HOW TO INSTALL AN IMPERIAL MARBLE SHOWER/TUB SURROUND

It is recommended that you use the services of a skilled professional for installation of these panels. However, installation is possible with basic carpentry skills and attention to the details of installation instructions below.
Please read instructions in entirety before beginning a project.

THINGS YOU WILL NEED:

- Level
- Marker or Pencil
- Drill
- Metal cutting hole saw bits 4"/1 3/8"/1"
- Saber saw, carborundum blade or tile cutting bit in rotary tool
- Drop cloth
- Saw Horses and Plywood
- Circular Saw with Masonry Blade

- Silicone caulk, painters caulk, & Tub/Shower Surround adhesive
- Cement board or dry wall
- White flat paint
- Safety goggles
- Work Gloves
- Shop Vac

Step 1: Measuring for Panels
Measure your shower/tub surround wall. Take the width and height measurement of each wall.

Check to see that the tub/pan is level from front to back and left to right. The maximum tolerance for level is
+/- ¼". Also note that a gap of 1/8" is the maximum tolerance on marble seams. Using a pencil, mark a level line at the desired height of the back panel. If the tub/pan is not level, measure the line from the lowest point of the tub/pan. Using a level, extend the line out on the left and right sides. This is the line you will measure to for the height of your panels. Using a 4' level, draw a vertical (plumb) line flush with the outer edge of the tub/pan, extending to the height line. This will be the line to measure to for the width measurement of the end panels.

Step 2: Ordering
Choose the IMPERIAL wall surround kit that works for your application. Special custom sizes are available upon request if you do not see the size listed for your surround. You may have to wait several weeks for special orders to fit your measurement.
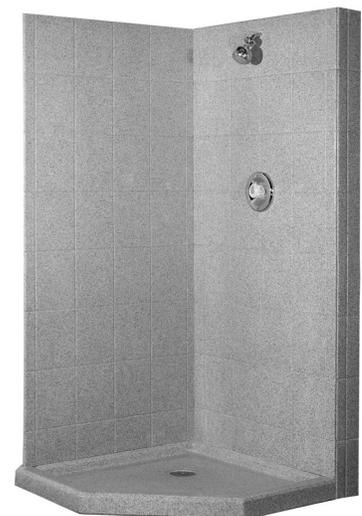
Step 3: Preparation of Walls
After you have ordered your materials, you can start the demolition of your old shower surround. If you are using the bathroom, don't start the demo until your materials have arrived and you are ready to get started. Use safety goggles and work gloves when you do your demolition job for protection.

Install your cement board or green wall board. Make sure that they are plumb, square and flat. If you are installing Crystaline or Onyx panels, you should paint the dry wall with white paint first so that the color would not show through the marble. If you are planning on recessed accessory pieces such as shampoo caddy or soap holder, ensure that you cut out holes on the dry wall or cement board. If you are mounting surface mount soap holders, shampoo caddy's, shelves or grab bars that need to be screwed to the wall, you should install wood blocking behind the wall board in those
locations that can be screwed into.

CAUTION: Cast panels are very fragile until installed to the wall. Never lift or carry panels in a flat position. Always carry in a vertical position like a piece of glass. When lifting or laying on a flat surface, always set one side down first and lay down supporting the longest side of the panel. Panels should be stored in a place above freezing until ready to install. If panels have been stored in cold temperature, bring them to room temperature 24 hours before attempting installation.

NOTE: BREAKAGE OF PANELS DUE TO IMPROPER HANDLING IS NOT COVERED UNDER THE TERMS OF THE PRODUCT WARRANTY.

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Step 4: Cutting and Drilling

CAUTION: Any trimming of panels should be done on saw horses well supported underneath by a flat sheet of plywood that is supported underneath by straight lumber that will not sag between the sawhorses.

Cast panels become more prone to breakage when cold. Warm all panels up to room temperature (65 degrees or above) before attempting to cut or drill. If cutting outside in cold weather, avoid allowing the panel to cool off before making necessary cuts and bring panel back in to warm area after cutting is completed.

All cutting of straight edges **MUST BE** done with a circular saw with a **masonry blade**. **Protect the finish side of the panel that the saw will ride on with masking tape.** Cutting should be done outdoors due as considerable dust is created from cutting. Dust can be reduced by having someone hold a shop vac near the exhaust of the circular saw. A saw guide is helpful for very straight cuts. Since it is hard to make a mark on the panel that is easy to follow while you are cutting, a good way to mark the panel for a straight cut is to mark the cut line with a pencil and then align painters or masking tape along one edge on the line. This will make it very easy to follow along with the blade. The use of the vacuum by a helper will also help in keeping the line clear ahead of your blade for visibility of the cut.

