



Guide to Choosing Curbed Shower Systems





Overview

This will be a comprehensive list of materials, supplies, & common tools needed for common sized bathrooms. The materials & supplies are based on minimum order amounts and can become less expensive with larger quantities ordered. Common sized bathrooms will come in many different layouts, but do not change quantities needed.

This will cover 30"-38" x 60" showers in bathrooms that have the basic dimensions of:

- 5ft x 6ft bathroom
- 5ft x 7ft bathroom
- 5ft x 8ft bathroom
- 5ft x 9ft bathroom

Goals

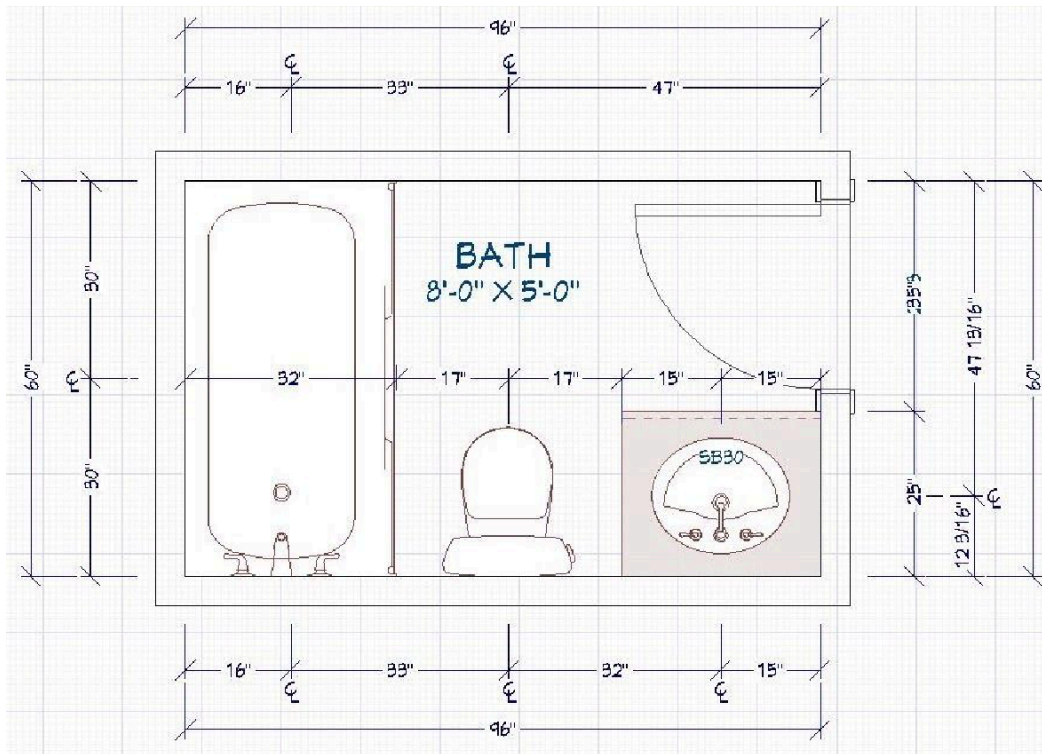
1. Planning ahead! This will help you evaluate the costs of materials and supplies needed to remodel a bathroom.
2. Allow you to budget and determine what "WOW factors" you are willing to spend more money on. All too often, people overspend on tile, vanities, mirrors or lighting fixtures before knowing the costs of core setting and waterproofing materials. This guide will better inform you of the costs and options before getting started.
3. Advise you in tool recommendations that will speed up the process of installation and make things easier.

Specifications

There are many ways to remodel a bathroom. The materials, supplies, and tools recommended in these lists are based on the videos and courses in [Bathroom Remodeling Teacher](#). These teachings are based on the cumulative experience of myself (Steve White) and the remodeling of 100's of bathrooms. No sponsorship, payment, or compensation from the manufacturers are a factor in the items recommended. These recommendations are solely based on experience and the use of products. Some materials are not easily acquired in rural communities, which is why most links are from online sources. Shipping is not factored in the pricing, so be sure to calculate that into your budget. Many of these links will be affiliate links from sites like Amazon. These links provide a small profit to [Bathroom Remodeling Teacher LLC](#) at no cost to you. I appreciate the contribution if you choose to buy through my links.

