INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS: WALL PANELS

GENERAL: Wall Panels can be installed on existing tubs as in remodeling jobs, or in new construction or remodeling on cast iron fixtures and/or enameled steel or fiberglass tubs. The critical area is the steal between the tub and the wall. This is the area where the trouble starts and failures occur. Particularly in a remodel job, the tub may be sound but the wall has failed and the replacement may fail rather easily if not installed properly.

A. INSTALLATION OF TUB SURROUNDS AT LEAST FIVE FEET ABOVE EXISTING TUB.

1. Clean surface of all dirt, paint, wax, grease, or other wall finishes.
2. Marble panels can be installed over existing tile provided the tile is sound except for a few places where it has failed. These places should not be more than one square foot and should be separated by at least one foot. The tile should be roughed with a grinder and cleaned thoroughly with a strong solvent.

NOTE: If you are installing onyx panels make sure that the walls are light in color because of the translucency of this material.

3. Examine the panel. Do not remove the protective film yet. Determine where the finished edges are to be placed. They will be evident by the slightly rounded edge versus a very sharp or ground edge that is an unfinished edge. Determine whether the finished edge goes on the left, right, top, or bottom and orient the panel accordingly. If any adjustments must be made to size the panel, make sure not to cut the finished edge. Make all your cuts on the edge that is going against the wall.

4. Make a level line on the walls, next draw a vertical line approximately in the center of where the panels go. You can now measure to each corner and determine if the corners are out of square and cut the back panel accordingly. The back panel should fit easily into place. A tight fit is not necessary; the end walls will cover a small gap up to 1/4" in the corners.

5. Make a stud schedule— where are the studs? If you are going to install any recessed accessories, you must know where the studs are.

6. Dry fit the back panel. If it fits without binding, is level at the top, and fits tightly and evenly to the tub, then it's ready to glue. Clean the back of the panel with alcohol or acetone; make sure the wall is clean. Apply adhesive in small "gobs" across wall approximately 6 to 8 inches apart. One click of the cauking gun and you are ready to move to place another gob. A four-foot by eight-foot panel should use at least two tubes of silicone, one and a half tubes for a three-foot by eight-foot panel. Once the panel is aligned, push it against the wall. Next, pull the panel off the wall to make sure that the silicone has adhered to both the wall and the panel. Place the panel into position and press firmly into place. If the panel begins to slip, hold in place with masking tape.
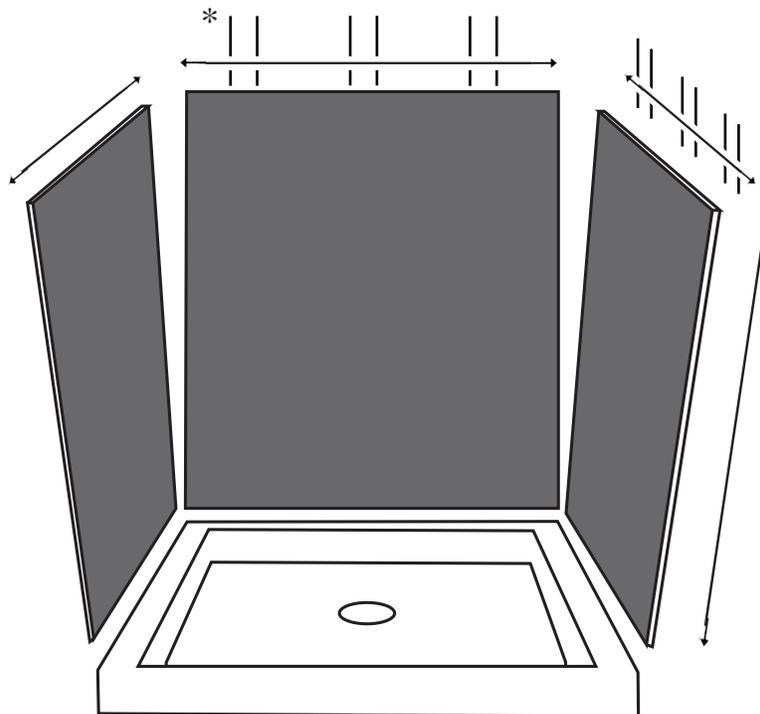
DO NOT BEND THE PANEL TO CONFORM TO A BOWED WALL; THE RESILIENCY OF THE PANEL WILL BREAK THE BOND OF THE ADHESIVE TO THE WALL.

