www.comfortdesignsbathware.com

Comfort Designs with Swan Solid Surface

Shower Wall Kits and Panels

SWS363696	SWS623696	SWS623696SQ	SWP3696GO
SWS363696ST	SWS484896	SWP9636WB	SWP3696PB
SWS363696SQ	SWS626296	SWP3696BA	SWP3696TN
SWS483696	SWS623696ST	SWP36396BB	

Read and Understand Before Installing

Form # 193CD-112017

The Swan Solid Surface Assurance — if our product is properly installed and maintained, as stated in these instructions, it will not leak.

Remember —

Safety First

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Comfort Designs, the makers of the Swan Solid Surface products, cannot anticipate every possible circumstance that might involve a potential hazard during the installation of our product(s). The warnings and instructions in this installation guide are, therefore, not all-inclusive. If a tool, installation procedure, or work method that is not specifically recommended you must satisfy yourself that it is safe. You should also make sure that the product(s) will not be damaged by the methods you choose. Comfort Designs will not be held responsible for water damage of any kind in connection with the installation of this product.

⚠ WARNING

To avoid product damage, personal injury, or even possible death, carefully read, understand, and follow all the instructions in this installation guide before installing this product(s). Do not use cleaning fluids or operate power tools unless you read and understand the instructions and warnings in this and all other applicable labels or manuals. Proper use of tools and the products described in this guide is your responsibility.

WARRANTY

This product is covered by a Limited Warranty. Refer to the Warranty section in this manual for complete details.

30 Year Commerical Warranty

Read and Understand the Manual
It is the responsibility of any individual who installs or maintains this product to fully understand and follow proper installation and maintenance procedures. Be aware of the inherent dangers in the use of power tools when installing this product. Read and understand all Warnings, Cautions, and Important Notices in this manual.

Do Not Use Nails
The panels mount to walls with 100% clear silicone sealant only. We recommend 100% clear silicone sealant to mount this product. It is NOT recommended to use GE brand of 100% silicone. Never use hammers, nails, or screws. Hammers, nails, and screws could adversely affect the integrity of this product. Nails and screws could puncture the Swan Solid Surface Wall Systems and Panels, resulting in water or other damage to floors, pipes, walls, or other portions of your building or home.

Inspect Before Cutting
Make sure no electrical wiring or plumbing is present before cutting into a wall to install any accessories.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any cutout for accessories should have rounded corners (sharp corners can promote stress cracks).

Wall Conditions
Inspect the walls before installing the Swan Solid Surface panels. Never install panels over damp walls or an existing mold condition.

Personal Protection
Be sure to use all personal protective equipment, such as sturdy work boots, preferably with steel toes, gloves, and hard hat, if necessary, to ensure your own safety. To prevent possible damage to your hearing, always wear ear protection, such as earmuffs or earplugs, when working around power tools.

Room Temperature
Allow the Swan Solid Surface panels to adjust to room temperature for at least six hours before installation, and consult the 100% silicone sealant manufacturer's instructions for storage and surface preparation. The panels should be installed at temperatures not less than 65°F. Panels should not be installed in areas where the temperature may drop below freezing (32°F). Failure to follow this recommendation could adversely affect the silicone sealants which holds the panels to the wall. If the panels are not correctly adhered to the walls, they may fall off, causing possible injury to someone in or around the shower enclosure.

Grab Bars
We recommend that shower compartments be equipped with support grab bars that comply with the most recent edition of ANSI-A117.1 requirements. Grab bars must be anchored to structural support (wall studs) behind the panels. Do not rely on the panels only for grab bar support!

Solvents Hazard
Follow all manufacturer's safety instructions for silicone sealants and denatured alcohol. Alcohol vapors are both flammable and hazardous to breathe. Silicone vapors may irritate eyes and nose. Personal injury can result from improperly handling or use of products, such as denatured alcohol. Always follow the manufacturer's recommendations for the safe use of these products. Ventilate any work area before beginning to apply silicone sealants, cleaning agents, or solvents.

Dust Hazard
When cutting or drilling the Swan Solid Surface product, use a dust collection method which prevents dust particles from going into the air. Always work in a well-ventilated area. Always use an OSHA approved dust mask when cutting, drilling, or sanding Swan Solid Surface products.

General Information

Required Tools

- ❍ 100% clear silicone sealant
- ❍ Circular saw with 60 to 80 tooth carbide blade
- ❍ Saber saw (straight up and down travel) with bi-metal blade (14 teeth per inch)
- ❍ Drill with 3/8” drill bit
- ❍ Hole saw for shower faucet/shower head
- ❍ Tape measure
- ❍ Masking tape (2” wide works best)
- ❍ Level
- ❍ Compass or dividers (scribe the panel to the wall)
- ❍ Caulking gun
- ❍ Clean paper towels or shop towels
- ❍ 2 x 4 lumber, as required for bracing (see Bracing Instructions)
- ❍ Industrial grade, hot glue gun and glue sticks (optional)
- ❍ Denatured alcohol

Kit Contents

Confirm that all parts of this kit have been included before beginning installation.

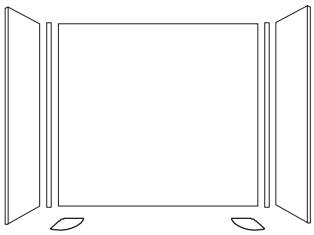
SWS363696

SWS483696

SWS623696

SWS484896

SWS626296



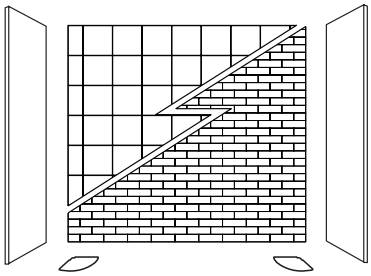
Three flat panels
Two corner moldings
Two soap shelves
One tube of color-coordinating silicone

SWS363696ST

SWS363696SQ

SWS623696ST

SWS623696SQ



Three flat panels
Two soap shelves
One tube of color-coordinating silicone

For best results, use 100% clear silicone sealant for bonding this product to a properly constructed and prepared sub wall. You will need one tube of 100% clear silicone sealant (tube sized to fit a standard caulking gun) for every 1440 square inches or 10 square feet, or, 4 to 10 tubes for an average shower. Follow the application recommendation located in the Panel Installation section of this manual.

It is NOT recommended to use GE brand of 100% silicone.

Unpackaging

- ❍ Use care when opening the box so that you do not damage the panels.
- ❍ This product is shipped after careful inspection. After receiving product, carefully unbox and inspect the product for any shipping damage that may have occurred. If damage is found, report it immediately to receiving **product after** inspection and during installation, protect the products from construction damage by moving them to another room or area until ready to install.
- ❍ Store panels in a flat area to avoid warpage until the time of installation. Do not store the panels outside of the original packaging or in a vertical position.
- ❍ Make sure the walls are the correct size and are in good condition. Installation of damaged product will void the warranty.

Helpful Hints

- Read these instructions carefully and familiarize yourself with the various parts of the kit.
- The variety of installations possible for this kit may require procedures other than those shown. Ensure construction is correctly sized, plumb, and square.
- Save the large cardboard box for protection of the shower floor during the installation process and to use as a template for cutting the back shower wall panel.
- Allow sufficient time for the parts in this kit to adjust to room temperature. We do not recommend installation of this product at temperatures below 65 degrees.
- Sawhorses with 2 x 4 cross-members or a worktable are helpful during the installation process.
- Always transport the panels horizontally. Use care when laying the panels flat to prevent flexing, especially when panels have a cutout in them.
- Store unused materials away from the work area to prevent accidental damage.

