



PRO TIPS

for designing your new
Shower Enclosure

Centennial Glass



These 19 helpful Pro Tips will help ensure a problem-free and cost-effective installation.

Congratulations on your decision to update and install a new frameless glass shower enclosure! Your new enclosure is sure to add beauty to your bathroom and value to your home.

We know that any project of this scope can seem a bit challenging, so we've put together 19 Pro Tips for making your planning process easier and ensuring a quick and correct installation.

Our Pro Tips will help you:

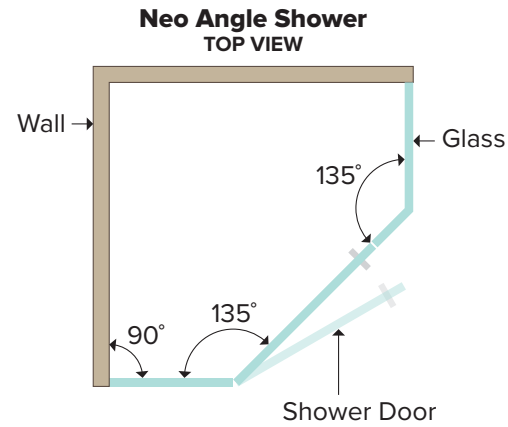
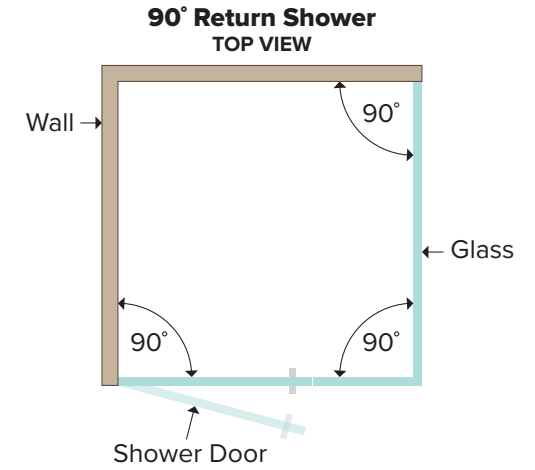
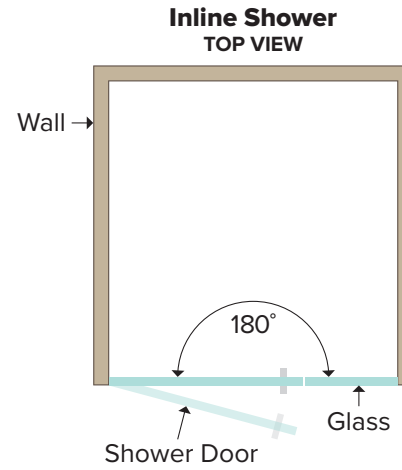
- Select the best spot to install your new shower
- Choose the correct layout for your new shower
- Make sure your new shower is properly installed and watertight
- Keep your costs to a minimum

Many of our Pro Tips are just good advice – if you run into any situations where you might need a little more assistance, just call us! We'll be glad to help!

Angles to Use

Showers should be built using 90°, 135°, or 180° angles. As most shower hardware is designed for these angles, planning your shower with this in mind will help you build a cost-effective and correctly functioning enclosure.

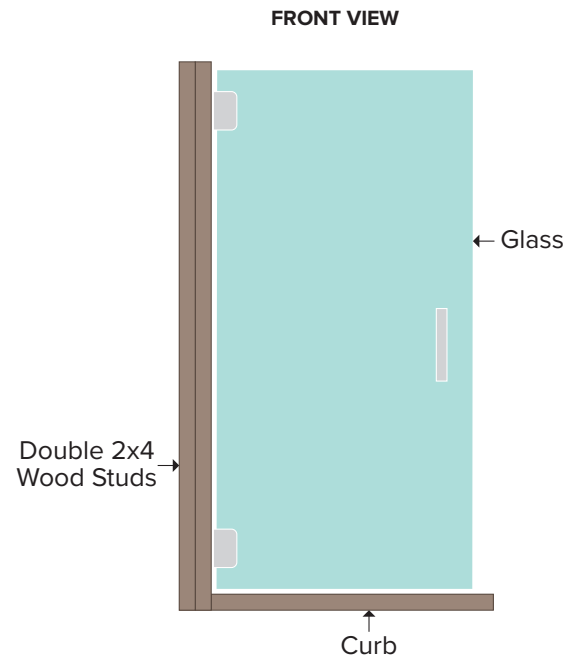
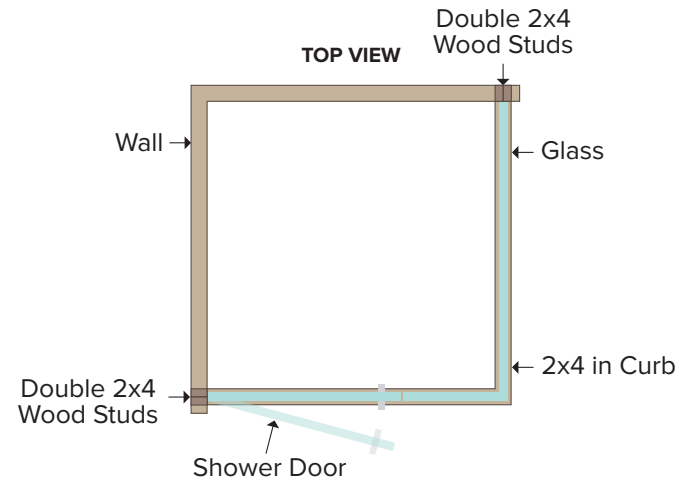
However not all bathrooms fit these angles and we will be more than happy to help make your shower enclosure fit the space.