7. The next panel to be installed is the wall where the faucets are. Place masking tape on the finished side of the panel approximately in the location for the plumbing fixtures and mark the hole centerlines. You need a 1 inch hole at the top to accept ½" pipe, and you need a 4" to 5 ½" 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. Use a hole saw if possible to make these holes. Be careful when drilling, especially after the pilot bit is through the panel and before the hole saw grips. The torque of an 80-tooth hole saw will spin you around. If a hole saw is not available, scribe a circle at each hole location of the diameter required and drill a series of ¼" holes around this circle. Saw or file between the holes to remove the plug. Use the rasp or coarse file to smooth the inside of the hole. Any saw marks may cause stress cracking later on.

8. Dry fit panel, making sure that the panel fits tight across the tub and that the outside edge is plumb. You may have to sand or grind the edge that fits in the corner to achieve this. The back panel and side panel should meet at the same height in the corner. If it fits, then you are ready to glue. Place a small gob of adhesive on the wall, clean wall and panel, press into place, pull back and press firmly into place.

* DENOTES STUDS

9. The last panel of the surround is the easiest one to install, since there are no holes in the wall. Simply scribe the panel to ensure proper fit. Next clean it off, silicone it, put it in place and you are finished.

10. If the wall panels are going to the ceiling, you must measure very carefully to allow for skewed walls.

11. Inside corner molding must be used if the corners are not tight to ensure a watertight fit.

B. SHOWER WALLS

1. Installing shower walls to the glass or door trim is practically the same as a tub surround. The panel should be set in silicone and fit tightly at the bottom against the shower base. The top of the panel should be level. The side of the panel should meet the back panels evenly at the top. Holes for plumbing should be cut with a hole saw.

2. Installing panels that go to the ceiling is a little harder unless molding, either edge trim or inside corner, is provided for the job. Measurements must be more accurate and panels may have to be cut to achieve the same skewness of the walls.

C. WAINSCOTING

This is as easy as installing splashes; measure, cut to fit, have finished side up and glue to wall. Can be topped off with cap or edge trim.
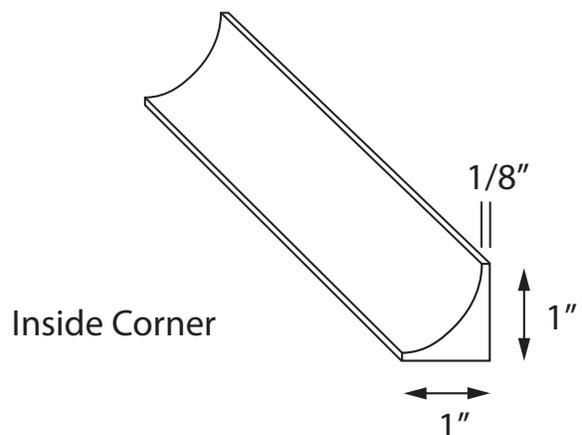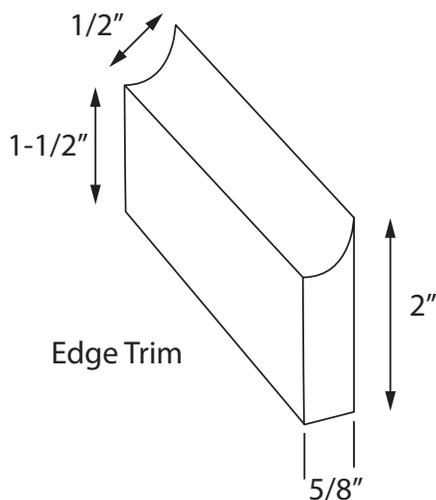
D. CEILING PANELS

1. Ceiling panels must be installed first, in tub or shower areas. Recommend that you drill small holes near the wall edges at several places and insert a screw through the marble and drywall into the wood. This screw must be smaller than your hole and it is intended to hold the panel in place only until the glue dries, and then act as a safeguard should the glue fail. It should not be driven in tightly to put stress on the panel. These screws are covered by the wall panels and molding.