Preparation Tips

- Measure the width of the back wall (with green board) installed. This measurement cannot exceed the width of the Swan Solid Surface back panel. If the wall opening is too large, other methods or two panels will be required to cover the wall.
- Turn off the hot and cold water supply.
- Remove faucet handles, escutcheons, filler spouts, and/or anything mounted to the wall (i.e. towel bars, soap dishes, etc.).
- Always measure the location of the plumbing cutouts from the back wall forward and from the ledge of the shower base upward.
- Ensure all plumbing or electrical work inside the walls is finished prior to installation of the wall panels.
- Prepare the area with 1/2” (13 mm) moisture-resistant drywall, marine grade plywood, or concrete board. Never install our products directly on any structure that is, or may become, wet or damp.
- Trial fit the side panels before you begin. Swan Solid Surface panels have a finished side and a nonfinished backer side. The panel has a production markers or stickers attached to the nonfinished backer side and, upon installation, should be placed against the sub-wall.
- Walls must be solid, plumb, and square within 1/8” of true. Shim or trim the opening, as required. Installation of corner moldings provides some adjustability for minor alignment problems.
- The mounting surface must be free of dirt, film, waxes, or any other residues.
- If you are installing a recessed accessory, cut the hole after the panel is installed and fully supported by the wall. Remember to position the accessory between the wall studs.

Caulking Tips

- Follow the instructions on the color match silicone sealant tube
- When job is complete, inspect all caulked areas for gaps and fill as needed.
- Clean up any excess silicone that was missed using denatured alcohol and a clean cloth.
- Be very careful not to disturb caulk joints.

Installation Procedure

Panels can be installed over a variety of products. Use the following sections when installing this product over:

- SHEETROCK/GREENBOARD/CEMENTBOARD/WOOD
- PLASTER
- CEMENT/CONCRETE
- OLD TILE

Sheetrock, Greenboard, Cementboard, or Wood

- Surface must be dry, smooth, and free of any dust, soap scum, or any other contaminants.
- To ensure proper adhesion any existing wood wall surfaces must be sealed with a water or oil-based primer/sealer.
- After the primer/sealer is completely dry, complete the installation following the instructions in this manual.

Plaster

Depending on the condition of the existing wall surface, additional silicone may be required to ensure contact between the substrate and the wall panel.

- Sand textured or swirled finishes smooth.
- Clean the wall surface with a damp cloth to remove any dust, soap scum, or any other contaminants. The wall surface must be dry and smooth.
- To ensure proper adhesion, the wall surface must be sealed with a water or oil-based primer/sealer.
- After the primer/sealer is completely dry, complete the installation following the instructions in this manual.

Cement/Concrete

Depending on the condition (flatness) of the existing wall surface, additional silicone may be required to ensure contact between the substrate and the wall panel.

- To ensure proper adhesion, the complete area must be sealed with two coats of water or oil-based primer/sealer.
- After the primer/sealer is completely dry, complete the installation following the instructions in this manual.

Old Tile

Depending on the condition of the existing wall surface, additional silicone may be required to ensure contact between the substrate and the wall panel.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

Old ceramic tiles, if solidly adhered, do not need to be removed. All plastic tiles must be removed.

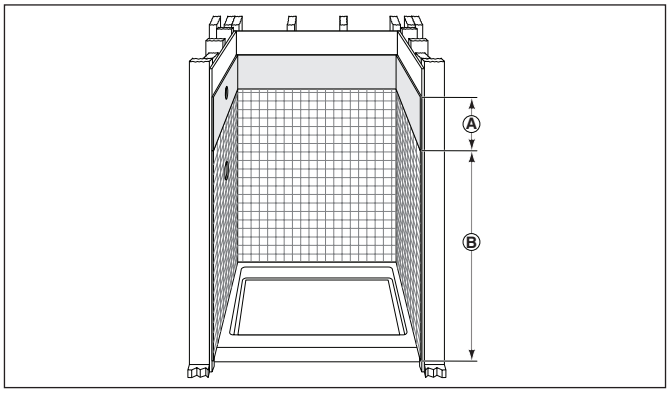
- Remove or reattach any loose ceramic tiles. Old tiles and front edge ceramic tiles should be reset for appearance only.
- Remove any tile accessories attached to the walls.
- Remove the bottom row of tile and cut a ventilation gap in the substrate.

- ❍ Surface must be dry, smooth, and free of any dust, soap scum, or any other contaminants.
- ❍ Complete the installation following the instructions in this manual.

Note: If using a trim kit, old tiles may need to be removed to allow a proper fit.

Filler Boards

If an existing wall covering (i.e. tile) does not extend to a height equal to the height of the panel, it will be necessary to install a filler board to that height. The filler board must equal the thickness of the existing wall covering (tile). Usually, 1/4" masonite or similar material is adequate. If desired, the filler board can extend from the top edge of the tile to the ceiling.



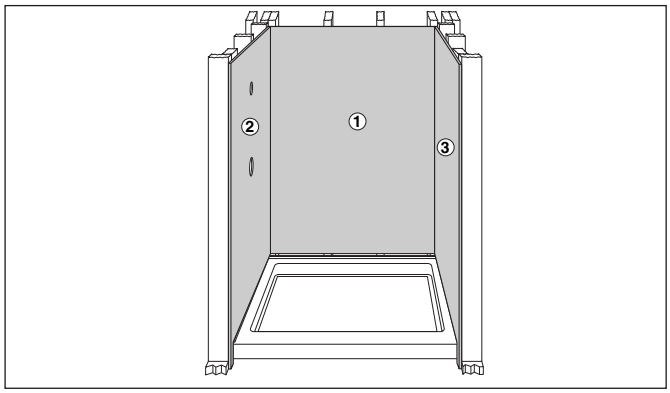
Note: Failure to use a filler board to properly install the panels could result in water damage or other damage to floors, walls, or other portions of your building.

Wallboard Installation

Note: If the Swan Solid Surface wall panels will be installed over an existing shower wall surface, proceed to the next section.

Install 1/2" moisture-resistant cementboard or greenboard over back (1), front (2), and rear (3) wall surfaces of the rough opening.

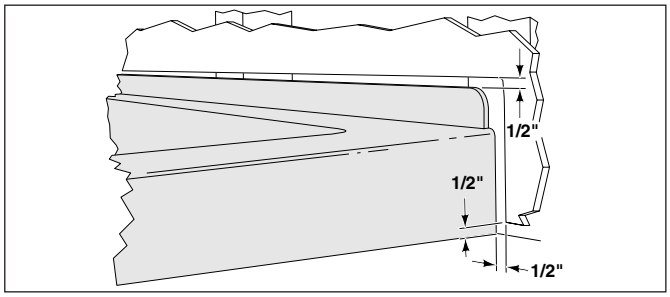
1. Measure and cut openings for the shower faucet(s) and shower head before installation.
2. Install the wall board with a 1/2" gap above the shower base side lip to prevent possible water (wicking affect) damage.



3a. If apron strips will **NOT** be installed along the front edge of the shower base, the cementboard or greenboard **MUST** be cut to fit up against the front edge of the shower base.

3b. If apron strips **WILL** be installed along the front edge of the shower base, the greenboard **MUST** be cut to leave a 1/2" gap between the front edge of the shower base and greenboard.

Note: For more information on installing apron strips, refer to the Apron Strips (optional) instructions in the Installation Procedure section of this manual.



IMPORTANT NOTICE

In addition, if baseboard trim (not included) will later be installed along the floor next to the shower base, a 1/2” gap between the floor and bottom of the greenboard is recommended (see illustration below).

4. Apply a coat of water or oil-based primer/sealer to all the surfaces of the cementboard (follow the manufacturer’s instructions). Allow the primer to dry thoroughly before installing the panels.

