



**SHOWER DOOR EXPERTS
GUIDE TO PROPERLY PLANNING
YOUR SHOWER LAYOUT**



YOUR FRIENDLY NEIGHBORHOOD **Shower Door Experts**

We specialize in shower doors, but after doing over 25,000 installations since 1991, we have some insider tips on general bathroom remodeling best practices too.

This booklet is designed to pass along some helpful hints we've learned over the years—ones that can help turn the shower of your dreams into a reality! By accounting for certain details in the design phase, we hope to save you some time, energy, and money on the backend. And to eliminate surprises, which are a remodeler's worst enemy.

So, enjoy these Helpful Hints and be in touch with any questions (or points you need clarified) as they arise.





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DIY TIPS & TRICKS



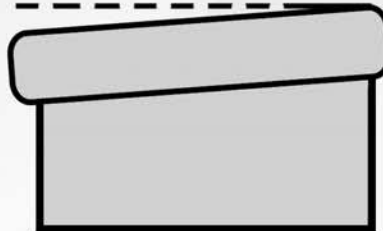
1

USE GRANITE OR CORIAN SHOWER CURBS

Granite or corian shower curbs can be excellent choices 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" - 3/16" to help with water drainage.



1/8" - 3/16" inward pitch



2

USE DUROCK OR CEMENT BOARD

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. All joints should be taped for added rigidity.



3

WHERE TO USE WOOD BLOCKING

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.



4

WHERE TO AVOID GLASS TILES

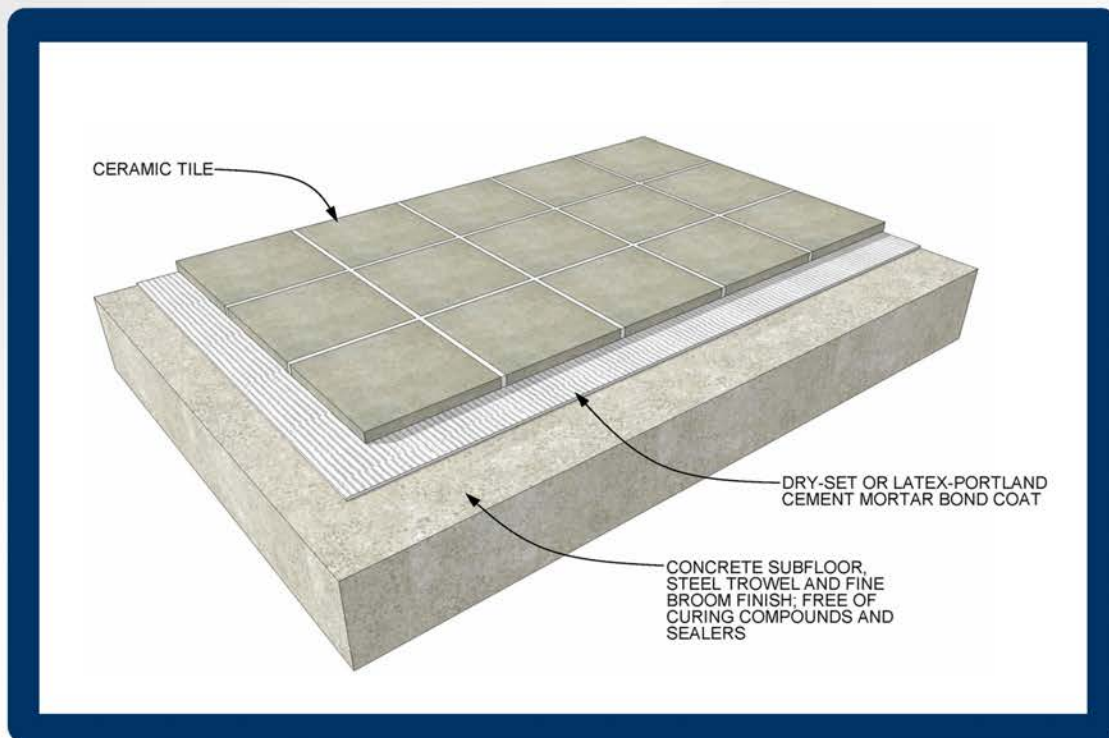


Glass tiles are increasingly popular, but should always be kept away from areas where hinges and hardware will be set. Drilling through glass tiles leads to cracked tiles no matter how careful one is. Choosing an alternate material for these areas, such as a complementary color of tile or marble, is the best way to eliminate this issue.

