

Measuring Accurately for A Frameless Shower Enclosure

“The most important aspect of successfully installing a shower enclosure is the accurate measurement of that opening. Even the best artisans will be unable to install an inaccurately measured shower enclosure, particularly if it is a frameless shower. “

How to Measure Accurately For A Frameless Shower Enclosure

Measuring for a frameless shower enclosure requires the correct tools and some attention to detail. For a precise fit care must be taken to check for plumb using a 4' level. The manufacturing tolerance is to the 1/16th of an inch, and each panel of glass is fabricated precisely to reflect the measurements provided. If your shower opening is larger at the top than at the bottom, then the glass will be cut larger at the top for a precise fit.

A few things to take note of:

Complete The Tiling Before measuring: To ensure accurate measurements the tile or marble must be completed before measuring. Cutting corners by ordering prior to the completion of tiling is the single biggest error made by contractors and do it yourselves.

Check For Plumb: Using a long level ensures that the walls are plumb. If they are out of plumb do your best to figure out where the glass panel will be wider or narrower.

Accuracy: Provide final measurements to a 1/16" scale e.g. 26 1/16". For quotation purposes this level of accuracy is not required.

Center Line Measurements: Generally a unit is installed in the center of the curb. Check for clearance for the door to swing. Building codes require the door swings out, but most of our frameless showers can swing into or out.

Height of Shower: There is no standard for the height of the unit. The one general rule is to go at least as high as the shower head, so that hardware will not be seen over the top of the unit and water will not splash over top.

What measurements are needed?

Take complete and thorough measurements no matter how insignificant they seem. It is better to provide more information, rather than miss a measurement.

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A few more questions to consider:

- What is the opening width of the door access? (Applies to all of above)
- What is the total height of door opening? (Applies to all of above)
- What is the desired height of the door? (i.e. line up with a grout or tile accent line if it is to be a custom enclosure)
- What is the width and height of any adjacent panels? (If appropriate)
- If the opening is level and plumb, the dimensions at each side as well as the top and bottom dimensions should be equal to one another. If otherwise indicate which sides are out and by what dimension.
- Does the math add up? Have you double checked the accuracy of both the measurements and outages?

Example:

Door Opening Bottom	27"
Left Wall is Plumb	---
Right Wall is out of plumb	3/8"

Therefore: Width Measurement at Top must be 27 3/8"

- Is the curb, sill, floor, ceiling or tub "out of level" on a horizontal plane? How much?
- Is the curb pitched inward a couple of degrees for proper water drainage?
- Are any of the walls, step-ups or buttresses "out of plumb" in the vertical plane? How much?
- Is the wall on which the door will hang, straight? Does a straight edge or level touch consistently when placed against the wall?
- Is the shower stall an angled enclosure? How many degrees?
- Is the neo-angled enclosure truly 135 degrees?