

Creating a Great Shower

Let it rain. Let it rain. Let it rain. Showers have evolved in technological sophistication and design to deliver unique experiences that, until recently, were only available at spas and five-star hotels. Now you can have a spa-like experience every day. Whether you desire the effect of standing in a soothing summer storm or want to wash away the tensions of the day with a steady stream of comforting steam, shower system components in an independent decorative plumbing and hardware showroom can help you create a shower experience that dreams are made of.

Great showers result from a combination of your vision, the showroom's expertise and the performance of installers who understand the unique features of high-performance shower systems.

A knowledgeable showroom professional can guide you through the intricacies of selecting products that meet your needs, preferences, budgets and expectations and help to assure that the shower you create will exceed your expectations.

This message was developed by the Decorative Plumbing & Hardware Association (DPHA) to identify primary considerations consumers should discuss with showroom professionals to plan and build the shower of their dreams.



Proper installation is required. Recognize that even the most accomplished and experienced contractors may not be familiar with nuances of installation and operation of today's shower systems. If questions arise during installation, be assured that you can rely on your showroom professional to provide guidance to help achieve successful project completion.

Planning for Success

Knowledgeable and experienced showroom professionals create value by understanding your goals and obtaining the information to help ensure that your home can effectively operate products selected. You can differentiate a professional showroom from one that is in business simply to sell product by the questions that a showroom professional asks.

Factors to discuss with your showroom professional that influence component selection include:

Water source

Water pressure and supply

Pipe size

Number and type of fixtures selected

Amount of water each fixture uses

Desire to achieve a coordinated look

Number and type of accessories

Coordination and layout of components

Qualifications and experience of installation contractors and subcontractors

Designing Your Shower

Families come in all shapes and sizes and showers should be designed and installed to suit the needs of their users.



Showerheads generally are positioned at approximately 78 inches off the finished floor. Taller and smaller users may want to make adjustments to accommodate their height or add a hand shower mounted on a sliding bar to accommodate different sized users. Body sprays should be placed below the level of the shoulders. The ideal placement of volume controls is by the devices that they control. Positioning volume controls in this manner helps the user know the volume control operates a specific water outlet and creates continuity.

Asking your showroom professional to coordinate the shower design with the architect or designer helps to assure a successful project.

Meet with your installer to correctly position the showerheads and body sprays where you want them. Stand in the shower area so the installer can mark locations where output devices (body sprays, showerheads and other components) are to be positioned. After they have been measured and marked, provide the installer with a diagram identifying the placement of the valves and components. If the shower system features multiple showerheads, body sprays and other output devices, ask the showroom professional to develop a flow diagram that provides additional guidance to the installer.

Don't overlook practical considerations such as the location of built-in soap dishes or shelves that can hold shampoo, conditioner and other shower needs.

Accessories

Common accessories for designing shower systems to discuss with the showroom professional include:

<i>Ceiling mount showerheads</i>	<i>Shower seats</i>
<i>Wall mount showerheads</i>	<i>Grab bars</i>
<i>Rainbars</i>	<i>Soap dishes</i>
<i>Hand shower bars</i>	<i>Shower doors, pulls and hinges</i>
<i>Body sprays</i>	<i>Heated flooring</i>
<i>Toe testers</i>	<i>Towel warmers</i>
<i>Steam units</i>	<i>Shower rods</i>
<i>Shower baskets</i>	<i>Curtain rings</i>
<i>Shower drains</i>	<i>Make up mirror</i>

Working With Contractors and Subcontractors

There are many qualified contractors and subcontractors with decades of experience building and remodeling bathrooms. In many cases, despite experience levels, contractors and plumbers may be working with these components for the first time. Ask your showroom professional to detail special considerations that contractors and installers need to address. Provide this guidance in writing and identify the professional in the showroom that installers can contact if they have questions or encounter problems. Your showroom professional is an invaluable ally in the successful completion of your shower project.



The Shower System Checklist

The following checklist is a planning tool to help assess goals, determine if existing infrastructure can meet goals and understand the options available to create the shower of your dreams.

Goals

Size of shower area _____

Water supply: municipal well system

Single Double

Water heater capacity _____ gallons

Separate temperature controls: Yes No

Average shower time _____ minutes

Bench Yes No

Pipe size 1/2 inch, 3/4 inch, Other _____

Steam Yes No

If yes, has customer sloped ceiling? Yes No

Thermostatic valves: Number _____

Min-Max GPM _____

Type _____ Finish _____

Volume control valves: Number _____

Min-Max GPM _____

Type _____ Finish _____

Diverter valves: Number _____

Min-Max GPM _____

Type _____ Finish _____

Diverter valve size: 1/2" 3/4" Other _____

Function: 2 port 3 port 4 port Other _____

Showerheads: Number _____

Type _____ Finish _____

Body sprays: Number _____

Type _____ Finish _____

Hand showers: Number _____

Type _____ Finish _____

Toe tester: Yes No

Type _____ Finish _____

Shower pan:

Type _____

Shower drain: Number _____

Type _____ Finish _____

Door/Enclosure:

Type _____

Door pulls/hinges:

Type _____ Finish _____

Accessories:

Steam Unit Type _____

Rain bars:

Type _____

Slide rails:

Type _____

Shower basket:

Type _____

Shower drains:

Type _____

Shower seat:

Type _____

Grab bars:

Type _____ Finish _____

Soap dishes:

Type _____

Heated flooring:

Type _____

Towel warmers:

Type _____

Shower rods:

Type _____

Curtain rings:

Type _____

Make up/Shaving mirror:

Type _____

Other:

Showroom:

Professional:

Phone: _____

E-mail: _____

A message from the
Decorative Plumbing &
Hardware Association
www.dpha.net

Shower Systems



**Guidance for
creating a
dream shower.**