5

CHOOSE THINSET OVER MASTIC

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.



6

WHERE TO END YOUR PATTERN TILE

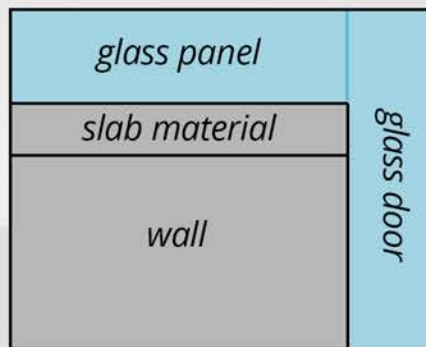
Detailed or listello tiles that sit higher than the field tile can create issues when placed on a wall where hinges will be. Terminating a detail pattern prior to the door area is highly recommended. However, detail tiles, in places where stationary panels will sit, can be notched out for glass or U-channel.



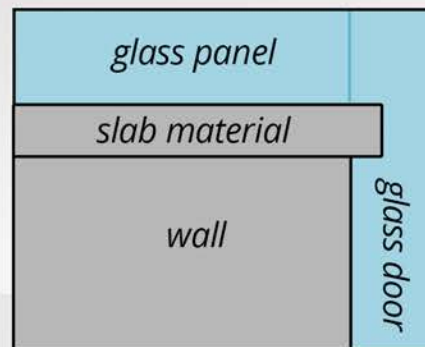
7

SLAB MATERIAL FLUSH WITH EDGE OF TILE

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.



CORRECT



INCORRECT

8

STEAM UNITS REQUIRE TALL GLASS

Steam units usually require floor-to-ceiling glass at above average heights. Units over 84" require 1/2" glass due to increased risk of bowing and warping issues. Frequently, we 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 is important that the bulk head aligns with the curb below, so that the reveals stay consistent from top to bottom.



9

EXHAUST FANS IN STEAM UNITS

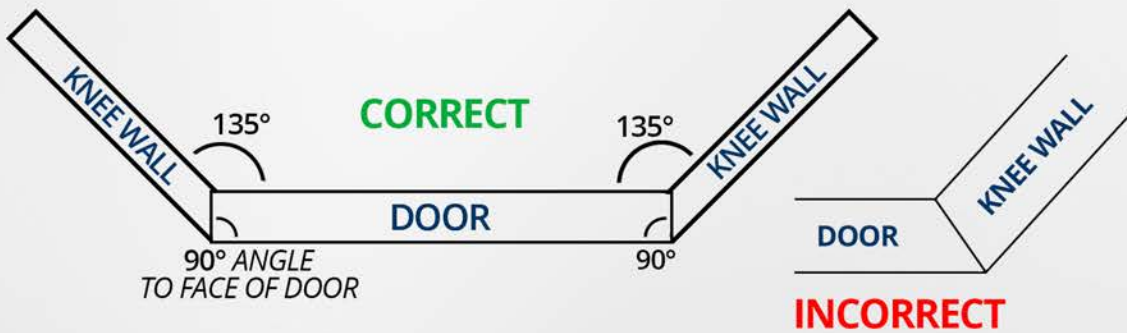
We recommend exhaust fans in all floor-to-ceiling steam shower enclosures to ensure proper ventilation of fully-enclosed steam units, even ones with glass transoms. Otherwise, beautiful showers can begin to look like active petrie dishes over time. This will filter out the chlorine and other toxins frequently found in water, keeping your shower lovely and your body healthy.