Support For Shower Doors and Hardware

Make sure that the wall on which you will be hanging your hinged shower door is properly studded. Using a double 2x4 is best practice, but a single 2x4 is fine. If metal studs were used in the construction of the wall, make sure that wood studs are used where the door hinges or panels will be anchored.

As well, a good rule of thumb is to always keep your water supply off an exterior wall.



Shower Curb

Plan to either install a curb with your shower enclosure or keep it flush with the floor, which will be beneficial for handicap access. Though keep in mind that a properly installed curb will help keep water from leaking and pooling on your bathroom floor.



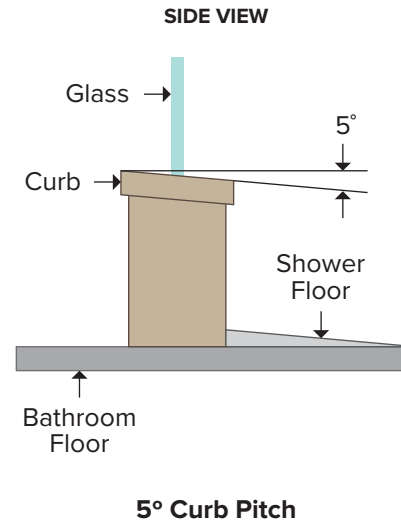
Glass Shower without Curb



Glass Shower with Curb

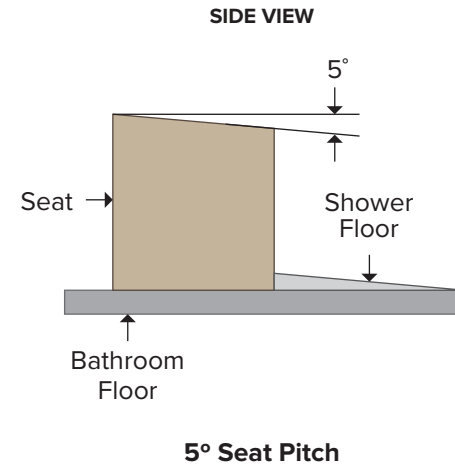
Slope of Curb

To make sure that water flows towards the drain, the curb around the bottom of the shower should be slanted inward at a 5° angle (approx. 3/16" to 1/4"). A level curb will pool water and a curb, angled away from the drain, will cause water to leak onto the bathroom floor.



Slope of Shower Seat

A built-in shower seat should be designed with a slant of 5° (approx. 3/16" to 1/4") towards the drain. Water will stand if the seat is level and will pool at the back of the seat if the angle faces away from the drain.

