



111 Lehigh Street Macungie, Pa. 18062 Phone: 610-966-3484 Fax: 610-965-5743

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS SHOWERS AND WALL PANELS

1. Tools Required

- A. Skill Saw 7-1/2 " triple-chip 40 tooth Carbide blade, next best is an alternate bevel carbide blade with at least 40 tooth on it or a carborundum blade.
- B. A jig saw (for cutting around single lever faucets for showers) with a carborundum grit edge blade with no teeth on it. (Remington, Stanley, etc.)
- C. A small grinder, hand-held, with a grinding stone is nice, but not necessary.
- D. A hand grinder (Makita Dremel) tool is nice but not necessary.
- E. Hand files; round, rattail and flat files.
- F. Electric drill and various hole saws for pipes and faucets.

Miscellaneous

- F. Masking tape--1-1/2 to 2 inch is good;
- G. Pencil compass used as a scriber;
- H. Caulking gun;
- I. Silicone construction-type adhesive, a silicone-latex combination (Phenoseal, Dap 230, if you're using white); other sealants are available to caulk seams around the tubs. For putting panels on the wall, clear silicone works well; it adheres, it allows the panel to move. If the shower is in the sunlight and gets warm on certain days, it allows for expansion and contraction with a little give; it's good for 50 years. Some name brands are GE, Dow, Red Devil. All have short open times of 10-15 minutes.
- J. The silicone that works best is hardest to use, and cleans up only with lacquer thinner or alcohol.

Installation Instructions

2. Panels & Slabs

Back Panel

- A. When installing the shower surround, install the back panel first (opposite the threshold), then the wall where the faucets are. You have to cut out where the shower-head is and where the faucet is, particularly single levers. You need a circle or 1 inch hole at the top to accept 1/2-inch pipe, and you need a five-and-a-half-inch hole where the shower lever controls are, or, if it's a two-handled shower, then you just need the same size holes as the shower-head.
- B. Examine the panel. Do not remove the protective paper yet. Determine where finished edges, if any, are. They will be evident by the slightly rounded edge versus a very sharp or ground edge that is an unfinished edge.
- C. Next, determine whether the finished edge goes on the left or the right, the top or the bottom, and orient the panel accordingly. If any adjustments must be made to the size of the panel, do not cut the finished edge if the finished edge is going to be showing. Make all your cuts on the other sides or the edge that is going to be against the wall or against another panel.
- D. Dry-fit the panel. Make a stud schedule--where are the studs? If the panel does not fit and is not square in the corners, etc., then you must place masking tape over the edge that is going to be cut. Use a compass or a divider & scribe the panel to the wall; not all corners are square, and not all corners are plumb.
- E. Once the panel has been dry fitted to satisfaction, and you have a nice tight fit, particularly at the base of the shower or against the top of a tub, it's time to glue it to the wall. Clean the back of it with acetone or lacquer thinner so that you remove all dust; make sure the wall is clean. If it's onyx, make sure either the wall is painted white or the back of the onyx is painted white.
- F. Once the marble has been cleaned, apply silicone--clear, construction grade silicone with a short open time--5 to 10 minutes and it skins over, 24 hours and it's fairly well cured. Apply the silicone to the back of the panel in gobs or whatever, using about a tube for every 10 square feet. A four-foot by eight-foot panel would take approximately 3 tubes. A three-foot by eight-foot panel would take a two-and-a-half tubes. Spread it around, make sure you've got a good bead down at the bottom, in the middle, around the shower head and around the faucet. Make sure you've got plenty of silicone that will make a good tight seal.
- G. Once you've got the panel aligned, push it against the wall, pull the panel off the wall, look behind it to see whether the silicone has adhered to both the wall and the panel. If so, push it into place; do not pound on it too hard, but press it gently and it will go into place. If it tries to slip, hold it in place with masking tape or, if you can, brace it from another place till the silicone sticks, overnight if possible.

End Panel

H. Put the panel up against the wall, see how much it lays over the front edge. You can either scribe the panel so that it fits first by putting masking tape along the back edge. Hold the outside plumb, scribe it to the panel that's already on the wall in the back. Once it's dry-fitted that way, then measure from the bottom up where the center of the holes should be. Cover all areas to be measured for holes with masking tape. Drill the top hole with a 1-1/4 inch hole saw. For the bottom hole make a center mark, use a compass, make a 5-1/2 inch circle, use a jigsaw with a carbide blade which has no teeth on it (Remington, Stanley: they're available in a hardware store, they do a nice job, used for cutting tile and difficult materials). Once you've cut the holes, put the panel back up on the wall, look through the hole to see whether or not the shower head is going to fit through the hole you've made; if not, you can make some adjustments using a hand file, a small die grinder or a dremel tool to grind away the marble. At the handle portion, see that it fits and that the plastic should come out to the finished flush wall. See that the marble is tight against the bottom of the shower base; if everything is ready and the outside is plumb, clean the back of the panel, dust off the wall, put the silicone on and push it into place.