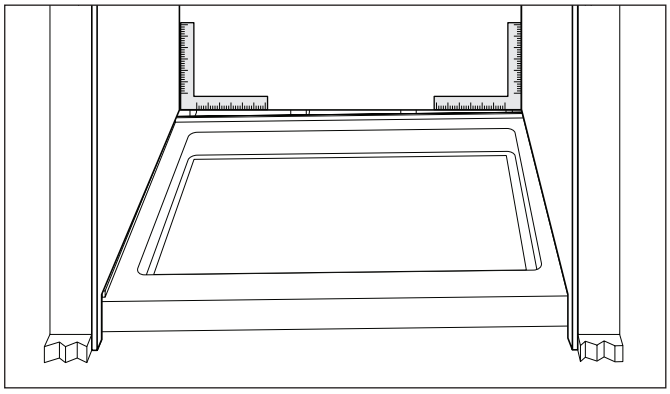
Flat, Subway Tile, or Square Tile Panel Installation

The installation process is the same for either flat or tile panels. Follow the steps in this section for installation instructions.

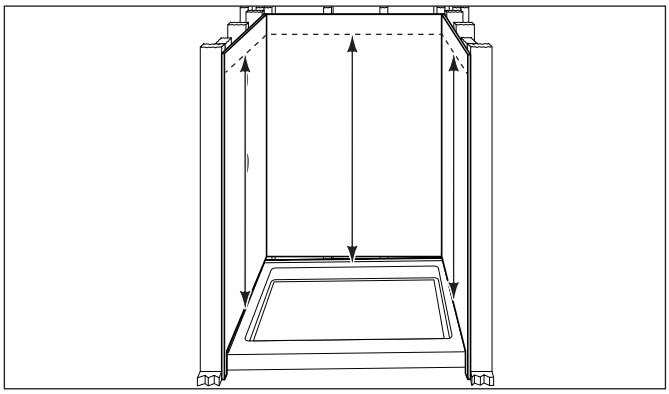
Back Panel

If the back wall measures less than the width of the panel, cut the panel to fit the opening.

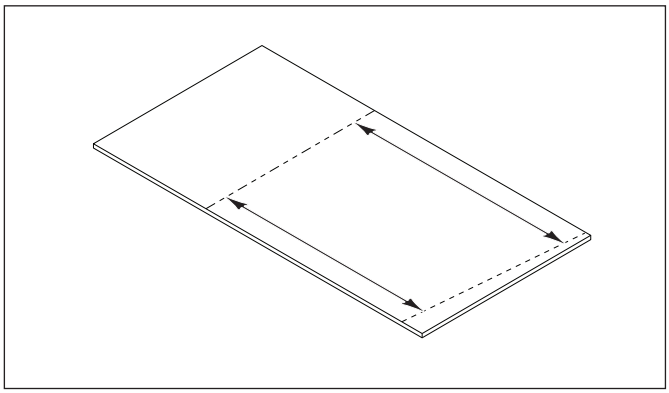
1. Using a builder’s square, make sure the shower base is perpendicular to the side walls. If the walls are out of square, the bottom of all the panels may need to be cut to follow the contour of the shower base.



If the shower base is not perpendicular to the wall, use a level and draw a line around the alcove on all three walls. Measure the distance from the line to the top of the shower base.



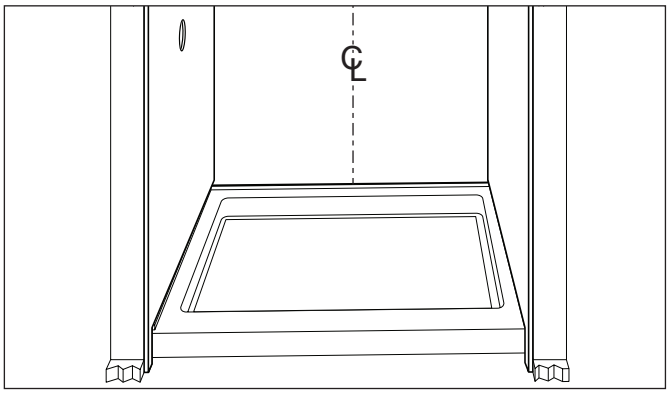
3. Transfer these measurements to both side panels and the back panel. Cut the bottoms of the panels.



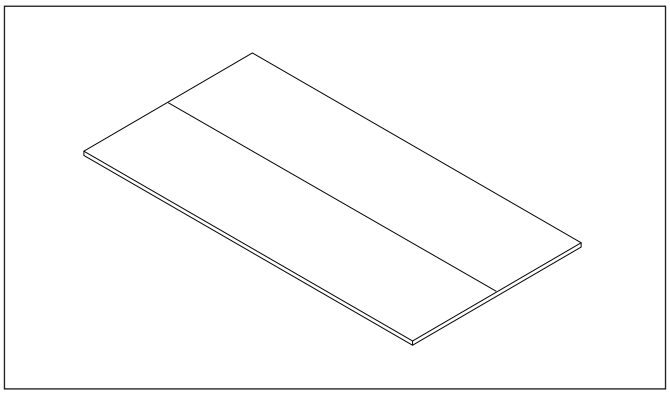
Note: On subway tile and square tile panels, this process will keep the faux grout lines running level, although the bottom tiles may not be evenly sized from the shower base to the first faux grout line. Since every installation is slightly different, it is up to the installer to create a pattern match that is visually pleasing.

Note: When installing Square or Subway tile wall kits wall units all three panels must be installed in the same direction - either vertically or horiztonally. Do not mix rotation of panels as grout lines will not align.

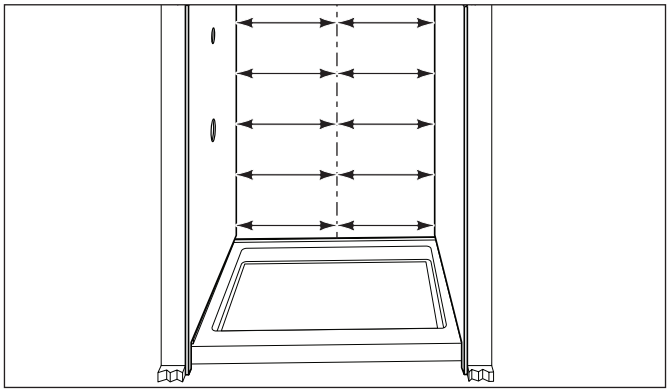
4. If the back panel must be cut (side-to-side) to fit the opening, find and mark the center of the back wall in the alcove opening. Use a level to draw a line from the shower base to a point above the height of the wall panel.



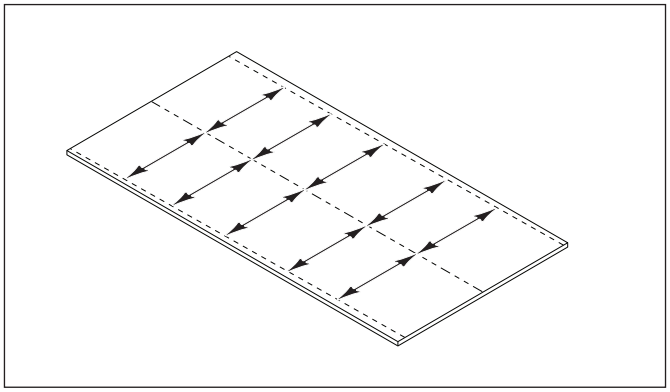
Place the panel, finished side facing up, on a flat surface. Using a pencil, lightly mark the center of the back panel.



6. Take several measurements, bottom-to-top, from the center line to each wall surface. These measurements will ensure the back panel fits the exact contour of the two.



7. Transfer the measurements onto the front surface of the back panel.

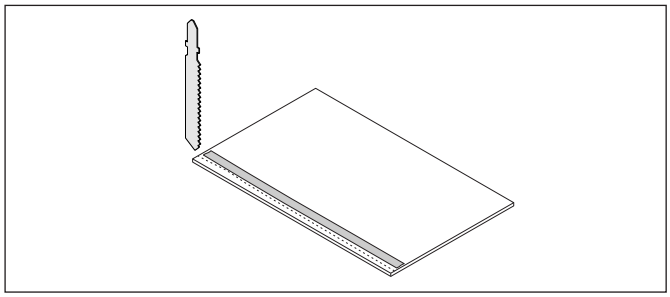


Note: The back panel can be cut **slightly** smaller than the opening because the side panels will cover any small gap (less than 1/4 inch).