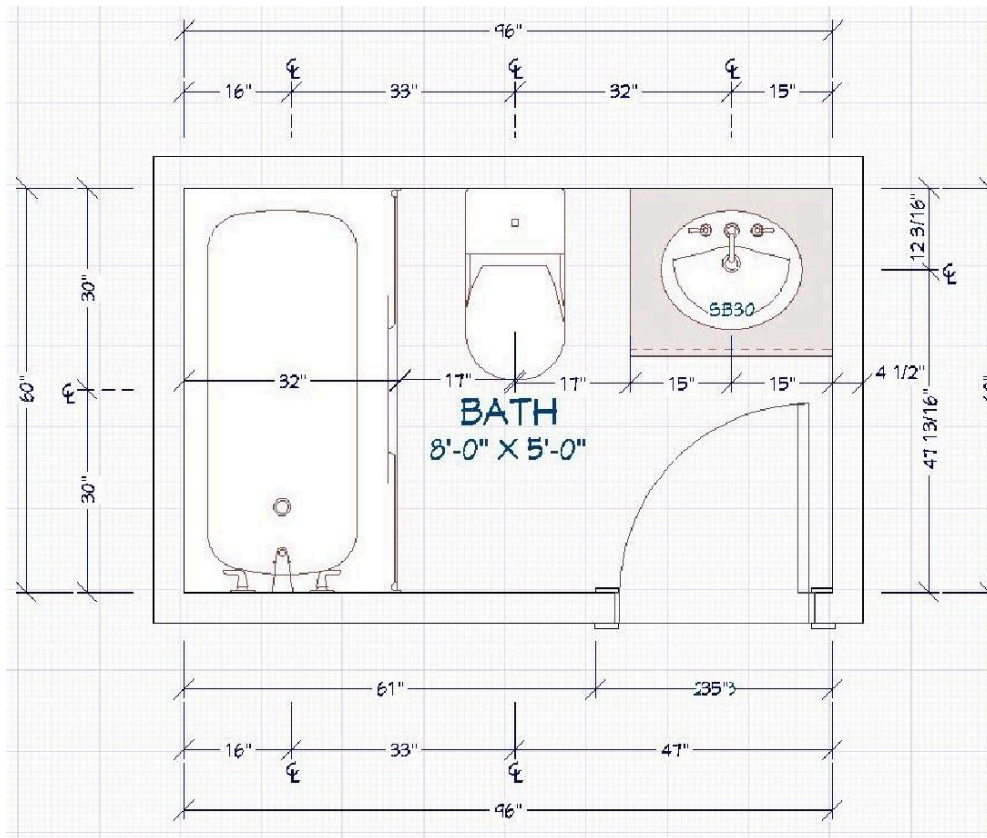


3 Common Sized Bathroom Layout



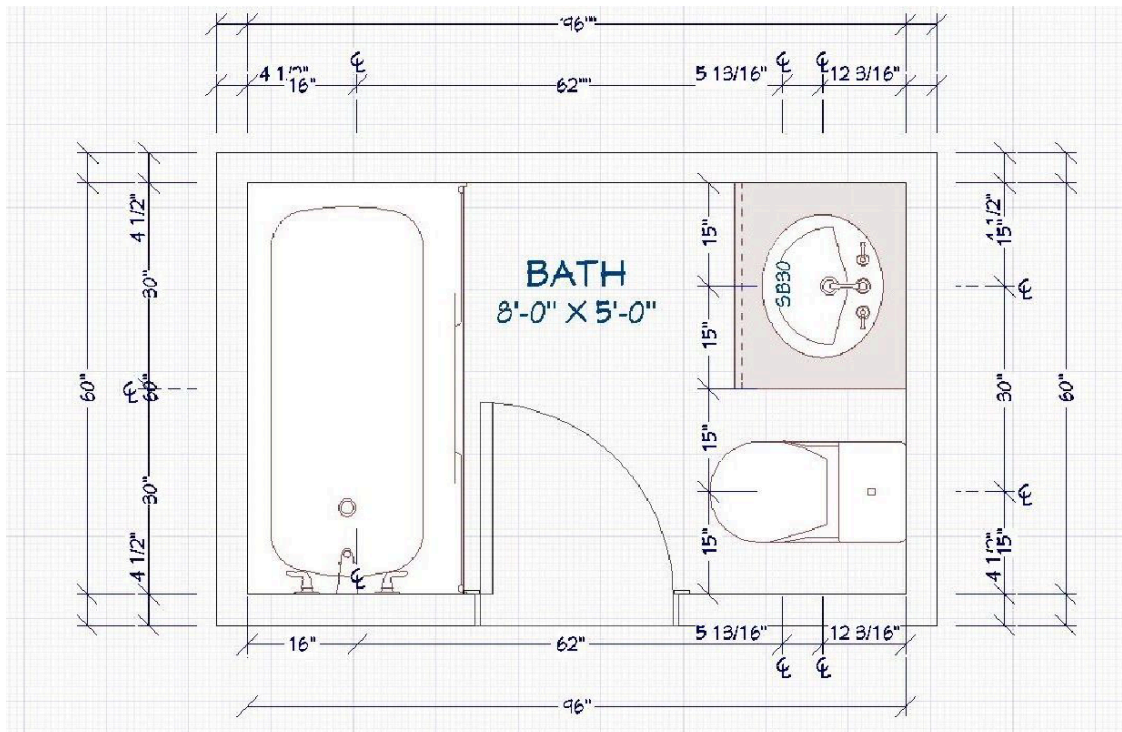
Layout 1

- 32" x 60" tub
- Toilet centered between tub and vanity (17" centered in an 8ft bath)
 - o Code: Minimum distance should be 15" from the center of the toilet to other fixtures
- 30" sink vanity
 - o Adjust size for smaller bathrooms
- 28" door entry



Layout 2

- 32" x 60" tub
- Toilet centered between tub and vanity (17" centered in an 8ft bath)
 - o Code: Minimum distance should be 15" from the center of the toilet to other fixtures
- 30" sink vanity
 - o Adjust this size for smaller bathrooms
- 28" door entry