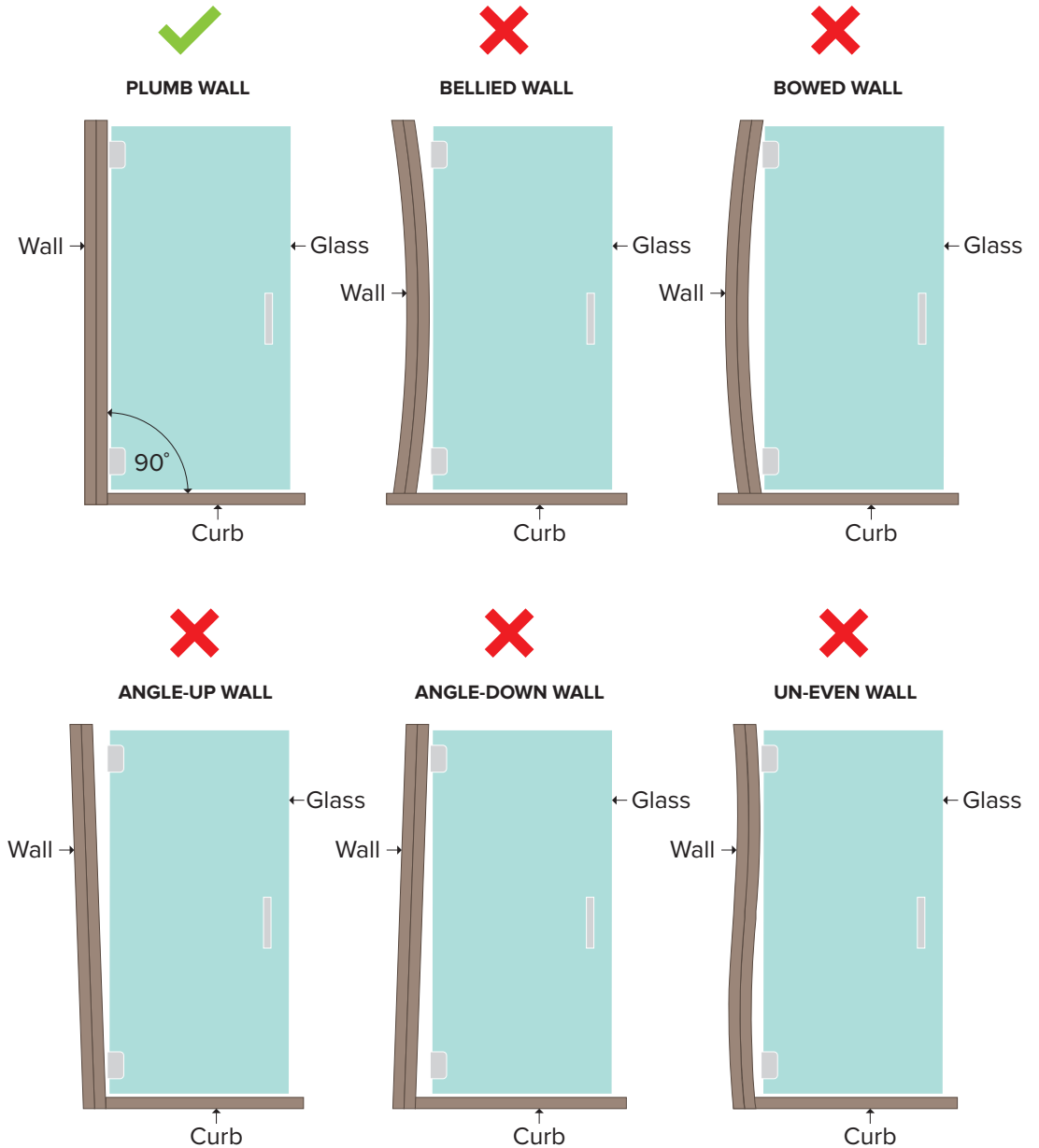


Plumb Walls

Walls which meet a glass door or panel need to be plumb (completely vertical). This will prevent gaps, uneven joints, and hinge bind. The wall can't lean in any direction or be bowed or bellied. Walls that are out by more than 1/4" will be difficult to install properly and are more likely to leak, have problems with hinge bind, and will cause unsightly gaps.

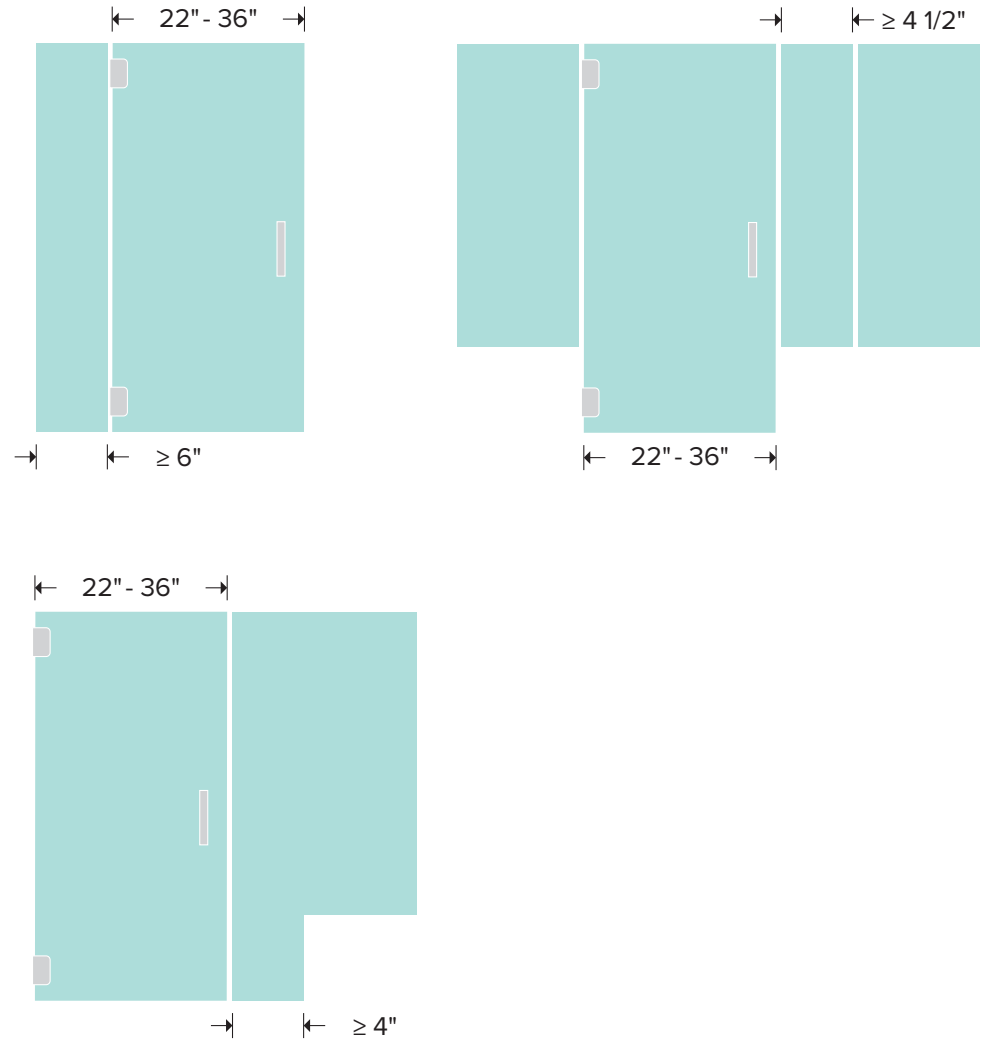
We can work with walls that are less than 1/4" out of plumb. One of our installers will come out and take accurate measurements to ensure the glass will lie flush against your wall.