Cutting the side panel to precisely fit the back wall is not necessary if a corner molding, is used. This corner molding will cover gaps up to 1/2”.

Cutting, Drilling, or Sanding Products

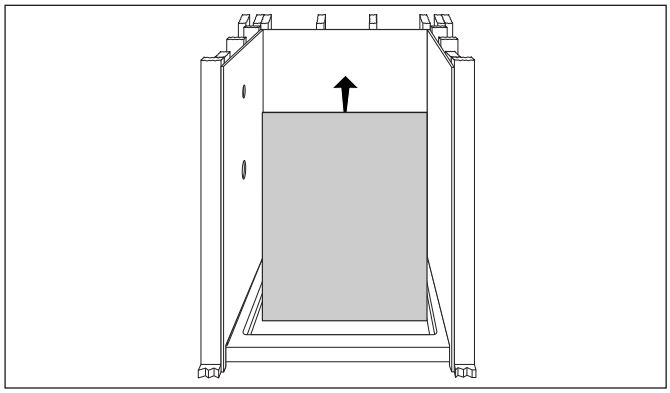
8. Place pieces of masking tape over the area where the saw contacts the finished surface of the panel.
9. Cut the panel using a circular saw with a 60-80 tooth carbide blade or a saber saw with a bi-metal blade (14 teeth per inch).



IMPORTANT NOTICE

Any cutout for accessories should have rounded corners (sharp corners can promote stress cracks).

10. Dry fit the back panel, and make any necessary adjustments. Temporarily secure the back panel to the wall in order to properly fit the front and rear panels.



IMPORTANT NOTICE

DO NOT force a panel to fit a bowed or curved wall as it may break; furthermore, the resiliency of the panel can break the silicone bond to the wall surface.

Side Panel (with shower controls)

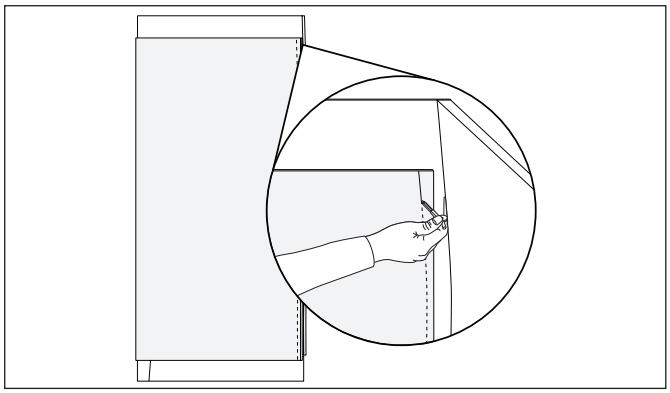
If the side panels do not require cutting to size, proceed to Step 5.

Note: On subway tile and square tile panels, the side panels are marked with labels in the top, right-hand or left-hand corner of the panel. The edge closest to the label is the outside finished edge and should not be cut.

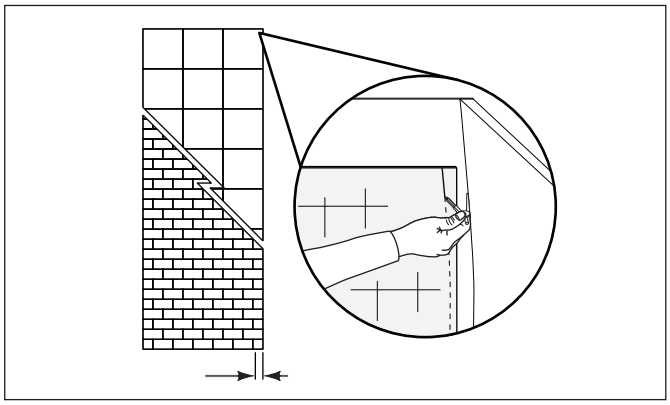
Cutting the side panel to precisely fit the back wall is not necessary if a corner molding, is used. This corner molding will cover gaps up to 1/2”.

1. Place the panel on top of the shower base and slide it against the back wall panel. If the side panel has only one finished edge, make sure that the finished edge is facing out.
2. Scribe (mark) the panel, as shown. If the panel is wider than the wall, take this width into consideration when scribing the panel.

Note: Precisely scribing and cutting the panel will provide a clean 90 degree corner with no need for corner molding.



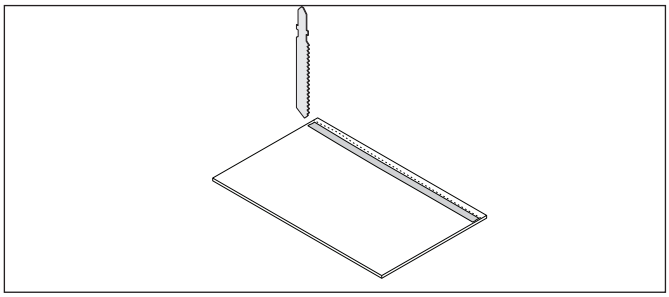
Flat Panel



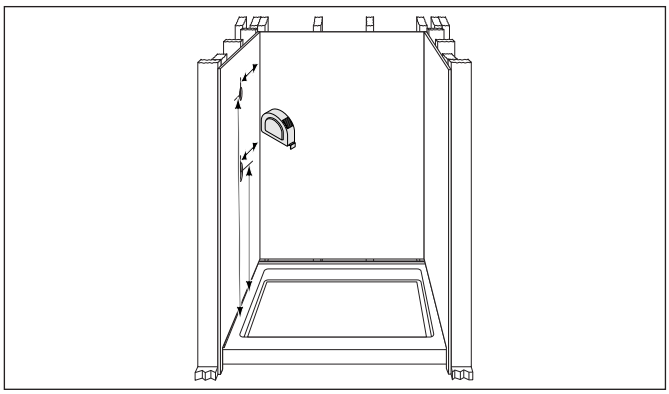
Square Tile or Subway Tile Panel

Place the wall panel, finished side facing up, on a flat surface. Place pieces of masking tape over the area where the saw contacts the panel.

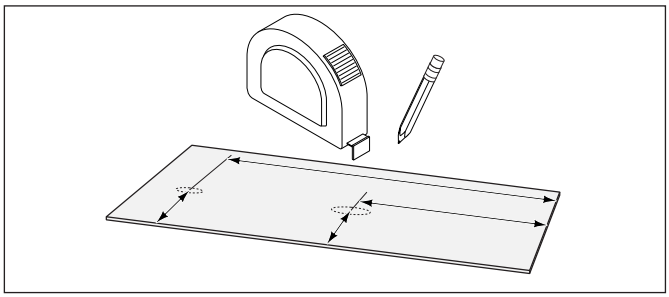
4. Cut the panel using a circular saw with a 60-80 tooth carbide blade or a saber saw with a bi-metal blade (14 teeth per inch).



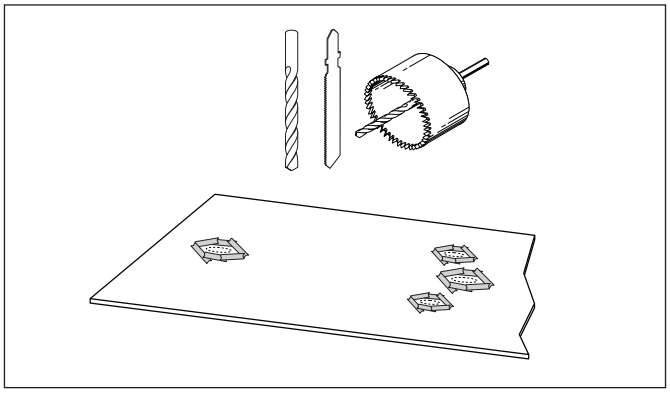
5. Measure the openings for the shower controls and shower head.