10

NEO ANGLE DOORS WITH KNEE WALLS

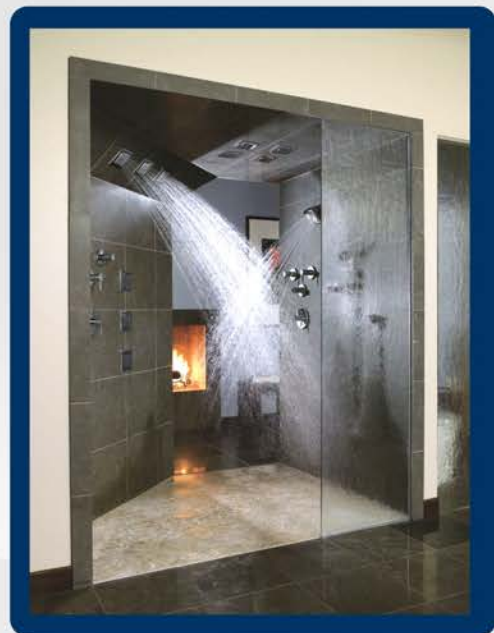
When designing a neo angle door with knee walls, it is crucial to make sure your door hangs at a 90° angle from its hinge, while the angles from the door to each side panel sit at 135°.



11

WHERE TO PLACE YOUR BODY SPRAYS

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.



12

SILICONE CAULKING: THE INVISIBLE HERO

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.

Make sure you smooth out your silicone lines and always allow the silicone ample time to dry before running any water over it.



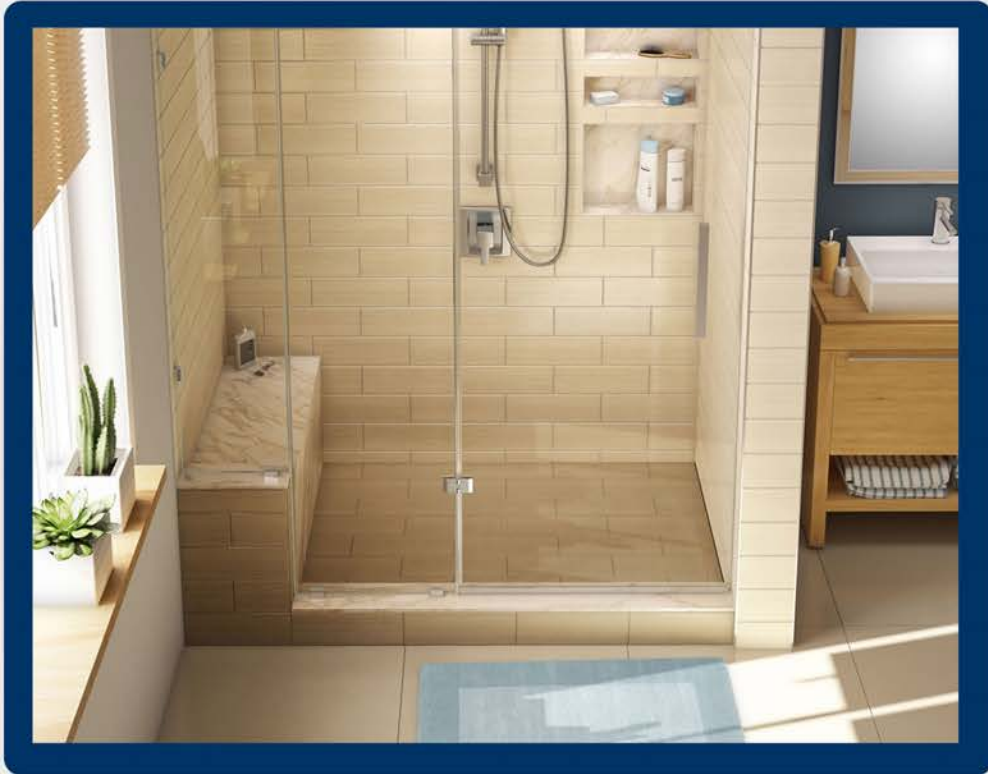
13

ADVANTAGES TO HAND HELD SHOWER HEADS



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 Diamond Sealant.