Most homes do not have perfectly straight walls, so this is a common problem, and it is something that we can make sure does not become a problem for you.



Minimum Width of Glass Panels

All glass panels need to be at least 4" wide. This is the minimum width for tempering glass. Though glass panels that support a glass door will need to be a minimum of 6" wide. Glass doors will need to be a minimum of 22" wide and not more than 36" wide.



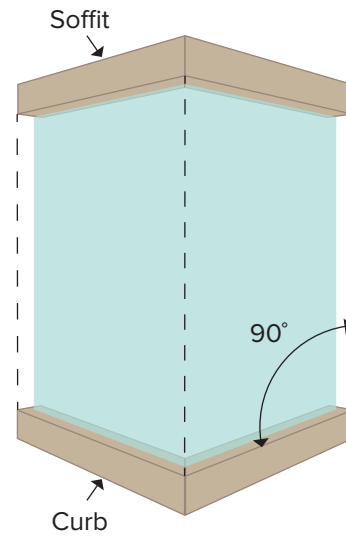
Glass Tiles

Avoid mounting door hinges and glass clips onto glass tiles. The glass tiles are prone to breakage during installation and can become damaged even after installation. This could result in additional time added to complete your project and additional costs for repairs.



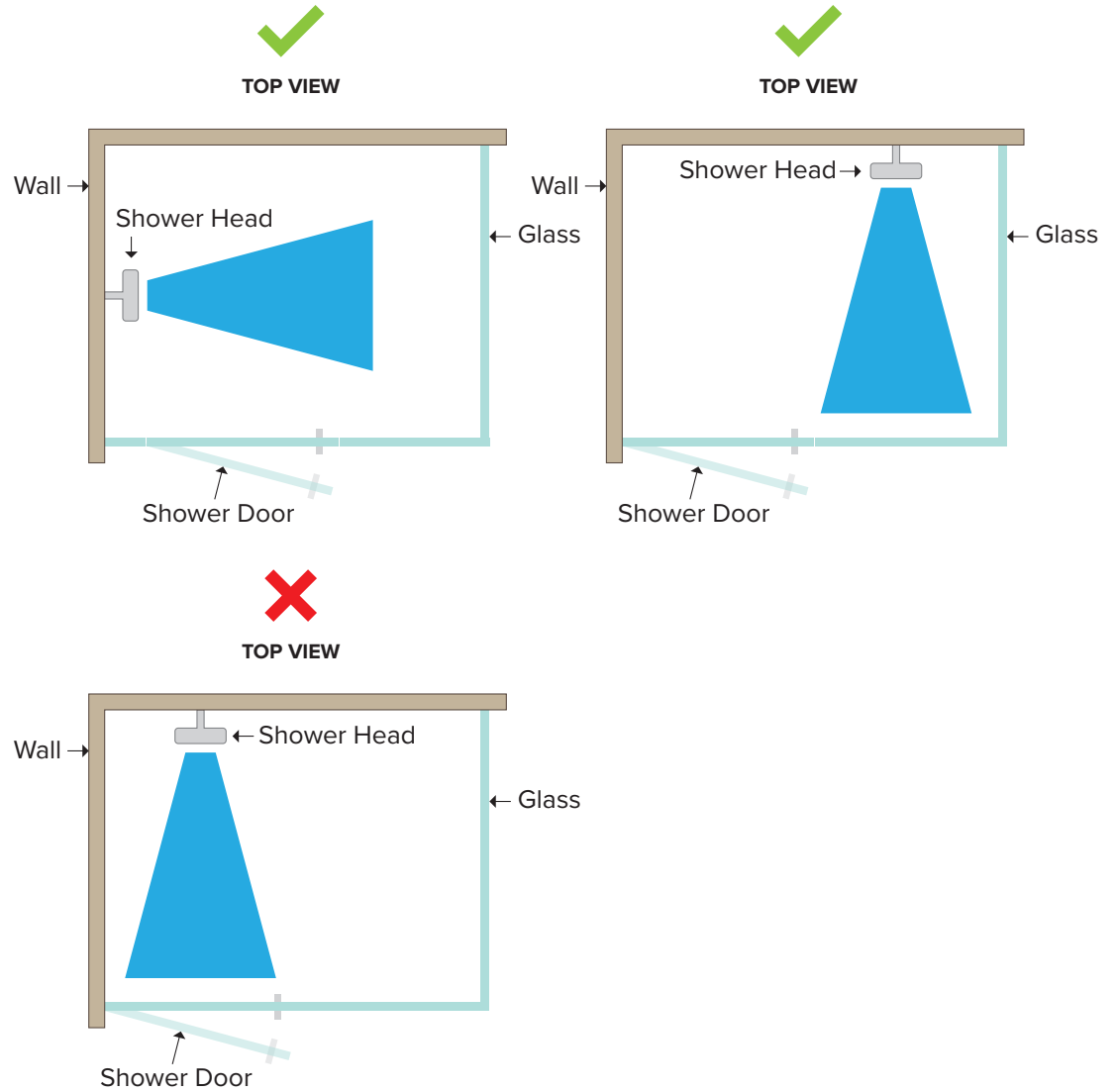
Soffits

Make sure that the Soffit along the top of the enclosure lines up perfectly with the curb below in order to avoid an uneven look.