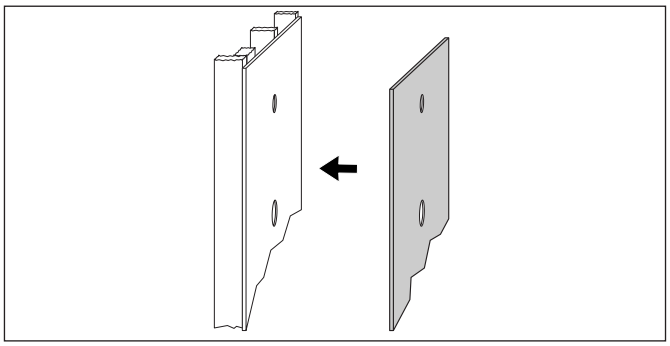
6. Place the wall panel, finished side facing up, on a flat surface. Transfer the measurements to the panel.



7. Cut clearance holes using a router, saber saw, or hole saw. Drill or cut from the finished side of the panel. For best results, when drilling, place a scrap of wood beneath the hole to ensure a clean cut.



8. Dry fit the panel, and make any necessary adjustments.



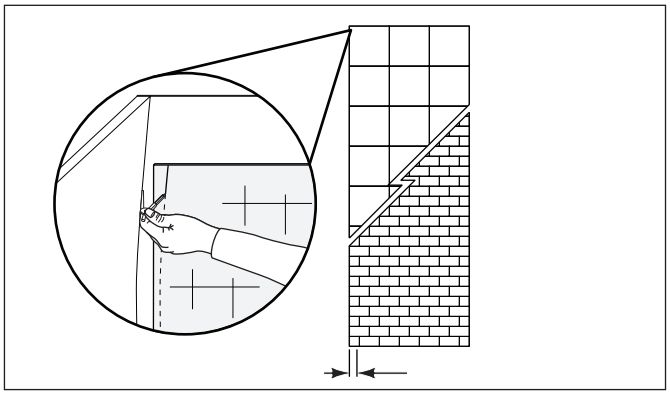
Side Panel (without shower controls)

If the panel does not require cutting to size, proceed to the next section.

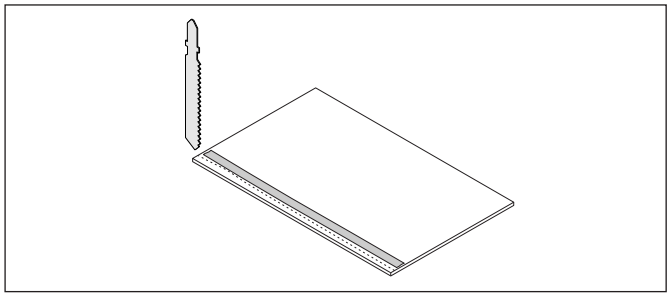
Note: On subway tile and square tile panels, the side panels are marked with labels in the top, right-hand or left-hand corner of the panel. The edge closest to the label is the outside finished edge and should not be cut.

1. Place the panel on top of the shower base and slide it against the back wall panel.
2. Scribe (mark) the panel, as shown. If the panel is wider than the wall, take this width into consideration when scribing the panel.

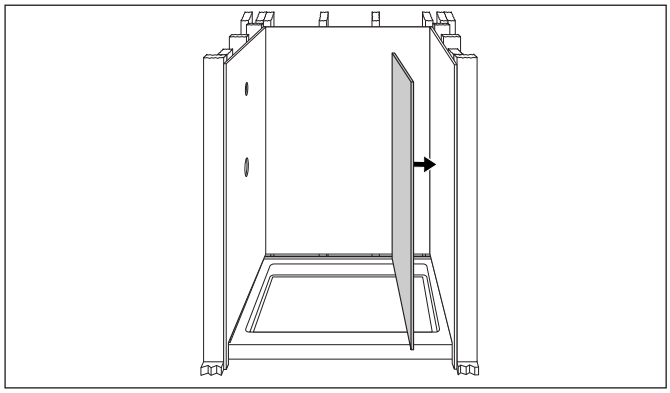
Note: Precisely scribing and cutting the panel will provide a clean 90 degree corner with no need for corner molding.



3. Place the wall panel, finished side facing up, on a flat surface. Place pieces of masking tape over the area where the saw contacts the panel.
4. Cut the panel using a circular saw with a 60-80 tooth carbide blade or a saber saw with a bi-metal blade (14 teeth per inch).

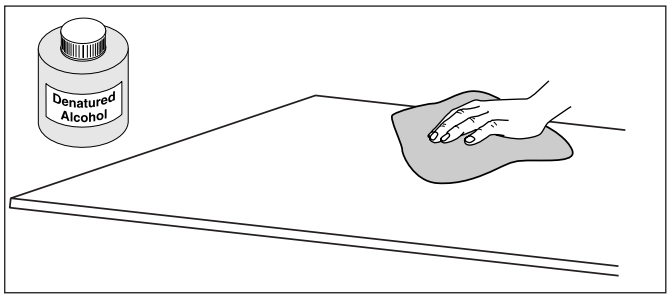


5. Dry fit the panel, and make any necessary adjustments.



Panel Installation

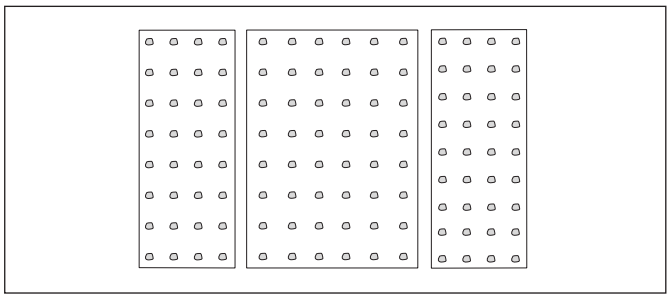
1. Clean the backs of each panel with denatured alcohol or another non oil-based cleaning solvent.



IMPORTANT NOTICE

Do not use oil-based cleaners, such as mineral spirits, to clean the panels. The oil in the cleaner will prevent the panel from adhering properly to the wall.

2. Apply the silicone in 1-1/4" diameter dots every 8 to 10 inches apart over the surface of the panel. Follow the silicone manufacturer's instructions and note all ventilation and installation precautions.



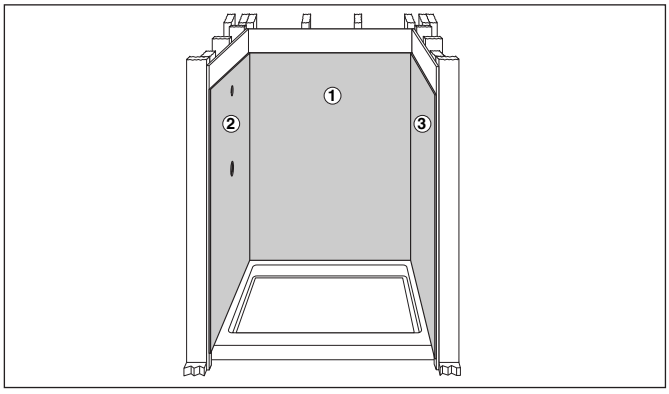
Note: When using an industrial grade hot melt glue gun in place of bracing, apply the silicone as stated in Step 2. Then apply the hot melt glue to the panel, as needed, and quickly press the panel firmly into place. Also refer to the **WARNING** on the next page for hot melt glue applications.