2. After gluing in place use furring strips to prop panel in place until the glue dries, usually overnight. If there is a long span along an unsupported edge, then a hole or holes should be drilled, and a decorative screw or mirror button screwed in place to prevent the weight of the panel from pulling itself down.

E. TRIM

1. Trim: inside, outside corner, edge trim, battens, doorjambs, are used to finish the job. They should be planned for, not something added on or used to cover up a mistake.

1/2"

1-1/2"

Edge Trim

2"

5/8"

1/8"

Inside Corner

1"

1"

2. To install the inside corner molding, sand the back of the molding to make sure it fits properly, 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 and 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 ½" of the edge trim (the rounded portion) and the inside corner fits in there as sort of a little notch in the corner ~ it fits nicely.
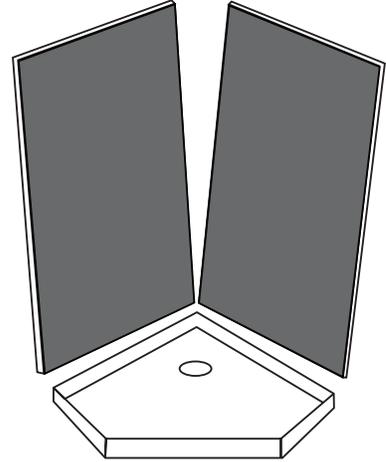
3. Outside corner molding. The skill of the grinder or finisher is apparent when this piece is used. It requires some thought as to how to get it to fit and some skill to do it properly, particularly if the corner is not quite square, once fitted; add a little silicone and masking tape and it will stay.
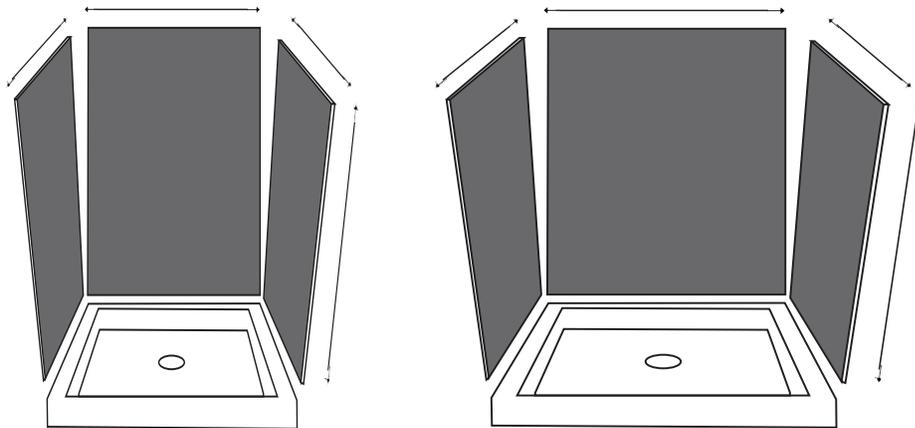
A. SHOWER BASE PREPARATION

1. Measure off from wall where drain should go, cut hole in floor to accept drain.

2. Lay shower base in place and check level at top of shower base. Place shims to achieve level, nail shims to floor, remove base and mix mortar and sand, put enough mix on floor to level base and wiggle shower base around until it's down to the shims. Base should be supported evenly and not wiggle when you step in it.

3. When the mortar is dry, remove shims.

B. RECTANGULAR SHOWER BASE (SHOULD BE INSTALLED PRE-DRYWALL).

1. Installation basically the same as a Neo but now we have three walls around it. Check measurement of opening, cut hole in floor drain. It's easiest to install in new construction, because you can usually get to most sides through the walls. In remodeling you may make a level line on the walls and see how far out of level the base is going to be before sliding into place.

2. Shim to level, remove base, mix and put mortar on floor and replace base, wiggle down to level against shims, remove shims from front when mortar is dry.

