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## Dreamline shower base installation

1-40 photos of 236 Photos: wayfair.com Shower pans are unknown heroes in a cramped bathing district that relies on walk-in showers instead of full-size bathtubs. Its role? protects the floor below you from water damage by assisting drainage. This waterproof flooring, often made of fiberglass, acrylic or tile, has enough gradient to point water towards the floor drain, eliminating most problems caused by residual water, ranging from mold and mildew growth to structural problems such as tree decay. Whether you're remodeling the bathroom to include shower pans that didn't exist before, or replacing what you've seen that day, basic plumbing skills and a free weekend are all you need in learning how to install a shower pan. Why switch to a shower? Many homeowners choose a shower (and therefore a shower pan) over the bathtub when renovating to increase the available floor space and make the bathroom bigger. Walk-in showers tend to be more sophisticated in style than boxy bathtubs and bulky bathtubs, and the glass walls that often surround them contribute to an airy, less crowded aesthetic. When it comes to actual dimensions, the shower pan will be 27 inches narrower, which is much easier to narrow down to a floor plan than a 60 x 30 tub. Even a few inches regained by switching standard tubs for showers can go a long way toward making claustrophobic bathrooms feel wider. In addition, the range of shower pan sizes and shapes allows great flexibility in placement. Awkward corners and walls that fit too short in an average-length tub can often accommodate shower pans, such as prefabricated or custom-made. Because of this diversity, homeowners are more likely to achieve optimal layouts that make the most of the limited space in their bathrooms. Last but not all, the accessibility offered by showers is an attractive remodeling option. Low, 3-4 inch thresholds for shower pans, as well as useful features like shower rails make bathing easier for homeowners who are aging in place or have to compete with limited mobility. In addition, if you need a shower seat or bench, the relatively flat surface of the shower pan will help you sit more than the curved bottom of the tub. Photo: homedepot.comSize, space, style Are you thinking of how to install a shower pan before? These models are available online as well as at your local Big Box hardware store and range in width from 27 to 66 inches, so you're almost certain to find one that fits your bathroom configuration. If not, you can get only what you need with a custom shower pan made from concrete, stone or tiles. Whether prefabricated or custom, it is important to consider the following when choosing the right bread: Shower pans can't necessarily take up all the space available in the bathroom corner. When to decideRight pan size, you should also consider the space required by the door selected for the shower enclosure. Various considerations of available doors and stalls: sliding vs. swinging, corner door-to-side door, or perhaps no door at all! In Europe and Mexico, it is popular to skip the door completely, hanging curtains to contain splashes or leaving the shower area open and putting drainage holes on the bathroom floor to pull out spray. Each style has its pros and cons. Swing doors require enough clearance to open outside the shower without pressing the toilet or other appliances. Sliding doors, on the other hand, need enough space to draw in, so one side of the pot should be twice the width of the door. The third option completely eliminates the door and offers the most flexibility in cramped spaces, but you have to deal with overspray every time you take a shower. In any case, you need to nail the door style before checking the floor space available for the shower pan. Allow plenty of space for you. It may seem obvious, but beyond the constraints of the room, the big factor in determining the size of the shower pan is you. How big are you? How much space do you need to whisk comfortably and wash out? If you're a former linebacker, you need a much bigger shower space than, say, a 5-foot-3 gymnast. Try your best YCMA moves in the bathroom so that it doesn't fit in a standard shower pan, or find the right shower pan for the length you need. But this choice is not just necessary. Aesthetics is also taken into account. Shower bread purchased in most stores is finished in neutral shades of acrylic, fiberglass or porcelain, and custom pieces of materials such as concrete and tiles encourage a little creativity in execution and appearance. Custom showers (renovations that can increase the resale value of a home) certainly leave it to the pros, but it can also be a DIY job for homeowners accustomed to working with concrete and mortar and tiles. Photos: homedepot.com What to expect during installation Custom shower pans vary greatly from bathroom to bathroom, but share many of the same installation considerations that apply to models purchased in stores. In general, follow the instructions of the manufacturer of prefabricated bread to T and keep these important instructions, run the shower once to inspect for leaks. It is also wise to plug in the drain for a minute while the water is flowing, then stop the water to see if the water level is held so that the pan is not leaking anywhere. If everything looks good, you need to set up your shower. Photo: homedepot.comSigns Assuming a proper installation you should replace your existing shower Pan, the average commercial shower pan should last more than 10 years and often comes with a manufacturer's warranty to guarantee the product itself. However, as you approach the end of your life, your shower pan may break down. Keep your eyes open to signs of old age to prevent compromised pots from penetrating and damaging under the floor of your bathroom: visible cracks in the shower pan itself. The water spilling onto the bathroom floor may indicate that the shower pan is on its way out. In some cases, if you can see the cause of the leak, you may be able to repair it. For less than \$10, an hour is spent caaking and you can get a few more years out of the pan. Moisture stains on the walls and ceilings under the shower indicate that they leak at the bottom of the pan or along the seams and are completely invisible. If the bathroom is on the ground floor, similar damage can be seen in crawl spaces and basements. Movement in the pan - If you step into a spot from spot to spot and notice buckling or warping under your feet, it's time to prioritize a replacement shower pan. Buckling or deflection can indicate that the floor under the shower pan is already suffering severelyDamage from leaks and cracks that have not been noticed before. Don't delay this repair!

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