⚠ WARNING

Using hot melt glue in place of bracing requires application by a qualified installer. This temporary bonding method must hold the panel to the wall during the 24 hour curing time of the 100% clear silicone sealant. The hot melt glue by itself is not sufficient to bond the panel to the wall. Therefore, improper or inadequate application of the hot melt glue may result in insufficient bonding of the panel to the wall. Due to the weight of the panel, failure to follow this recommendation may allow it to detach itself from the wall, causing possible injury to someone in or around the shower enclosure.

Improper installation methods may also result in water damage or other damage to floors, walls, or other portions of your building.

3. Install back panel (1) first. Then, install left-hand panel (2). Finally, install right-hand panel (3).



4. Firmly press the surface of each panel against the wall. It is important to apply hand pressure to the entire surface of the panel to bond it to the wall surface.

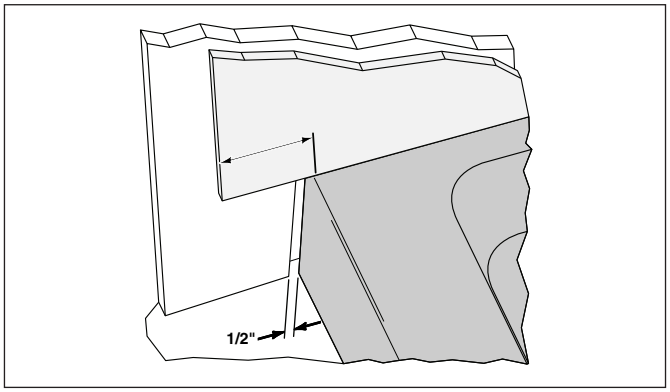
Apron Strips (optional)

If the wall and wall panel extends beyond the shower base, adding apron strips will provide a finished look to your installation.

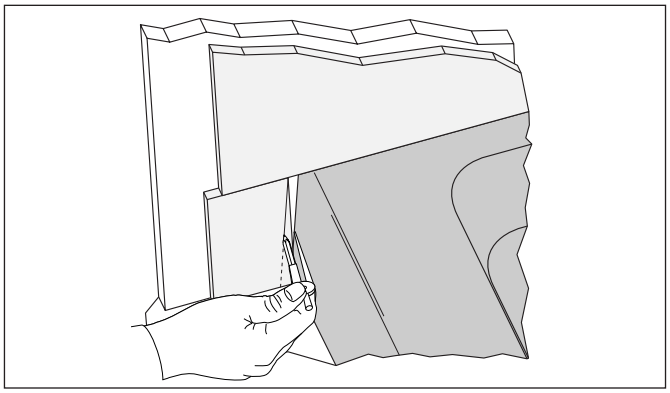
The two small apron strips can be cut from scraps of a panel. When cutting these apron strips, make sure the finished edge of the panel is facing outward.

1. Measure the distance from the top of the shower base to the outside of the panel. Cut two pieces of material to fit in this area.

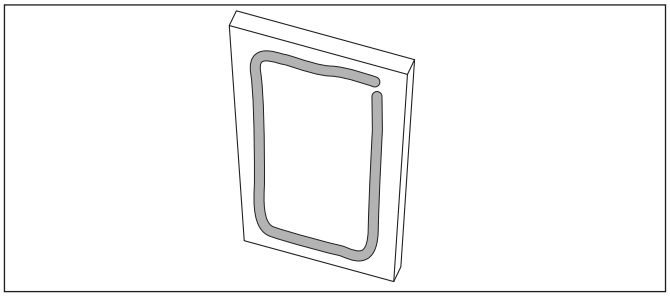
Note: This illustration shows the recommended 1/2” gap between the wallboard edge and the front of the shower floor (helps prevent water damage due to wicking effect).



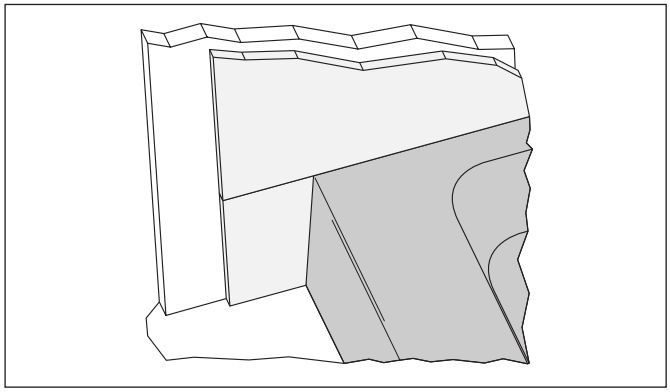
2. Hold the apron strips in place and scribe the angle of the shower base onto each piece. Remember, do not cut the finished edge.



3. Place silicone on the back side of the apron strips.



4. Attach the apron strips to the wall.



Temporary Bracing

Install temporary bracing to hold the three panels in place until the silicone is completely set (usually 24 hours). This will allow proper curing of the silicone.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

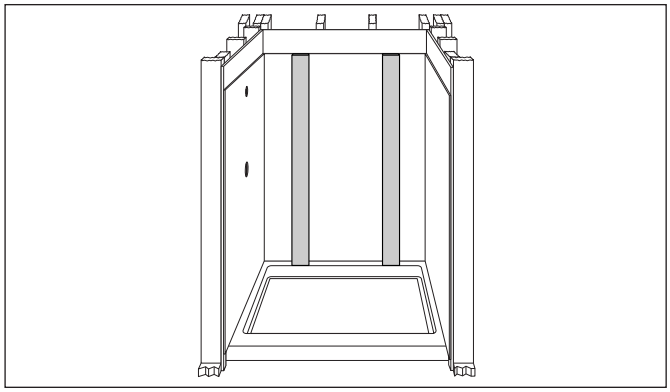
To ensure contact between the panels and walls until the silicone sets, install temporary bracing after completing installation. The bracing should be constructed from lengths of 2 x 4’s. Failure to brace in the manner described could keep the panels from adhering, resulting in personal injury, as well as water damage or other damage to floors, walls, or other portions of your building or home.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

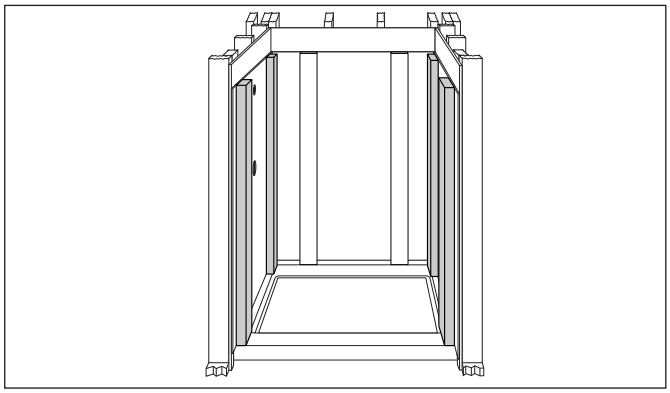
To prevent scratches or other damage, make sure there are no nails or other foreign objects in the surface of the bracing that is placed against the panel.

If the horizontal braces are fastened to the vertical braces using nails or screws, make sure the fasteners do not penetrate the surface of the panel. Also, to prevent possible damage to the walls, do not apply excessive pressure to the braces.

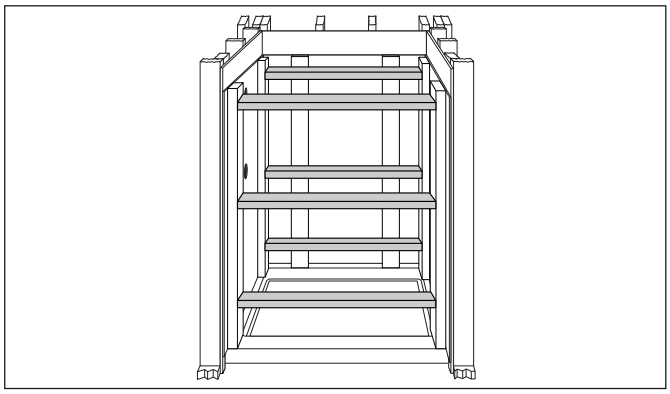
1. Place two or three braces against the back wall. Place two braces on panels that are 48” or less and three braces on panels greater than 48” wide.