C. CUSTOM SHOWER BASES

A universal shower pan should sit flat on the floor surface to insure adequate structural integrity. Shimming and wedging should be avoided as this could cause cracking later under stress. Any major out of level problems should be corrected in the floor surface prior to beginning installation.

The universal shower pan should be installed pre-drywall.

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS: CUSTOM SHOWER BASES

Universal Shower Pan - Diagram "A"

Step 1: Check rough wall dimensions and cut shower base if needed.

Step 2: To ensure pan does not cut into pan liner, sand all the rough edges and sharp corners.

Step 3: Clean floor very carefully to ensure nothing will puncture shower pan liner (i.e. remove trash, and hammer down nails).

Step 4: Cut drain location hole in floor as needed (at least 5" in diameter), remove excess sawdust.

Step 5: Lay pan liner on shower floor area evenly. Allow side excess to be equal on all four sides. Be sure you will have at least 1 ½"-2" extended above the pan after it is installed.

Step 6: Apply several spots of silicone caulk to floor under the liner to keep it in place and from sliding or shifting later.

Step 7: Fold two back corners square and nail to framing to hold in place. Nail as close to top as possible.

Step 8: Apply several spots of silicone caulk to inside liner floor before setting pan in place.

Step 9: Set pan into liner.

Note: be sure pan bottom is clean and free of dust.

Step 10: Fold two front corners of liner square and nail to framing same as step 7.

Step 11: Set temporary 2" x 4" on edge in front of pan liner to protect from damage until curb can be installed later.
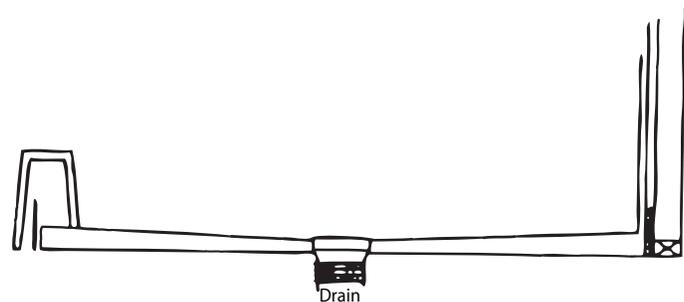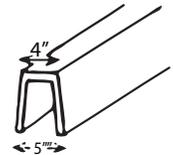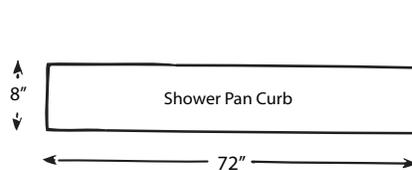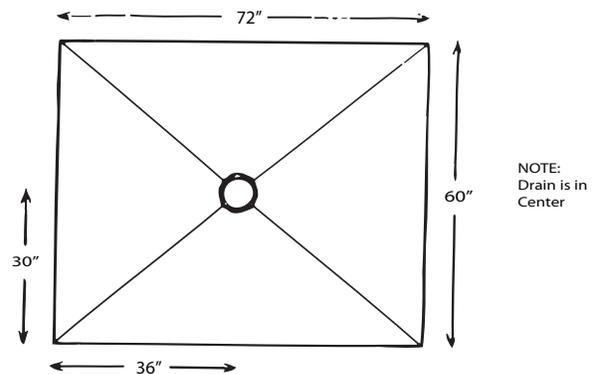
Step 12: Carefully cut drain hole with a knife using the pan drain hole as a guide. The pan liner will now become a gasket for the drain assembly ensuring watertight integrity. Drywall can now be installed.

Step 13: Install marble panels, caulk accordingly.

Step 14: Measure and fit curb between wall panels. Set front edge into bead of caulk to secure.

Note: To ensure a watertight fit, follow these instructions carefully using quality installation methods.

NOTE: Drain is in Center

72"

60"

30"

36"

1 3/8"

1/2" Thickness at Drain

8"

Shower Pan Curb

72"

4"

5"

Drain

A. RECESSED ACCESSORIES

1. Using the stud schedule that was made out prior to installing the wall panels, use masking tape to mark off the area where the recessed fixture will go.