Layout 3

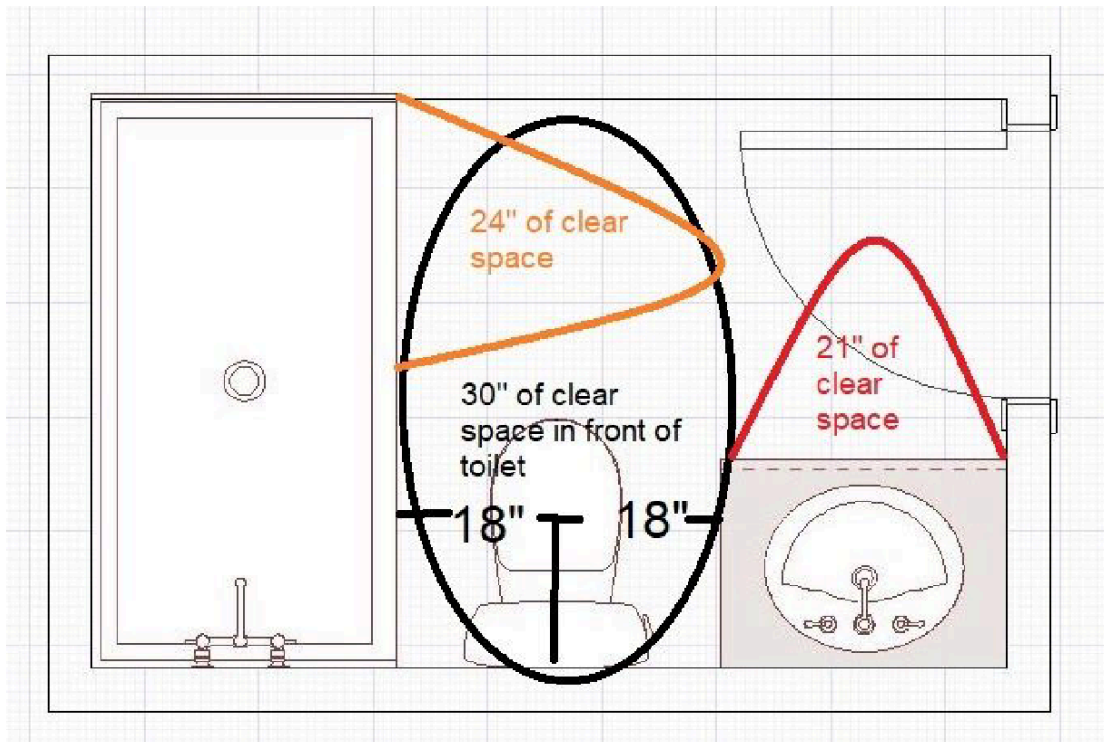
- 32" x 60" tub
- Toilet centered between tub and vanity (15" on either side)
 - Code: Minimum distance should be 15" from the center of the toilet to other fixtures
- 30" sink vanity
- 28" door entry



Determining the size of the walk-in shower is dependent on the size of the bathroom. Referencing [NKBA \(National Kitchen & Bath Association\)](#) guidelines can help you with determining this.

Some NKBA recommendations to keep in mind:

1. Allow spacing of 18" from center of the toilet to any fixed fixture (vanity, tub, etc)
2. Allow 30" spacing in front of the toilet
3. Allow 24" clearance in front of the shower
4. Allow 21" of clear space in front of a lavatory





Choosing a Curbed Shower System

There are 3 primary ways to build a curbed walk-in shower:

1. Rubber liner with a mud pan base
2. Mud pan base with a topical waterproof membrane
3. Pre-sloped foam base

Determining which one that is best for you can be broken down to 3 main factors:

1. Skill set and difficulty of install
2. Overall time it takes to get to the tiling process
3. Availability & Budget

Rubber Liner with Mud Pan Base

A rubber liner with a mud base is an outdated way of building a walk-in shower. It has been a proven way to build a shower, but requires a lot of skill, attention to detail, and many steps to ensure a proper installation. All too often these types of shower pans do not drain properly and lead to leaking, mold, and grout discoloration. I personally do **NOT** show this method of installation or recommend it. Advancements in the tile industry by manufacturers have made this method unnecessary for a multitude of reasons, including price.

My core reasons for not condoning this method are:

1. Weep holes can easily clog and prevent the mud base from draining properly
 - a. Leading to a saturated mud bed that can smell musty and create mold
2. Complication of installation with a waterproof curb
 - a. Most difficult area to eliminate holes in liner and keep waterproof
3. Time to install, many steps to achieve a proper installation
4. Doesn't save money compared to a mud base with a topical installation

Pros	Cons
Inexpensive	Difficult to install; many steps
Readily available at big box stores	Easy to make mistakes that lead to water leaks
	Weep holes can clog and cause mold, discolored grout, and musty smells
	Curb installation is difficult
	2 day minimum time frame to start tiling



Mud Pan Base with Topical Waterproof Membrane

A mud base with a topical waterproofing is an excellent way to construct a shower pan and often used over a concrete subfloor. Having the waterproofing installed on top of the mud base eliminates water from going below and causing any issues with drainage. This method does require a bit of skill and attention to detail, but can be achieved with limited risk of failure. Time of installation should be a consideration too. It typically takes a minimum of 2 days to construct and be ready for tiling.

Methods of waterproofing include:

- Liquid waterproofing application (RedGard, ShowerSeal, Hydro Ban, etc.)
- Sheet membranes (Schluter, USG, etc.)