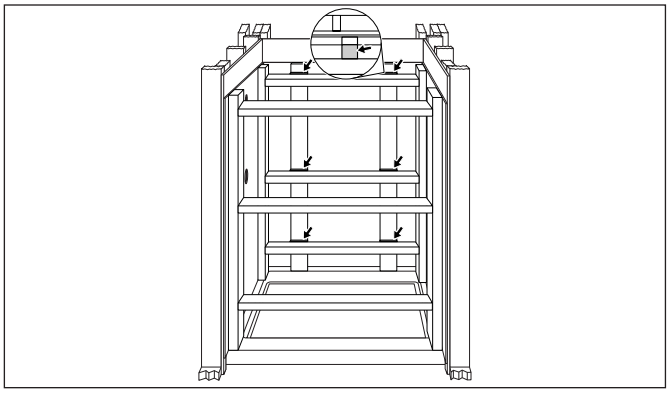
2. Place two braces against each left and right wall.



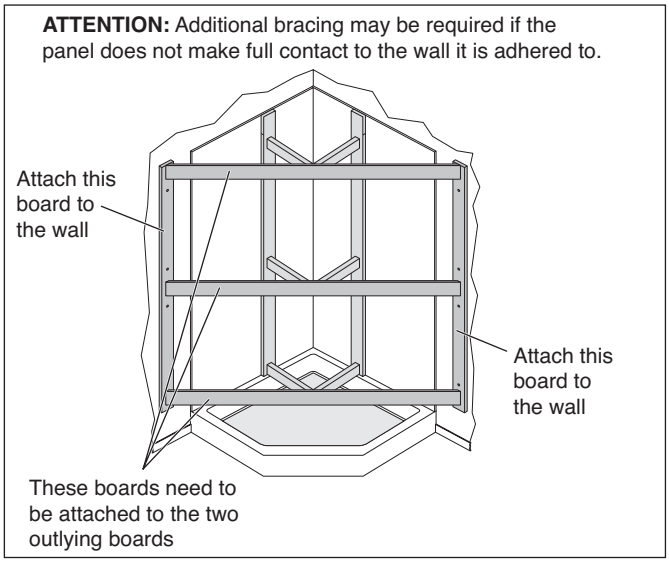
3. Install (wedge) three horizontal braces (six total) against the left and right wall braces.



4. Insert small blocks between the front-to-rear panel braces and the back panel braces. These will apply pressure to the back panel to hold it in place.



For corner shower wall installation use the following illustrated bracing design.



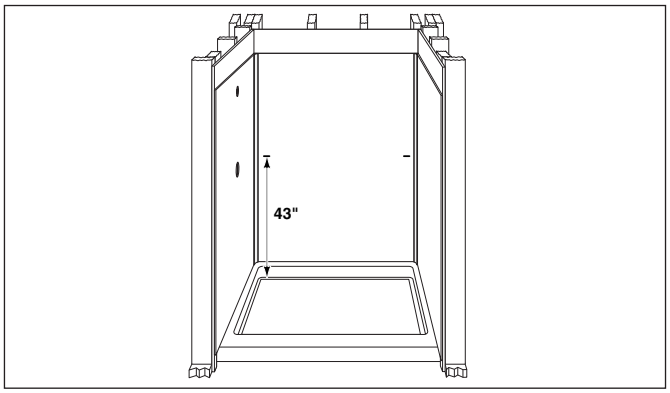
5. Remove the braces after 24 hours.

Corner Soap Dish Installation

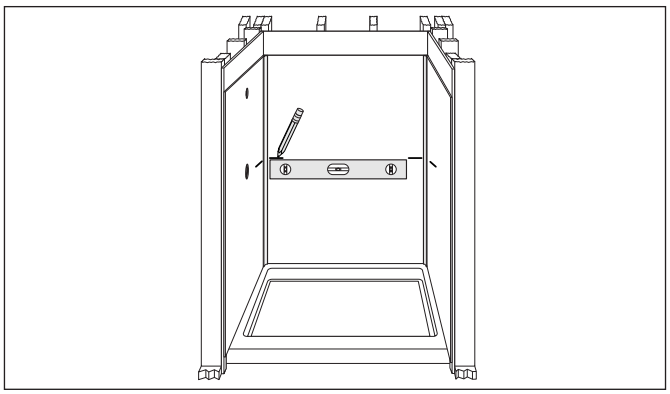
The soap dish is a corner mount design. The soap dishes can be stacked in one corner or placed in opposite corners.

Note: The soap dish is molded with a square corner (as shown in the illustrations). This shape requires installation of the optional corner molding after installation of the soap dish.

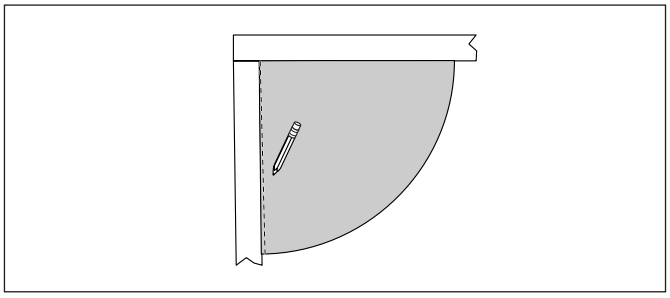
1. Select a desirable height for mounting one or both soap dishes. A height of at least 43” from the shower floor to the soap dish is recommended.



2. After marking the height, draw a 4” level line on both walls. These lines will be used to align the top edges of the soap dish.

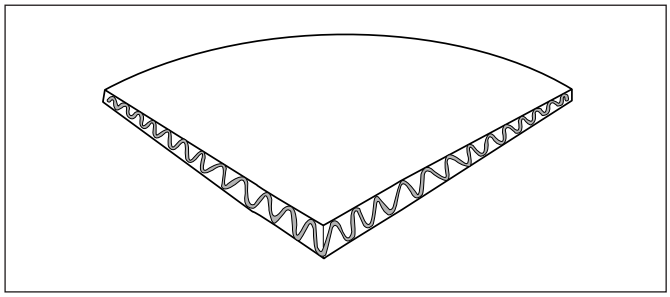


3. Dry fit the soap dish prior to applying clear silicone. The soap dish may require sanding to fit precisely in the corner. The actual angle of the soap dish is slightly greater than 90 degrees to accommodate some adjustment. If necessary, mark and sand the side(s) of the soap dish to achieve a proper fit, using a coarse grit (60 grit) sandpaper.

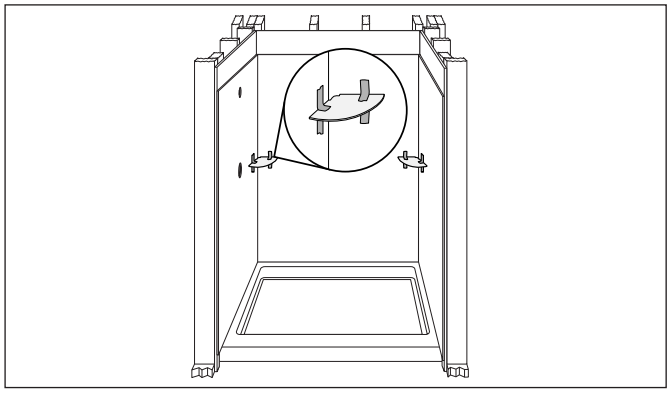


4. Apply silicone to the edge of the soap dish.

Note: Either clear or color matched silicone can be used for attaching the soap dish.



5. Align the soap dish with the level lines and press it into place.
6. Hold the soap dish securely in place and wipe off excess silicone. You will want a uniform bead on both top and bottom.
7. Temporarily secure the soap dish with masking tape, as shown. Remove the tape after approximately two hours. Do not place anything on the soap dish for at least 24 hours.



