Glass is a porous material, and these products seal the pores for long-lasting protection against mineral deposits and soap scum. Think of it as Teflon for your shower glass. Maintenance is reduced to a periodic rinse with water and a wash cloth. It will save you time and energy, not to mention the monetary savings on fewer cleaning supplies. Think of it as a "green" investment: as in more money in your pocket and less chemicals down your drain.
- #12 As hand held shower heads continue to rise in popularity, homeowners are discovering advantages other than simply keeping one's hair dry while showering.** For instance, we recommend using them to maintain your new tile and/or frameless shower enclosure by regularly rinsing the shower area. Hand held shower heads make it a breeze to keep soap scum and mineral deposits off of one's tile and glass, especially if used in conjunction with our TPC Surface Protector.
- #13 Body sprays should be placed in sensible positions within the shower.** One needn't be a student of hydrodynamics to understand that water sprayed directly into a seam or gap will cause leakage. An adage of our industry is, "We build shower enclosures, not fish tanks." Consequently, body sprays should never face a door opening or similar gap. We also recommend checking with your plumbing installer about the ability to control pressure and direction of body sprays, especially when two or more are installed, as water pressure issues can arise.
- #14 Slab material (i.e., granite, corian, or marble) should be flush with the edge of tile in door locations with no overhangs.** However, overhangs at notched panels can be notched to accept glass or channel.
- #15 Including a tiled niche within a custom shower is always a plus, both functionally and aesthetically.**
- #16 When a tiled niche isn't possible, we recommend a 12" x 12" corner shelf with a rounded edge.** These 3/8" tempered glass shelving systems are available as 5" x 24" rectangular shelves or any custom size and shape in between.
- #17 Silicone caulking is the invisible hero of any frameless shower installation.** Always use 100% silicone, mildew resistant caulk at all corners where grout will tend to get hairline cracks. Your caulk should be inspected annually for loose areas, and silicone should be reapplied after the area has been cleaned.
- #18 Don't forget the lights! All too often, we encounter dimly lit shower areas that really do a disservice to the custom glass and tile work.** Adequate light is essential for great ambiance. After all, with a dimmer you can always tone down too much light, but there's no way to overcome too little. Below is an example of an interesting light set-up.
- #19 Grab bars are a prudent consideration for many people – from the elderly to the chronically clumsy.** There's no shame in safety, and with so many designer styles and finishes, they don't have to look antiseptic and institutional. Chances are there are more than a few models that will match your existing faucets and fixtures. Grab bars should be placed by the entrance and on the interior of the shower.