Shower Head Position

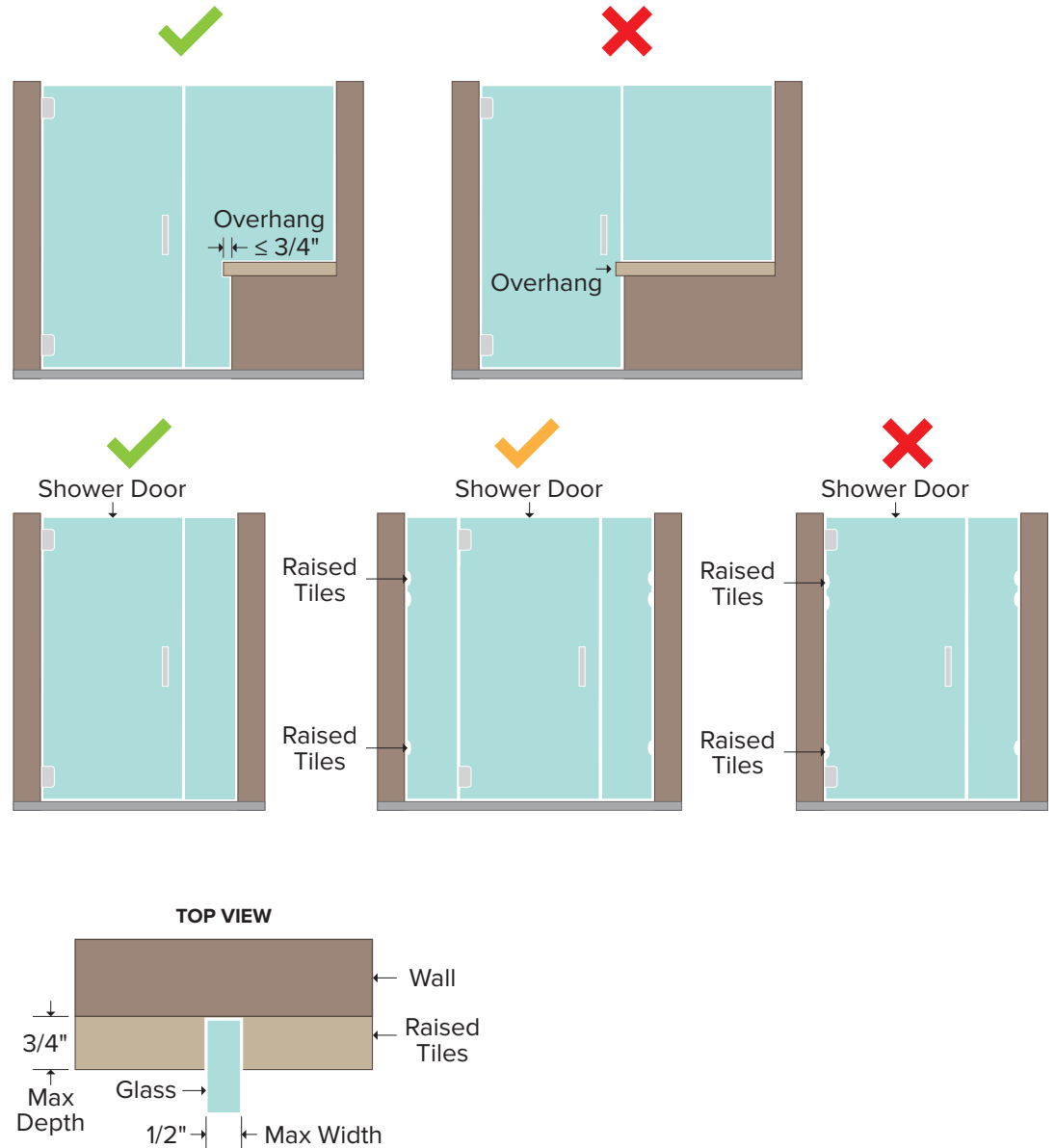
To keep water within the shower enclosure position showerheads pointed towards tiled walls or fixed panels. Never position showerheads pointing towards the shower door or other openings. Exceptions can be made for small or low-flow showerheads and showerheads that point straight down at the floor.



Raised Tiles and Overhangs

Shower doors should be installed so that nothing interferes with its movement and operation. There should also be no gaps between the door and the wall. Raised decorative or overhanging tiles, and granite or marble slabs atop shower seats or buttress walls can cause this interference. The tiles or granite can be altered to allow for door operation but could negatively impact the look of the finished project.

To get around this problem a fixed panel should be added to your design. That way, the door can align with the panel on one side, opening and closing properly with no interference and on the other side, the tile can be notched to allow the panel to line up flush against the wall.