Pros	Cons
Inexpensive	Difficult to install; skill required to slope pan
Readily available at big box stores	Longer time to begin tiling; 48 hours typical wait time
Great for very unlevel floors; easy to adjust thickness and create a level sloped pan	Multiple steps to complete
Great for over a concrete subfloor	
Waterproofing on top; eliminates mud bed from being saturated	

Material Recommendations

For Mud bed mortar for shower pan construction (5 bags)

- [Mapei 4-to-1 mud bed mix](#)
- [Ardex A38 screed mortar mix](#)
- [Laticrete 209 floor mud](#)



Drains

- [Schluter Drain](#)
- [Laticrete Drain](#)
- [FloFX](#)

Curbs

- [KBRS HardCurb](#) - our favorite because it has a self-sealing top for door and glass panel installations
- [Laticrete Curb](#)
- [Schluter Curb](#)

Liquid Waterproofing

- [6 Sheets Cement Board](#)
 - [Durock screws](#)
 - [Alkali-Resistant mesh tape](#) (for taping seams)
 - [Mapei Modified thin-set](#) to set tape
- [Laticrete Hydro Ban](#)
 - [Hydro Ban mesh for corners](#)
 - [Valve seal](#)
 - [Pipe seal](#)
- [KBRS ShowerSeal kit](#)
- [Ardex 8+9](#)
 - [Ardex mesh tape](#) for corners
- [RedGard](#)
 - [Mesh for corners](#) for tub flange gap

Sheet Membranes

- [3 sheets of drywall](#) for wall underlayment
- Schluter Kerdi
 - [54 sq ft roll](#) for shower floor area only
 - [108 sq ft roll](#) to do all walls and floor
 - [Kerdi band](#) for corners - 2 rolls needed for walls and floor
 - [Kerdi fix](#) touch-ups, other areas needing caulked
 - [Schluter valve seal](#)
 - [Schluter pipe seal](#)
 - [All-set thinset](#) to set all membranes



Pre-sloped foam bases:

Pre-sloped foam bases are the easiest and most time efficient way to create a waterproof walk-in shower. They not only simplify the installation, but in many ways have a far superior waterproofing system than traditional shower construction methods. Most systems you can begin tiling the same day!

The 3 common types of pre-sloped shower systems are:

- Thin-set application (Schluter, Laticrete, etc)
- Sealant application (Wedi, GoBoard, etc)
- Liquid waterproof application (KBRS ShowerSlope, Laticrete shower, etc)

Pros	Cons
Easy to install	Expensive
Eliminates many common errors in a traditional build; pre-slope always ¼" per ft	Some brands are not readily available everywhere
Waterproofing is already applied on most systems	Some systems can easily be damaged by walking on (ex. walking on a foam curb with hard shoes)
Fast; much less time to get to tiling. Same day in most cases.	

My Recommendations:

Thinset Application:

- Schluter kit 38" x 60" (membrane over drywall kit) cut to fit
 - o [Center drain kit](#)
 - o [Off-set drain kit](#)
 - o [3 sheets drywall](#) for wall underlayment
 - o [All-set thinset](#) to set all membranes & pan
- Schluter Kerdi Board shower system:
 - o [38" x 60" center drain pan](#) or [38" x 60" offset drain pan](#)
 - o 5 sheets [½" x 48" x 64" kerdi board](#)
 - Purchasing these boards from [local supplier](#) will reduce cost
 - o [Schluter curb](#)
 - o 2 packs of [Screws & washers](#)
 - o [Schluter drain kit](#) - includes corner pieces, valve & pipe cover
 - o [Kerdi fix](#) touch-ups, other areas needing caulked
 - o [Kerdi trowel](#)
 - o [All-set thinset](#) to set all membranes & pan
 - o [Kerdi band](#) for corners



Sealant Application:

Tile Redi Shower System

[32" x 60" center drain](#)

[Check out all their options on their website](#)

Use code: BRTSavings for 10% off

WEDI shower systems

[Wedi 36" x 60" Primo shower kit](#) (center drain) cut to fit

[Wedi 36" x 72" Primo shower kit](#) (offset drain) cut to fit

[The Tile shop](#) stocks WEDI

KBRS tile basin with go board

[32" x 60" tile basin center drain](#) or

[32" x 60" tile basin Left drain](#) or

[32" x 60" tile basin Right drain](#)

[6 sheet goboard kit](#)

[Oatey drain](#)

KBRS shower slope with goboard

[36" x 60" shower slope kit center drain](#)

[36" x 60" shower slope kit right or left drain](#)

[6 sheet goboard kit](#)

[Oatey drain](#)

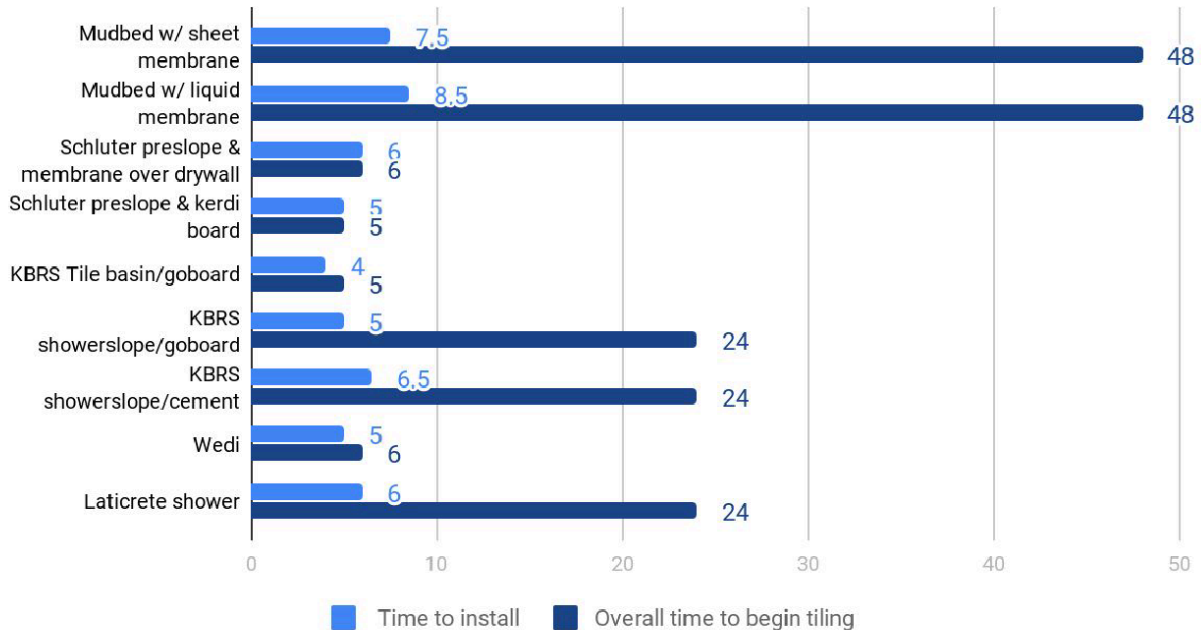
Liquid waterproofing method:

- KBRS shower slope with cement board
 - [36" x 60" shower slope kit center drain](#) or
 - [36" x 60" shower slope kit right or left drain](#)
 - [Oatey drain](#)
 - [6 sheets cement board](#)
 - [Durock screws](#)
 - [Alkali-resistant mesh tape](#) (for taping seams)
 - [Mapei Modified thin-set](#) to set tape
 - [Additional gallon of shower seal](#) for second coating
- Laticrete Hydroban shower system
 - [36" x 60" center drain shower pan](#) - cut to fit or
 - [38" x 66" offset shower pan](#) - cut to fit
 - [7 sheet Hydro Ban kit](#)
 - [Durock screws](#)
 - 6 tubes [Hydro Ban sealant](#)



- [Hydro Ban mesh for corners](#)
- o [1 gallon Hydro Ban](#) coating shower pan and corners
- o [Laticrete curb](#)
- o [Mapei Modified thin-set](#) to set tape & pan

Time Analysis of Shower Installation (hrs)



Waterproofing the main floor of bathroom options:

- [Schluter DITRA](#) (easiest method)
 - o [KERDI-BAND](#) to seal seams and edges of the room
 - o [Schluter ALL-SET](#) to adhere to membranes
 - o [KERDI-FIX](#) to seal around toilet and curb
- [1/4" cement board](#) (3 sheets)
 - o [Mapei Modified thin-set](#) to set cement board to the floor
 - o [Durock screws](#)
 - o [1 gallon Hydro Ban](#)
 - o [Hydro Ban mesh for corners](#)

Helpful tools:

- [Corner putty knife](#) - to spread the sealant
- [3" putty knife](#) - for spreading sealant
- [Fein Oscillating tool](#) - cutting just about anything
- [Milwaukee drill set](#) - impact and drill 18V kit



- [Milwaukee mud mixer](#) - mixing thin-set
- [Mixing paddle](#) - mixing thin-set
- [Acetone to clean](#) sealant off things and hands
- [1/8" x 1/8" trowel](#) - applying membranes & seam tape
- [Ditra Trowel](#) - applying Ditra to the substrate
- [Kerdi trowel](#) - setting membranes
- [1/4" x 1/4" x 1/4" trowel](#) - setting cement board
- [1/4" x 3/8" x 1/4" trowel](#) - setting pans
- [Safety glasses](#)

Shower Faucets

Selecting a shower faucet can get overwhelming! There are so many to choose from with vast differences in pricing, options, finishes, and styles. I recommend answering the following questions before settling on a fixture:

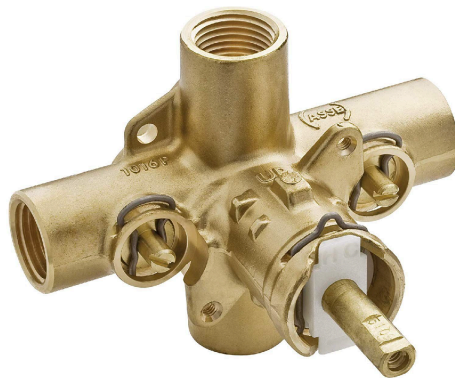
1. Will I have access to shut-off valves behind the shower?
2. What kind of piping will I be connecting to existing plumbing? PEX, copper, CPVC?
3. Do I have the skills & tools to solder copper piping? Do I want to?

For the first question, if you will not have access to shut off valves behind the shower? Purchase a shower valve kit that has integral shut off valves on the valve itself.

[Delta Universal](#) valve with integral stops (pex)



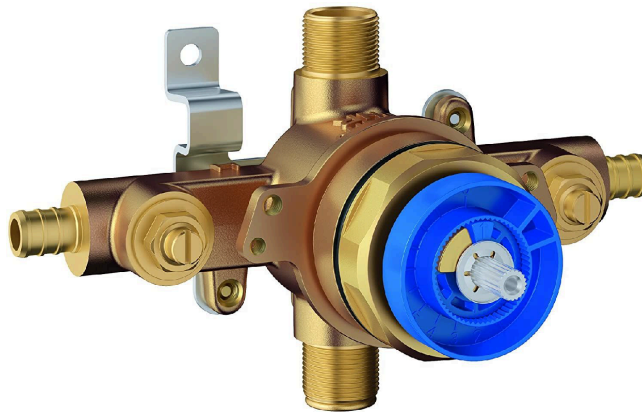
[Moen 2590 valve](#) with stops





Knowing what kind of existing piping you will be connecting to is helpful. If you convert your plumbing to PEX you can purchase valves that are ready to receive it, or simply add the adapters needed. However, you need to be sure you buy a valve that has female or male thread fittings to adapt to. Otherwise, you will be soldering fittings to convert and create more work for yourself.

