

Seven Things to Consider When Building a Frameless Shower Enclosure

- 1) Always install additional wood framework where the door is to be mounted. A good way to do this is by installing two 2" x 4"s on edge, with one 2" x 4" on the flat side in between the two that are on edge. This will give you about 6 ½" of solid substructure behind the tile on which to secure the weight of the door.
- 2) Keep the walls as flat as possible. Use a straight edge or a 6 ft. level to insure that the wall remains flat from the floor all the way up to the top of the shower door height. The wall does not have to be plumb, but it does have to be straight. A lot of times the first tile on the bottom is installed leaning a bit so that it goes over the membrane or shower pan. Even if all the rest of the tiles are installed straight, the first one leaning can cause the entire wall to have a dog leg in, thereby requiring a special hand cutting and polishing process which is quite costly.
- 3) Always pitch the threshold of the shower about 3/16" lower on the inside (drain side) of the shower. Frameless doors have nothing under them but a squeegee-type water diverter that starts the flow of water flowing toward the drain. If the threshold or sill is not pitched toward the drain, the water may find its way out on to the bathroom floor. You may, in such cases, have to install a water dam to keep the water from flowing out under the door.
- 4) Never install a decorative estello tile in such a way that it protrudes from the wall more than the tile itself, thereby sticking out through the door opening. Instead, stop the decorative tile 2"-3" back from where the door is to attach to the wall.
- 5) If the door abuts to a half wall, the wall must be perfectly plumb. If it is not, the door will need to have a costly dog-leg cut to allow the door and the panel on the half wall to come together.
- 6) If the door adjoins to a half wall and has a one piece stone top cap, the stone cap CAN NOT overhang the wall on the door side. If it does, it will interfere with the swing of the door. The half wall must be PLUMB and THE TOP CAP FLUSH so the door opening is clear of any obstructions.
- 7) When building a neo-angle shower with a half wall to the right and the left of the door opening: Imagine a top view looking down on your shower from above, where the half walls meet the door opening they must come to a 45° angle to create a square door opening. Also the walls must be dead plumb. If there is a stone top cap, it can not overhang the door opening.

California Frameless Shower Doors

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