Curb Tops

A single, solid piece of tile, quartz or granite is best for the top of a curb. Tiled curb tops increase the likelihood of leakage and encourage the growth of mould or mildew because water collects in grout joints on horizontal tiles. The shower door seal functions best on a smooth surface.



Increased chance of leaks, mold and mildew

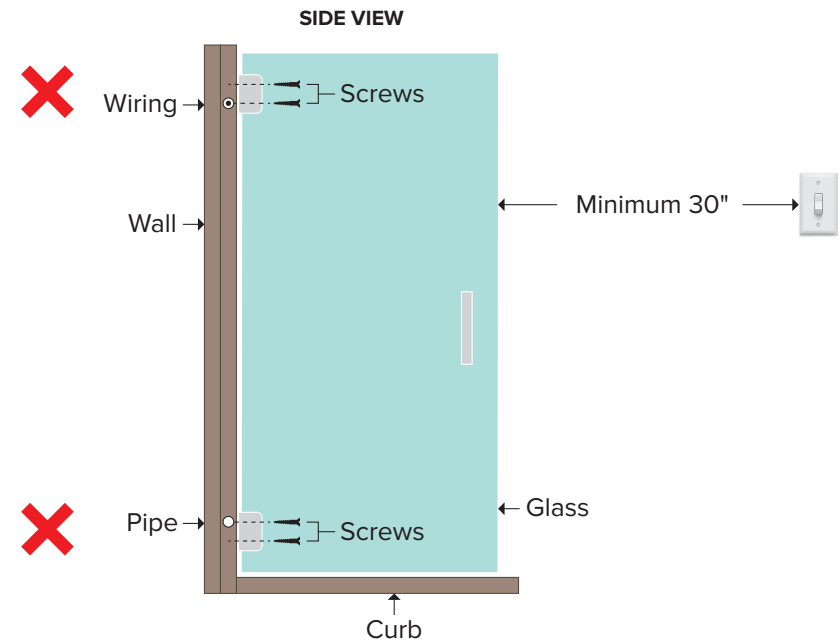


Smooth top is ideal

Pipes and Wiring

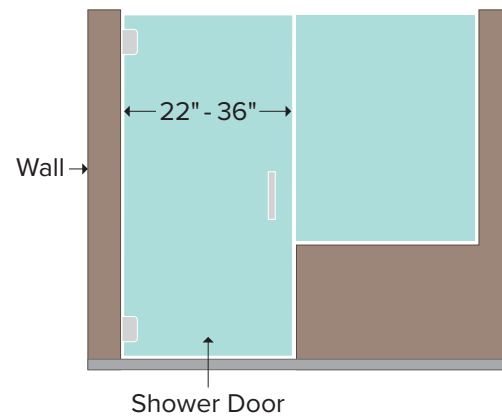
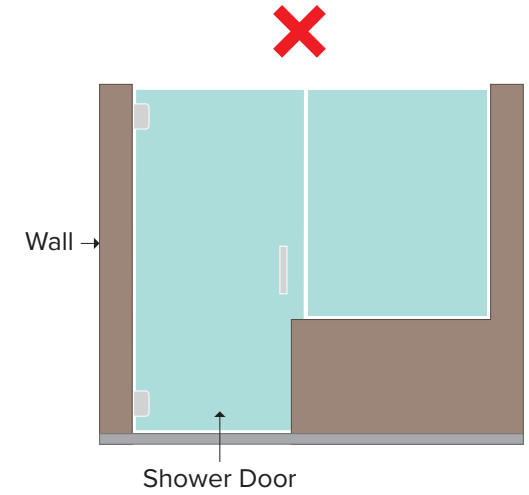
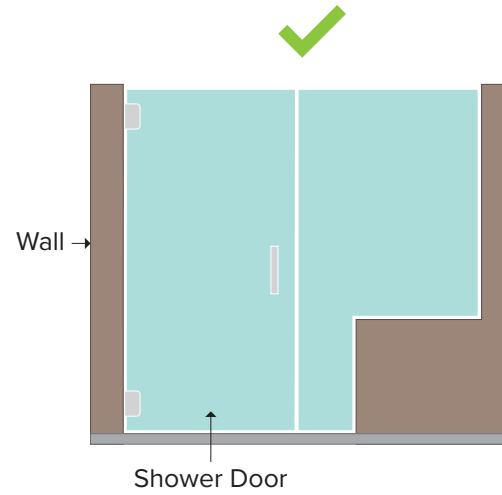
Never run plumbing pipe or electrical wiring through walls or studs where an anchoring screw for the shower enclosure hardware might puncture and damage it.

Electrical switches must be a minimum of 30" from the door opening of your glass shower.



Knee Walls

Include an in-line panel in your plan, when incorporating a Knee wall (buttress) to your design. The fixed in-line panel can be easily altered to accommodate the Knee wall instead of having to modify the door.



