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## **How to Install a Cast Polymer Wall Set**

Wall panels can be installed on existing showers in remodeling jobs, or in new construction on cast iron fixtures, enameled steel, and fiberglass showers or tubs. The critical area is the seal between the base unit and the wall, especially vulnerable in a remodeling job, in which the tub/shower may be sound but the wall has failed, and therefore the replacement could fail rather easily, too, if not installed properly.

Transport and store panels **FLAT**, leaning against a wall will allow the panel to warp. Cut/trim panels to achieve correct fit.

- A. Tub surrounds - at least five feet above existing tub
- B. Shower surrounds – 72” or to ceiling, depending on application.
- C. Installing panels that reach the ceiling is a little harder unless molding or edge trim are provided. Measurements must be more accurate and panels may have to be cut to achieve the same uneven height/width of the walls.
- D. Wainscoting: This is as easy as installing splashes. Simply measure, cut to fit, have finished side up and glue to wall. This can be topped off with a cap or edge trim.

*Do not bend the panel to conform to a bowed wall. The resiliency of the panel will break the bond of the adhesive to the wall.*

*Removal of existing tile is not difficult to do, and will allow for a nice, clean finish on exposed edges.*

*NOTE: If you are installing onyx panels, make sure the walls are painted a light color because of the translucency of the panels. The adhesive used must also be light colored/white.*

1. Clean the surface of all dirt, paint, wax, grease or other wall finishes.
2. The wall panels can be installed over existing tile provided the tile is sound. If there are places where the existing tile has failed, you can still install the wall panels, provided those places where you have had tile failure are not more than one square foot, and are separated by at least one foot
3. Before you remove the protective film, examine the panel. Determine where the finished edges are to be placed, by noticing the slightly rounded edge versus a very sharp or ground, unfinished edge. Determine whether the finished edge goes on the left, right, top, or bottom and orient the panel accordingly. If adjustments to the size of the panel are necessary, do not cut the finished edge. Make all your cuts on the edge that is not going to be exposed, i.e. in the corner, or at the bottom.

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4. Draw a level, vertical line approximately in the center of where the panels will be installed. You can now measure to each corner and determine if the corners are square. If necessary, cut the back panel so that it fits easily into place, though a tight fit is not necessary. The end walls will cover a small gap up to 1/4" in the corners.
5. Determine the location of the studs. If you are going to install any recessed accessories you must know the location of the studs.
6. Dry fit the back panel. If the back panel fits without binding, and is level at the top, clean the wall and panel, and you are ready to glue. Place a small gob of adhesive, about the size of a walnut on the wall every 8"-10". Be sure to start adhesive about 4" in from the edge of the panels to avoid adhesive seeping past edges at installation. Once the panel is aligned, push it against the wall. Next pull the panel off the wall to make sure that the silicone/adhesive has adhered to both the wall and the panel. Place the panel into position and press it firmly into place. Brace overnight.
7. A four foot by eight foot panel should use at least two tubes of silicone/adhesive, one and a half tubes for a three foot by eight foot panel
8. The next panel to be installed is the faucet wall. Place masking tape on the finished side of the panel in the approximate location for the plumbing fixtures. Mark the hole centerlines. You need a one inch hole at the top to accept 1/2" pipe, and you need to check the manufacturer's instructions for the hole size required for the mixing valve. Use a hole saw if possible to make these holes. Be careful when drilling, especially after the pilot bit is through the panel and before the hole saw grips. The torque of an 80 tooth hole saw is strong enough to spin you around. If a hole saw is not available, draw a circle the size of the diameter required, at each hole location. Then drill a series of 1/4" holes around this circle. Saw or file between the holes to remove the plug. Use the rasp or coarse file to smooth the inside of the hole since saw marks may lead to stress cracking later.
9. Dry fit the panel. You may have to sand or grind the edge that fits into the corner. The back and side panel should meet at the same height in the corner. If it fits, you are ready to glue. The last panel of the surround is easiest to install because it contains no holes. Simply draw scribe the panel to ensure proper fit and follow instructions above. If the wall panels reach the ceiling, you must measure very carefully to allow for skewed walls.
10. Inside corner molding should be used if the corners are not tight, to ensure a watertight fit. Inside corner molding and corner soap/shampoo holders require less cutting.
11. Caulk all seams, using the available color coordinated caulk for a beautiful finish. Use a paintable caulk for outside edges.