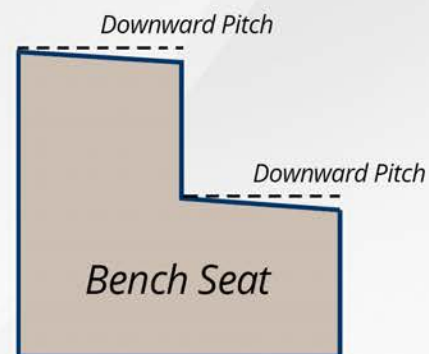
SEATS & BENCHES



1

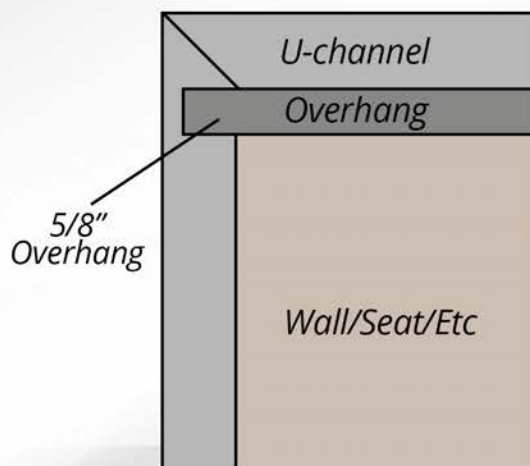
PITCH BENCH SEATS DOWNWARD

Ensure that any bench seats inside the shower are pitched downward, so the water runs toward the drainage area. This will help avoid sitting water. As a rule, a 1/4" to 1/2" downward pitch on bench seats and a 1/8" to 3/16" downward pitch on curbs is sufficient.



2

OVERHANGS FOR SEATS & KNEE WALLS



When building seats, benches or knee walls in a shower enclosure it is important to consider the overhang and try to keep it to an absolute minimum. Because of the metal U-channel that runs at the bottom of the shower glass, overhangs on seats and knee walls should never exceed 3/4", as that is the height of the metal U-channel.

NICHES & SHELVES



1

PUT IN A BUILT-IN NICHE

Built-in recessed niches can easily allow space for someone to prop their foot for shaving legs, or just allow more space to hold shaving cream and a razor!



2

INCLUDING A TILED NICHE



Including a tiled niche within a custom shower is always a plus! Tiled niches are both functional and aesthetically pleasing. These are perfect spaces for bottles, soap or anything else!

3

ADDING A CORNER SHELF

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 in any custom size or shape in between!



STYLE TIPS



1

DON'T FORGET THE LIGHTS!

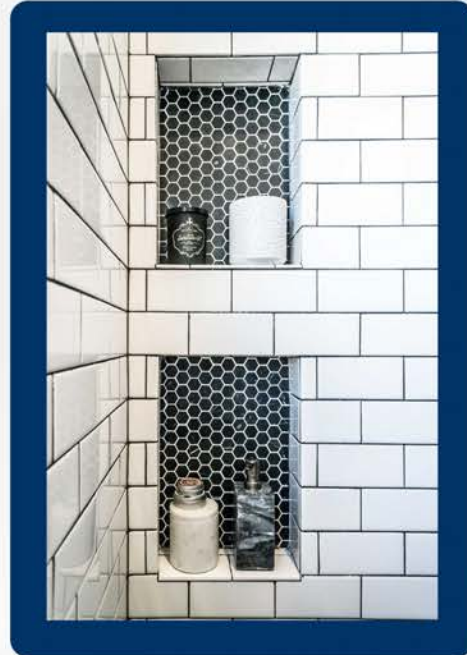
All too often, dimly lit shower areas can do a disservice to the custom glass and tile work in a bathroom. Adequate light is essential for great ambience. By installing a dimmer you can always tone down too much light, but there's no way to overcome too little.



2

DARK VS LIGHT GROUT COLOR

It's not just about the tile, it's what's between the tile too! When designing the interior of your shower, it is wise to consider your shower maintenance down the road when choosing a grout color. Darker colored grout lines will hide grime much better than white or off-white colored grouts.



3

USING GLASS SEALANT



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 a 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.

4

TILE MOUNTED ROBE HOOKS

Consider having a tile mounted robe hook installed in your shower to easily hang a wash cloth or squeegee. You will be more apt to use it daily to maintain your enclosure and keep it spotless for years to come.



5

THE ADVANTAGES OF GRAB BARS

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.



6

PLACEMENT FOR HOOKS & TOWEL BARS



When planning the layout for your shower, it is important to consider where you place your towel bars, robe hooks, etc. For instance, placing a towel bar on the wall against where the door opens could prevent the door from opening all the way. Be sure to keep your openings clear!

7

LET YOUR TILE WORK SHINE!

If you have beautiful tile work in your shower, the last thing you want is to obscure it. Standard “clear” glass has a subtle green tint, which is most noticeable on light colored tile work. You may consider asking for **low-iron glass** for your shower, which has zero tint, to allow your tile work to show through exactly as it was intended!