IMPORTANT: To avoid cracking the panel at the end of your cut, you should **always make a lead in cut on one end of the panel of at least 8 inches.** Then move saw to the other side of the panel and cut towards the lead in cut to finish your cut. Do not push the masonry blade through the marble to hard as you risk cracking the panel.

The back wall should be installed first. Measure the width of the space where the back wall will be installed. Mark your back panel to these dimensions and trim to fit. Clean the back of the panel with acetone (do not use water based cleaners or denatured alcohol) and the wall with a dry rag, making sure there is no dust on either surface. Sand cut edges with 220 grit sandpaper **to help prevent chipping and to keep from cutting hands while handling.** "Dry fit" the panel to make sure your cut is straight.

Measure the end panels, using the lines you have already made on the walls. It is usually easier to measure the plumbing wall first. Measure and trim the panel, then measure and cut the holes for the plumbing. This will assure that the holes will not be off-center. **Be sure to subtract for the thickness of the back panel when measuring the plumbing hole locations.**

Drill the matching holes for the plumbing fixtures on the marble surround piece that would be used for the wall facing you as you take a shower. If you are using the services of a plumber, he may be able to cut the holes for the fixtures for you as they usually have a 4" hole saw for the shower valve which is not readily available at retail stores. If cutting the holes yourself, you can first drill a small hole and then use a saber saw with a carborundum bit to cut holes for the 4" shower valve hole. Even better is a Roto Zip tool or a Dremel with a tile cutting bit. The other holes can be drilled with a metal cutting hole saw bit available at most retailers. Each wall piece must be "dry fitted" and clean before installation.

Make sure the holes for the plumbing are not too large for the plumbing trim to cover. After this panel has been dry fit and installed, you can install the other panel, following the same measuring technique.

Step 5: Installing Panels

Remove the panel and apply adhesive to the wall. Large 2 inch round pads of adhesive or lines that protrude from the wall at least ¾" thick will ensure proper gluing. Be sure to follow instructions on the Tub / Shower Surround Adhesive for proper use. Most adhesives instruct flashing of the adhesive for around 3 minutes before final attachment of the panel to the wall. Flashing is the process of pressing the panel to the wall after adhesive has been applied to the wall and pressing against the wall in all areas to make sure adhesive has transferred to the back side of the panel. Then the panel should be leaned back away from the wall approximately 12 inches for about 3 minutes, allowing the adhesive to string out between the wall and panel. Then push the panel back against the wall and with a towel or rag rub firmly on all areas of the panel to insure proper connection of adhesive from wall to panel. This allows air to get to the curing agents in the adhesive and initiate a quicker cure when pressed back against the wall. Although it may feel like the panel is secure when flashing is done, slight pressure needs to be applied for at least 8 hours with the use of wood bracing for proper adhesion.

It is best to brace the walls with 1x4 or 1x2 lengths of lumber, being careful not to put too much pressure on the panels, as they are fragile. Use a small block of wood on the ends of each side of your brace to help distribute the pressure. Final adjustments to pressure applied can be done by carefully driving wood shims between the blocks and the panels. Be very careful not to scratch the finish of the panels when bracing.

Step 6: Securing Panels

Use only Tub and Shower Surround Adhesive to attach your surround panels onto the dry wall. You may need an extra pair of hands to help hold the panels firm against the wall until the adhesive starts to dry or temporary wood bracing. Be careful not to put too much pressure with bracing so as not to crack a panel.

Step 7: Installing Accessories

Once the panels are secured on the wall, you can add the Baton Strip or Corner or Edge trims if applicable. 100% Silicone or Tub / Shower adhesive can be used to attach marble strips over panels. Apply beads of silicone caulk at areas where marble components are joined and spread with your forefinger for a smooth finish. For caulking marble to drywall, you should use a latex painters caulk.

Note: The following method can be used for applying wall accessories that only require adhesive or silicone caulk and do not require mechanical fasteners like small surface mount or recessed marble soap dish's. Apply the adhesive around the perimeter of the back of the accessory and then when ready to install, apply Hot Melt Glue in the center of the back of the accessory with a Hot Glue Gun. Press the accessory to the wall and hold for 2 minutes until hot melt glue is secure. Allow 24 hours for the adhesive to set before use. For added security a piece of duct tape can be applied vertically over the accessory.

Step 8: Finishing

Install your shower fixtures and apply silicone caulk where fixtures meet the panels to prevent water seepage.

Step 9: Project is Complete!

Wait 24 hours to allow adhesive to cure before using.

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