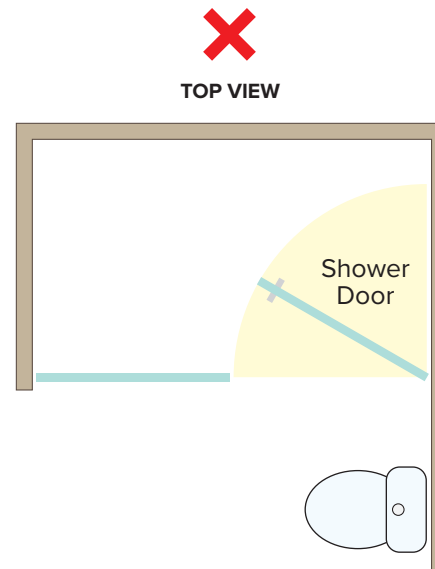
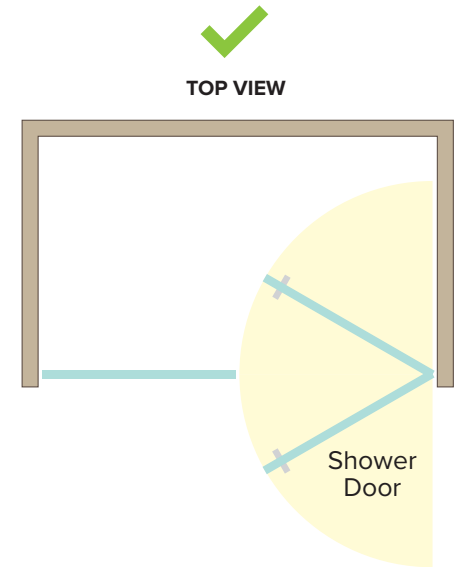
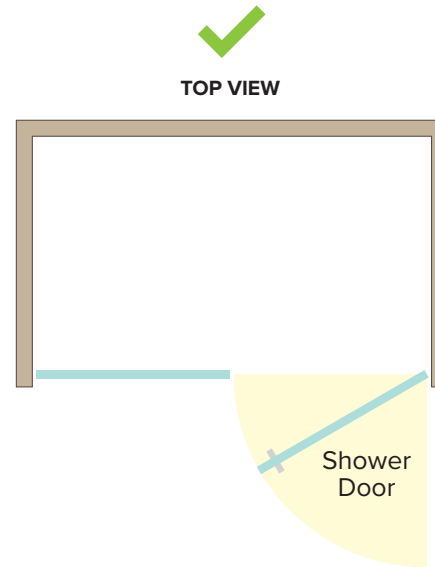
Shower Door Swing

When planning your shower design, keep in mind that Building Code Requirement IRC P 2708.1 (2000 edition) states that all hinged shower doors must open outwards. Hinged shower doors that swing inwards only are not permitted by code.

This code is in place because the shower enclosure must permit unobstructed access to a showering person in case of a fall.

Your shower door can open in both directions though. Outward-opening and inward-swinging. You'll need about 30" of clearance space outside your shower to install a swinging shower door.

Consider choosing a sliding shower door if your bathroom is not configured for a shower door. Your other alternatives include double sliding doors, which come either semi-frameless or framed, and a shower screen which will leave ample room in case of an emergency.