[Grohe shower valve](#) with PEX adapters and integral stops



[1/2" female PEX adapters](#) - easily adapter to valves with male threads. Always use [Teflon tape](#) when threading on. (Clockwise application 5-6 rotations)

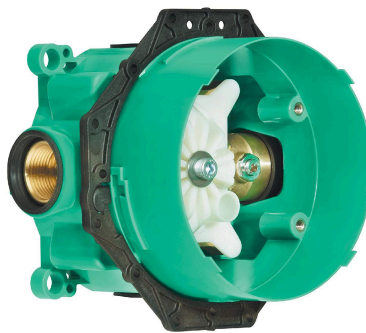


[1/2" male PEX adapters](#) - for valves with 1/2" female connections

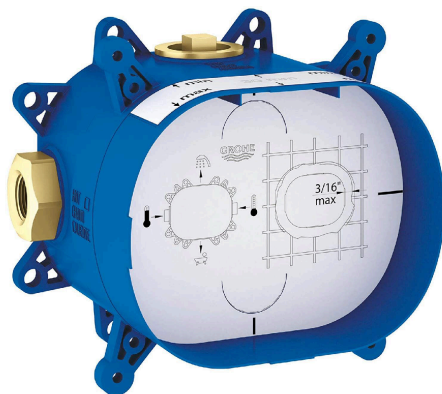


Skill level and tools required to solder is also something to consider. There are many great options that can eliminate soldering all together.

[Hansgrohe iBox](#) with female threaded ports. Easily adapt to [PEX with 3/4" male adapters](#)



[Grohe Grohflex](#) rough-in box. Easily adapt to [PEX with 1/2" male adapters](#)





[½" drop ear elbows](#) with ½" female adapter. Great for shower head port and/or handheld



Knowing what kind of valve and how you are connecting to it should help narrow down some of the choices. Price and reviews will dictate the rest of the decision. Typically, the higher-priced items will have better functioning showerheads and overall quality feel of the valve. Reviews are great at pointing out low-quality construction of trim and showerhead pressure.

I recommend the following:

- o [Hansgrohe Raindance w/ handheld](#) iBox valve included
- o [Grohe shower system w/ handheld](#) valve included
- o [Delta Monitor 17 shower system w/ handheld](#) valves included
- o [Kohler Raindance S w/ handheld](#)
 - [Valve trim](#)
 - [Valve with shut-offs](#)
- o [Delta Ashlyn valve trim](#) - showerhead only
 - [PEX valve with stops](#)
- o [Moen Posi-temp shower valve trim](#) - shower head only
 - [Posi temp PEX valve](#)



- o [Grohe trim kit](#) - shower head only
 - [Grohe Pex valve w/stops](#)

The supplies you will need will be dependent on the type of existing plumbing you have and the valve selected.

Here's a general list of items needed:

[Pex B \(Red\)](#)



[Pex B \(Blue\)](#)



[Pro crimp rings](#)



[90 degree swivel adapters](#)



[90 degree elbows](#)



[Female pex adapters](#)



[Pex plugs](#)



[Drop Ear Elbow \(shower port\)](#)



[Pex adapters to copper](#)





[Shut off valves \(pex\)](#)



[Teflon tape](#)



[Pipe sealant](#)



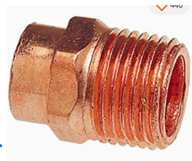
[Type L copper](#)



[90 copper elbow](#)



[Male copper adapter](#)



[Copper stub out.](#)



[Sharkbite hose adapter](#)



Tools used in this tutorial:

[Ridgid Tubing Cutters](#)





[Pipe sander kit.](#)



[Sanding cloth](#)



[Map gas torch](#)



[Auto cut tool](#)



[Flux](#)



[Flux brush](#)



[Solder](#)



[Flame guard](#)



[Ridgid 1/2" crimpers](#)



[Alternative crimper Sharkbite](#)



[No-Go Go gauge](#)



Other Helpful tools:

- [Hilti Drill kit](#)
- [Makita cordless circular saw](#)
- [Torpedo level](#)

Thin-set

Thin-set is probably one of the most confusing products to buy for your project. There are so many choices and opinions on what works best. If you are ever in doubt of what to use for a tile that you are setting, it's always best to contact the manufacturer of the tile you are using.

At the moment, the consensus of tile professionals & TCNA is to always use thin-set in wet areas, NOT mastic or pre-mixed thin-sets. Selecting a thin-set must meet the standards of tile and waterproofing materials used. The recommendations we suggest are based on experience, the guidance of manufactures, and collective agreement of tile professionals & associations.

Choosing white or gray thin-set?

White thin-set recommended for:

- o Marble, travertine, light-colored stones and pebble stones
- o Glass



- o Light-colored grouts

- Example: white subway tile with white grout - use white thin-set

Gray thin-set recommended for:

- o Slate and darker stones
- o Darker colored grout

- Example: black tile with a dark grout - use gray thin-set

Thin-set recommendations are separated into categories:

1. Walls
2. Floors
3. Schluter Products

Walls:

Premium non-sag thin-set for walls will make your tiling experience much easier. Not only do these thin-sets have a long pot life (length of time that it stays good to use after mixing) but they are a tremendous help with mosaics, accents, & difficult tile layouts.

1. [Ardex X77](#) – my favorite!
 - a. [The Tile shops](#) should carry
2. [Laticrete 254](#)
3. [Mapei Ultraflex 3](#)

Floors:

For floors, the high-quality non-sag thin-sets are not necessary. These recommended thin-sets below are much more cost-effective, have a long pot life, and easy to use:

1. [Ardex X5](#)
2. [Laticrete 4XLT](#)
3. [Mapei Ultraflex LHT](#)

Schluter Products

Schluter has its own category because it's the only waterproofing company that has strict guidelines on what kind of thin-sets to use with their products. Almost all other waterproofing methods allow a modified or unmodified thin-set to be used.