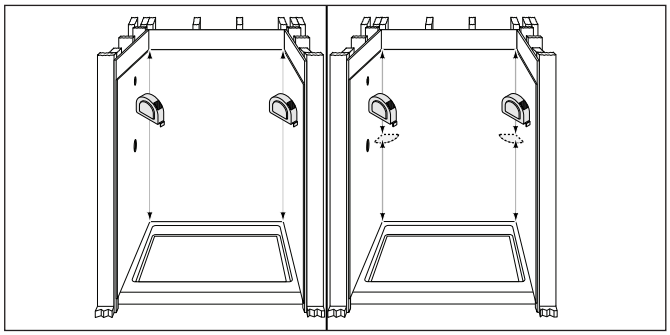
Corner Molding (if applicable)

Installing the corner molding is optional. If the panels were scribed and cut to create a tight-fitting corner, then the corner molding can be eliminated. If, however, there are gaps between the front/rear panel, the corner molding should be installed. Either option, if done properly, is acceptable.

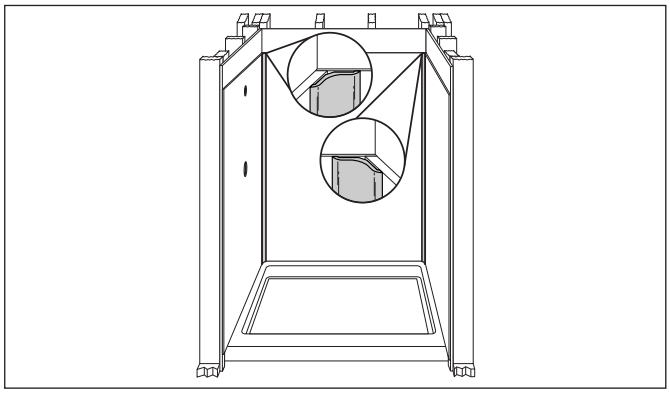
If the optional soap dish was installed, cut one piece of molding to fit above the soap dish and one for below the soap dish.

Note: Either clear or color matched silicone can be used to install corner molding strips.

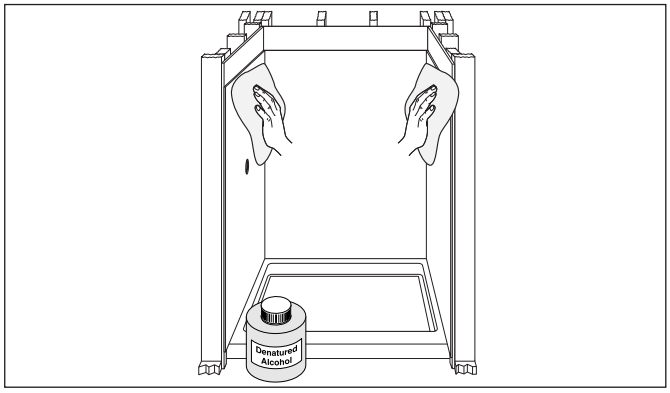
1. Measure and cut the corner moldings to length.



2. Dry fit the corner molding.



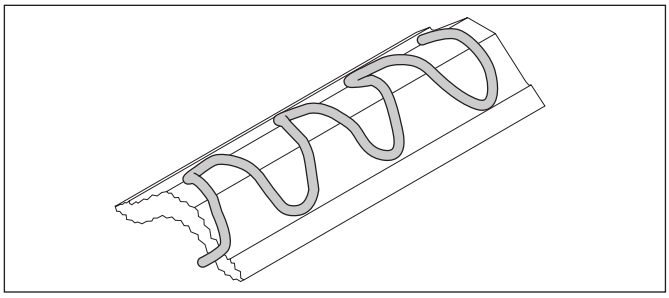
3. Clean the surface of the panels and the back of the molding with denatured alcohol or another non-oil based solvent.



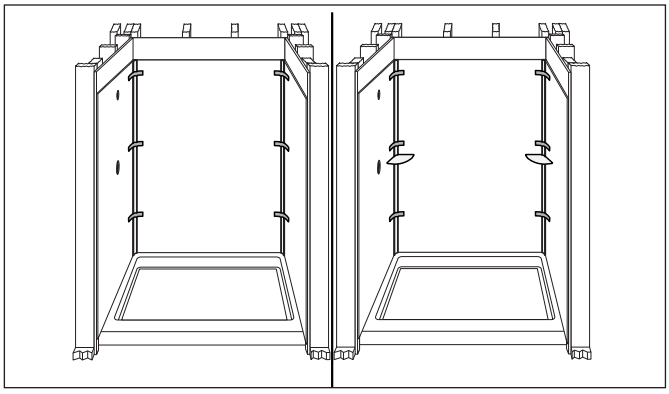
IMPORTANT NOTICE

Do not use oil-based cleaners, such as mineral spirits, to clean the panels. The oil in the cleaner will prevent the panel from adhering properly to the wall.

4. Apply a 1/8 to 1/4” bead of silicone to the back of the corner molding in an S pattern, as shown.



5. Press the corner moldings into place. Remove any excess silicone.
6. Place at least three pieces of masking tape on each corner molding to hold it in place until the silicone adheres to the wall panel.



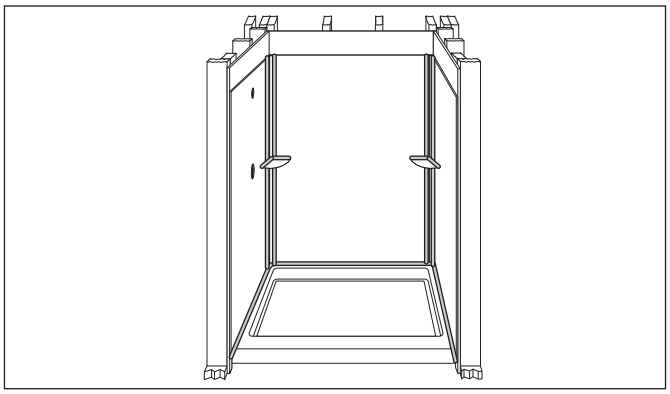
Final Caulking

Apply a bead of the color-matched 100% silicone sealant.

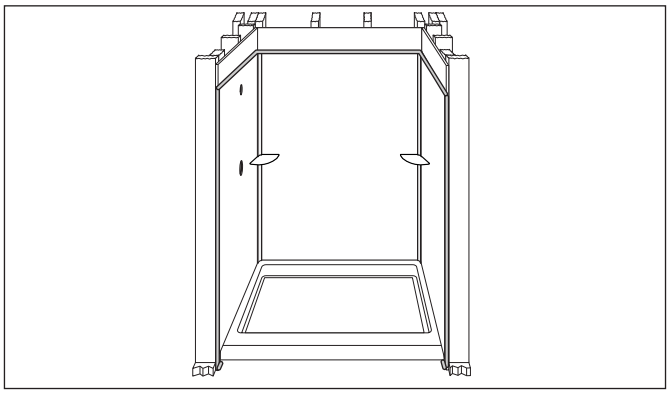
IMPORTANT NOTICE

Follow the manufacturer’s instructions on the tube for proper application. Allow at least 24 hours for silicone to set before using the shower enclosure.

1. Apply color-matched 100% silicone sealant to all of the inside seams, as shown.



2. Also, apply color-matched 100% silicone sealant to the exterior edges, as shown. This silicone sealant is nonpaintable.



Caulking Joints

Inspect caulking joints monthly for damage or any signs of separation from the mating surface. Cracks in the caulking will allow water to leak into the surrounding surfaces. **Reapply caulking to any joint showing signs of wear or cracking.** Failure to inspect and repair caulking joints will void the warranty.

Comfort Designs with Swan Solid Surface