I. The last panel of the shower is the easiest one; there's no holes in the wall; just scribe the panel, make sure it fits pretty good, pull it back, clean it off, silicone it, put it up there and you're done.

J. Next you want to put inside corner molding up. Sand the back of the molding to make sure it fits in, scribe it or back-sand it so you've got a nice tight fit in the corner, lay a bead of silicone in the corner, put the molding in. If you're using edge trim to trim the top of the panels at the ceiling, then dry fit the edge trim first. It's strictly your decision where you want to end the inside corner and start the edge trim; generally we cut off the bottom 1/2 inch of the edge trim, (the rounded portion) and the inside corner fits in there and it's sort of a little notch in the corner and it fits pretty good, holds it up there and holds the edge trim in place while it is being aligned after the inside corner has been put up.

3. Recessed Soap/Shampoo Dish

Mask off area to be installed. Mask off face of dish. Place face of dish against wall finish to finish. Draw line around dish. Remove dish and scribe a line 1/2" less than penciled-in line. Make sure that you are placing dish between studs (refer to stud schedule) and not in where plumbing is. Drill 4 corner holes, cut with a skill or jig saw. Dry-fit accessory in place. Apply silicone, push accessory in place, and tape to hold.

4. Sealing after the panels have been installed.

If you want a good, watertight seal, silicone--white, gray, or the color that you have works well, is a little harder to clean up. Dow makes a product called Translucent Silicone that picks up the color of the surrounding and becomes almost invisible on lighter color marble. This product is also mildew resistant. There are other types of sealants on the market that work equally as well: "Phenoseal" is one, "Dap" has some others. "Polyseam SGOL"; they're a combination vinyl-latex-silicone and they clean up with water; once they are installed they stay flexible for years to come so they are excellent for use. And you can use them, providing you have the colors available. If you really want to blend in colors and match colors, then "Colorflex" is available through your local Formica or Nevamar dealer to match different sealants to different colors.

INSTALLATION OF TUBS

A. Put the tub in place, see how level it is. Shim up the bottom of the tub till it's level. Once the tub is level, draw a line along the walls underneath the deck of the tub. If it's going into a deck, prop the tub up and put the deck in first, making sure the deck is level.

B. First case we'll take is the tub going in between two or three walls. Once the tub is level, mark the wall underneath the edge of the tub. Pull the tub away, put a furring strip along the wall at the line. Mix up some mortar, "Thin-set", "Floor-Leveler", cement and sand, whatever you want that will support the bottom of the tub, if the floor was not perfectly level. Put a piece of plastic or polyethylene on the floor, (particularly if it's a masonry floor you must do that). If it's a plywood floor sometimes you don't need to, but it's a good practice to anyway; that way if it's too soupy it won't run down into someone's kitchen. Once you've got the furring strips on the wall and the wedges in place, mark the floor where the wedges were where it was level, put gobs of material, depending on how much you're going to need, in the center where the bottom of the tub is going to be. Put the tub back into place.

Now it's resting on the outside of the furring strips and the wedges that you have in place underneath. Let the mortar set up and the tub is going to stay in that position, level, forever without any strain on the lip or tub edges.

C. Tub splashes that go on top of the tub; put the back one in first, butt the two sides to it, drill the holes if necessary, put the panels on the wall same as you do the shower panels; clean the back up, silicone, push them home.

Apron

D. For the apron on the front of the tub, build the supports, either with 2 X 4's, 2 X 2's or something that will be able to be attached to the floor, not attached to the top of the tub, that you can secure the apron to, particularly if you have to use the apron as the access panel. You may need to use a stiffener or glue a piece of 2 X 4 or a furring strip to the apron panel to stiffen it in the middle. That can be done by measuring off a 2 X 4, put some silicone on it, clamp it to the apron, let it dry overnight. Those supports should be a minimum of four on a six-foot tub; on a five-foot tub you can do it with three; one on each end and one in the middle. Attach the Velcro to the wood with drywall nails with big heads, (because the glue doesn't want to stick to the wood as well as it does to the marble). Clean the marble panel with acetone or lacquer thinner, put the velcro strip on, put it in place, and you're finished. The apron pulls off with a suction cup.