Schluter requires **modified thin-set** for setting Ditra, Kerdi, and shower pans over drywall or plywood:

- [Schluter All-Set](#) can do it all, highly recommend to set membranes &
- tile



- [Ardex X5](#) - modified thin-set (can be used for setting tile and all membranes)
 - o Ardex takes the warranty coverage for use with Schluter products
- [Mapei Kerabond](#) - must add additive for setting membranes
 - o [Mapei Polymer additive](#) to make modified
- [Laticrete 4XLT](#) - modified thin-set
- [Custom Flexbond](#) - modified thin-set

Schluter requires **unmodified thin-set** for setting Ditra, Kerdi, and shower pans over concrete or setting tile over Ditra, Kerdi, and shower pans:

- [Schluter All-Set](#) can do it all. Highly recommend to set membranes & tile
- [Ardex X5](#) - modified thin-set (can be used for setting tile and all membranes)
 - o Ardex takes the warranty coverage for use with Schluter products
- [Mapei Kerabond](#) - unmodified
- [Laticrete 317 mortar](#) - unmodified

Tile Setting

Tile setting is one of the most important skills you will learn throughout a bathroom renovation project. It is something that requires patience, a critical eye, and proper installation methods to achieve a good bond. It takes time to be proficient at it. With the right tools, use of good products, and the help of [Bathroom Remodeling Teacher](#), I am confident you can achieve professional results with your remodel.

3 helpful categories in preparing for tile setting

1. Trowel sizing
2. Spacing & pattern recommendations
3. Leveling systems

Trowel sizing

General rules:

- Size should be the same or greater than the thickness of tile being used
- Size is always based off coverage provided to the back of tiles



Pictured above: This tile has proper thin-set coverage.

Always double-check coverage of the tile you are setting. If you don't see **at least 95% coverage** in a shower area:

1. Be sure you are back buttering tile
2. Be sure thin-set is properly mixed
3. Upgrade to larger trowel size
4. Reinspect after adjusting

My recommendations:

- Large format tile & natural stone (any tile longer than 15" one side)
 - o [Euro trowel](#)
 - o [1/2" x 1/2" x 1/2" trowel](#)
- 12" x 12", 8" x 8", or tiles under 15"
 - o [1/4" x 3/8" x 1/4" trowel](#)
- Subway tile, smaller tiles, 1/4" thick tiles
 - o [1/4" x 1/4" trowel](#)
- Penny tiles, thin mosaics
 - o [3/16" x 3/16" trowel](#) (Ditra trowel)



Tile Spacing and Patterns

[TCNA \(Tile Council of North America\)](#) recommendations:

- Minimum joint 1/16" for all tile
- Grout joint should be 3 times the variation dimensions of the tile
 - Example: randomly compare a box of tile and you find out the tiles vary 1/16" from one another. A 3/16" grout joint would be recommended.
- 1/8" joint on rectified tiles over 15" in length in a running bond/brick joint pattern
 - Most tiles are sold rectified, meaning squared off edges
- 3/16" joint for unrectified tiles over 15" in length in a running bond/brick joint pattern
- Large format tiles (anything longer than 15" one side) in an offset pattern should be a maximum 33% unless otherwise specified by tile manufacture

Other considerations:

- Large format tiles, such as plank tiles & 12" x 24" tiles, often do not have completely square edges. If you use a 1/16" spacer, it will most likely look like a much bigger joint when grouted. Always look at sides of the tile to see if they are completely straight before choosing a size
- Know what grout you will be using. Manufactures will have limitations on size
- Patterns, like a herringbone pattern, are easier with a larger grout joint

Spacers & leveling system recommendations:

- [Horseshoe spacers 500pk](#) - much easier to use than box store rubber spacers
- T-lock leveling system - great for large format tile (very strong clips)
 - [1/32"](#) clip kit
 - [1/16"](#) clip kit

Helpful materials & tools:



[Schluter edging \(Rondec\)](#)

[TCNA Handbook](#)

[Euro Notch Trowel](#) (great for 12" x 24")

[T-lock Leveling System](#)(1/32" kit)

[T-lock Leveling System](#) (1/16" kit)

[1/4" x 1/4" trowel](#)

[Wood float](#) (embed ditra)

[Grout float](#)

[Fein Oscillation tool](#) (cutting door jamb)

[Ditra](#)

[Ditra Trowel](#)

[Kerdi Band](#)

[Kerdi Trowel](#)

[Ardex sponges](#)

[Ardex X5 thinst](#)

[Schluter all-set thinst](#)

[Linoleum knife \(scraper\)](#)

[1/16" horseshoe tile spacers](#)

[Montolit grinder STL blade](#) (diamond cutter wheel)

[Montolit CGX grinder blade](#) (cheaper option; great for porcelain)

[Cordless grinder](#) (Milwaukee)

[Quick lock accessory for grinder](#)

[Makita paddle switch grinder](#) (corded to attach to shop vac)

[Fein Grinder Shroud](#) (keeps dust down)

[Fein Shop vac](#) (with tool switch; turns on when using tool)

[Montolit Mini Puima tile cutter](#) (Great for subway and 6x6 tiles)

[Montolit Masterpuima tile cutter](#) (great for tile up to 25")

[Dewalt Wet saw](#)



[Montolit DNA 10" blade](#) (great for porcelain and ceramic)

[Diamond hand pads](#)

[Collomix mixer](#) (amazing mixer for thinset)

[Laser](#)

[Laser pole](#)

[Rubber gloves](#)

[Respirator](#)

[Sanding sponges for drywall](#)

[White Scrubby pads](#)

[Sulfamic Acid crystals](#) (to remove stubborn thinset)

If this has helped you out, please [share a review](#) 😊

This tremendously helps and supports this platform 👍

Grouting

Grouting might be the most overlooked and underestimated part of a tiling project. It's important to understand the differences and limitations of each type of grout. Once again, budget & skill set will be another factor in choosing the right grout for you.