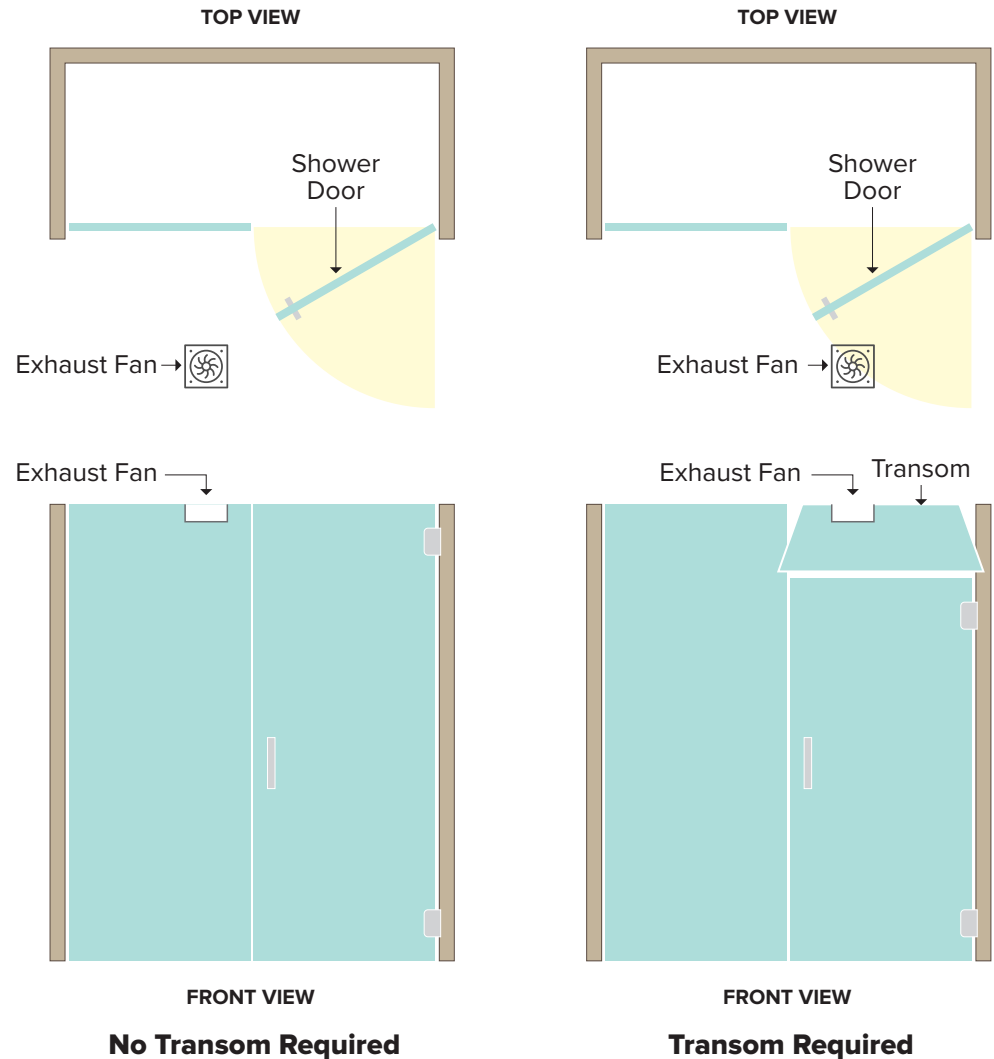


Transoms

A glass transom is positioned above the frameless glass shower door. It can be fixed or movable. Several reasons to use a glass transom are:

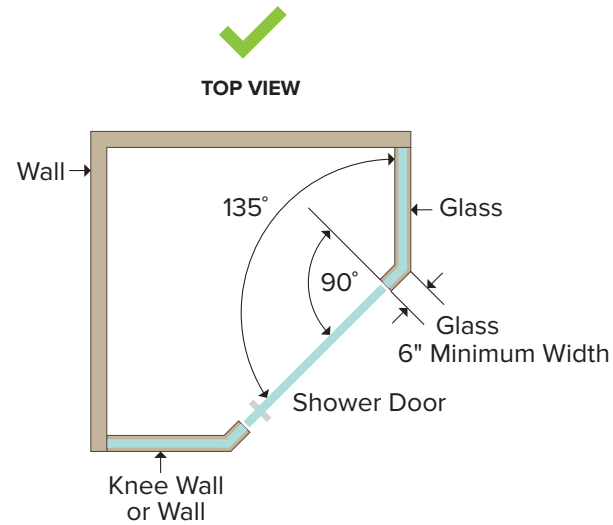
- Venting steam showers: Steam showers must run floor-to-ceiling for an airtight construction so steam can accumulate. Instead of bringing the door all the way to the ceiling, most steam showers are designed with movable transoms above the door. The glass transom then acts like a vent and can be tilted open to release hot steam or kept close to keep the steam in. You'll want to make sure you have a tile ceiling rather than dry-wall for this application.
- Stabilizing tall floor-to-ceiling showers: Homeowners who want a floor-to-ceiling frameless shower may need a glass transom in their design. The need depends on ceiling height and weight limit of the shower door.
- Installing pivot doors: Pivot doors that don't run floor-to-ceiling can mount to a header or a glass transom. Homeowners who would like to avoid the framed look of a header may find a solution by revising their design to incorporate a glass transom. We will help you get the best shower configuration for the look you want.

You'll want to make sure the door won't operate smoothly by anything installed on the ceiling when it swings open. If an exhaust fan, vent or light fixture is placed in the path of the swinging door, a transom may be required to give the door clearance.



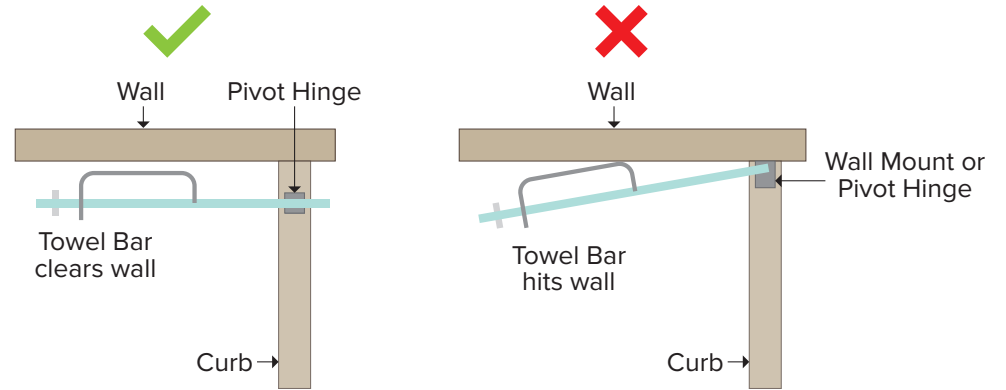
Neo Angle Shower

When your neo angle shower includes a Knee wall or wall, make sure that the shower door meets the structure at a 90° angle to accommodate the hinge requirements. When glass meets glass at 135°, this is not a restriction.



Towel Bars

Watch where you place your towel bar. Using a wall mount hinge or pivot hinge even with the edge of the glass door can cause the towel bar to hit the wall before the door is completely open. Use top and bottom pivot hinges inset far enough from the edge of the glass to help the towel bar clear the wall.



Call Centennial Glass

Many of our Pro Tips are just good advice – if you run into any situations where you might need a little more assistance, just call us! We'll be glad to help!