2. Mask off face of accessory. Place face of accessory against wall, finish to finish, level accessory. Draw line around the accessory. Remove accessory and scribe a line ½" less than penciled-in line. Make sure that you are placing dish between studs (refer to stud schedule) and not in where plumbing is.

3. Drill four corner holes, cut with skill or jig saw. Dry-fit accessory in place. Apply silicone, push accessory in place and use masking tape to hold in place until glue sets.
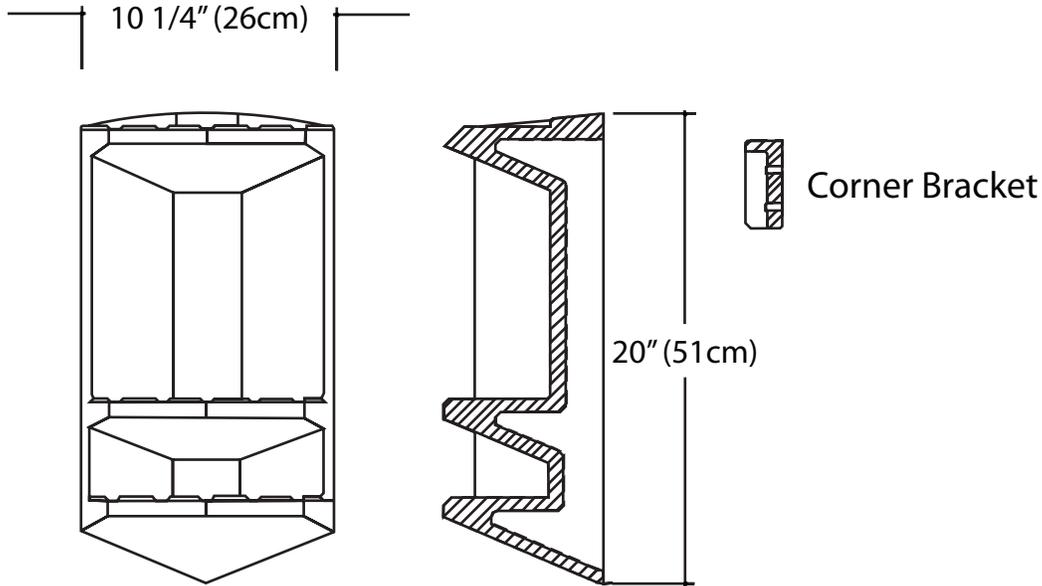
B. SURFACE MOUNTED ACCESSORIES.

Surface mounted fixtures are usually installed with screws and glued to the wall. Make sure the surfaces are clean and dry and draw lines on wall where accessory is to be located. Pre-drill holes in accessory, mark wall where screws will hit, drill hole and insert plastic anchor. Apply silicone to accessory and screw in place.

C. FOR A NEATER LOOK

Surface mounted accessories can be glued to the wall, if the accessory is hollowed out a little and a jig made to hold the accessory in place until the glue dries.

10 1/4" (26cm)

20" (51cm)

Corner Bracket

1. Determine the location of the corner unit and mark wall panel where you want the top of the corner unit to be.

2. Measure down ½ of an inch from your first mark and make another mark for the top of the support that's provided.

3. Hold the support on the second lower line and drill through both the support and the panel behind using a high speed drill bit to eliminate cracking the wall panel. Try to ensure hitting a stud by angling the drill toward the corner of your surround.

4. Apply silicone adhesive caulk to the back of the support and drive a screw through both the support and wall panel.

5. Dry fit the diamond corner unit over the top of the support piece and scribe the diamond corner shelf unit if necessary.
   a. A belt sander may be used to scribe or fit your corner shelf.

6. Once you have a proper fit, clean off any dust and/or marked lines. You are now ready to install the diamond corner shelf unit.

7. Apply a bead of silicone caulk all the way around the unit on the backside and place the corner unit over the support piece; press firmly into the corner.

8. Wipe off any extra caulk with a clean rag.

9. You now must support the unit until the caulk dries. We recommend that you use duck tape to hold the corner unit in place for at least 24 hours.

10. Remove the tape after 24 hours and apply the finish caulking to the corner unit and wall panels.