Grouts are separated into 4 different categories:



1. Traditional cementitious grouts
2. High-performance grouts
3. Pre-mixed acrylic and urethane grouts
4. Epoxy

Traditional cementitious grouts

These grouts have been around for decades. They come in two forms Sanded & Unsanded. Sanded grouts are primarily used for joints $\frac{1}{8}$ " and bigger and unsanded for $\frac{1}{8}$ " or smaller.

Pros	Cons
Inexpensive	Requires sealing (and continual sealing over time)
Readily available at big box stores	Absorbs water/darkens when wet
Long setting pot life/no rushing to remove the first application	Sanded grouts are very grainy and course; can be tough to keep clean
Very fluid consistency and easy to pack joints	Color consistency can vary from bag to bag
Unsanded grout is great for polished marble or stone; won't scratch	Prone to cracking with shrinking
	Haze comes back and requires additional cleaning after install

High-performance Grouts

These grouts are far superior to traditional grouts. They have a very fine aggregate that allows them to be used in most tiling situations. They are also fast setting and allow you to move on to the next step of remodeling much faster.

Pros	Cons
Inexpensive	Absorbs water/darkens when wet
Does NOT need sealing	Haze comes back and requires additional cleaning after install



Fast setting/can start removing first application in 20 minutes	Can sometimes set up too fast and require a lot of elbow grease to remove grout
Very fluid consistency and easy to pack joints	Requires mixing; make sure to use the right quantity of water; mix full bags
Can be used in joints 1/16" or larger	
Fine aggregate; unlikely to scratch glass or sensitive tile (always test an area)	

Pre-mixed grouts

These grouts are a tremendous advancement in the tiling industry. They are ready-to-use, can be stored for later use easily, and have some fantastic stain and crack resistance.

Pros	Cons
Ready-to-use	Expensive
Does NOT need sealing	Haze can be very tough to remove on some tiles; avoid using on high gloss tiles and polished stone surfaces
Fast setting; work in small areas at a time	Can sometimes set up too fast and require a lot of elbow grease to remove grout
Very fluid consistency and easy to pack joints	Very sensitive to water during the initial clean up; too much water can easily wash out joints
Can be used in joints 1/16" or larger	Learning curve on clean up; technique required to efficiently install
Fine aggregate; unlikely to scratch glass or sensitive tile (always test an area)	
Great color consistency from one bucket to another	

Epoxy

These grouts are considered the best on the market for stain resistance and durability. Almost all commercial applications use epoxy grouts. Great long-lasting grout!

Pros	Cons
Pre-packaged amounts for mixing; always get a consistent batch	Expensive
Does NOT need sealing; most stain resistant on market	Tough to apply; thick consistency requiring a lot of work to pack joints



Acts as an adhesive; bonds all tiles together; great for small mosaics and shower floors	Can sometimes set up too fast and require a lot of elbow grease to remove grout
Water does not affect joints on clean up	Haze can be very tough to remove if left to set up fully; rough surfaced tiles can be tough to clean
Can be used in joints 1/16" or larger	Touch-ups later require another expensive kit to mix
Fine aggregate; unlikely to scratch glass or sensitive tile (always test an area)	
Great color consistency from one bucket to another	

My recommendations:

Traditional grouts:

- [Mapei Keracolor](#) - sanded grout 1/8" joints or bigger
- [Mapei Keracolor U](#) - unsanded grout 1/8" joints or smaller
- [Custom Polyblend](#) - sanded grout 1/8" joints or bigger
- [Custom Polyblend](#) - unsanded grout 1/8" joints or smaller

High-Performance grouts:

- [Mapei FA](#)
- [Laticrete Permacolor](#) - base color
 - o [Laticrete Select](#) - color additive

Pre-mixed Grouts:

- [Spectralock1](#)
- [Mapei CQ](#)

Epoxy:

- [Laticrete Spectralock](#) - large 9lb unit Part A&B
 - o [Laticrete colorant](#) - Part C
- [Laticrete Spectralock](#) - Mini unit Part A&B



- o [Laticrete colorant](#) - Part C
- [Ardex WA](#) includes all parts needed

Helpful tools and materials:

[Grout float](#) (trox)

[Grout float](#) (Marshalltown)

[Ardex sponges](#)

[Linoleum knife \(scraper\)](#)

[Rubber gloves](#)

[White Scrubby pads](#)

[Windex with vinegar](#)

[Laticrete epoxy haze remover](#)

[grout float margin trowel](#)

[Microfiber clothes](#)

Conclusion

The tile industry & manufacturers of all bathroom related products are innovating and creating at an exceptional pace. Every year there are easier and better products to use. [Bathroom Remodeling Teacher](#) is dedicated to teaching and continuing to provide a resource for DIYers & contractors. I hope to provide you with the knowledge and guidance to achieve professional results with your bathroom renovations.



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This tremendously helps and supports this platform 🙌