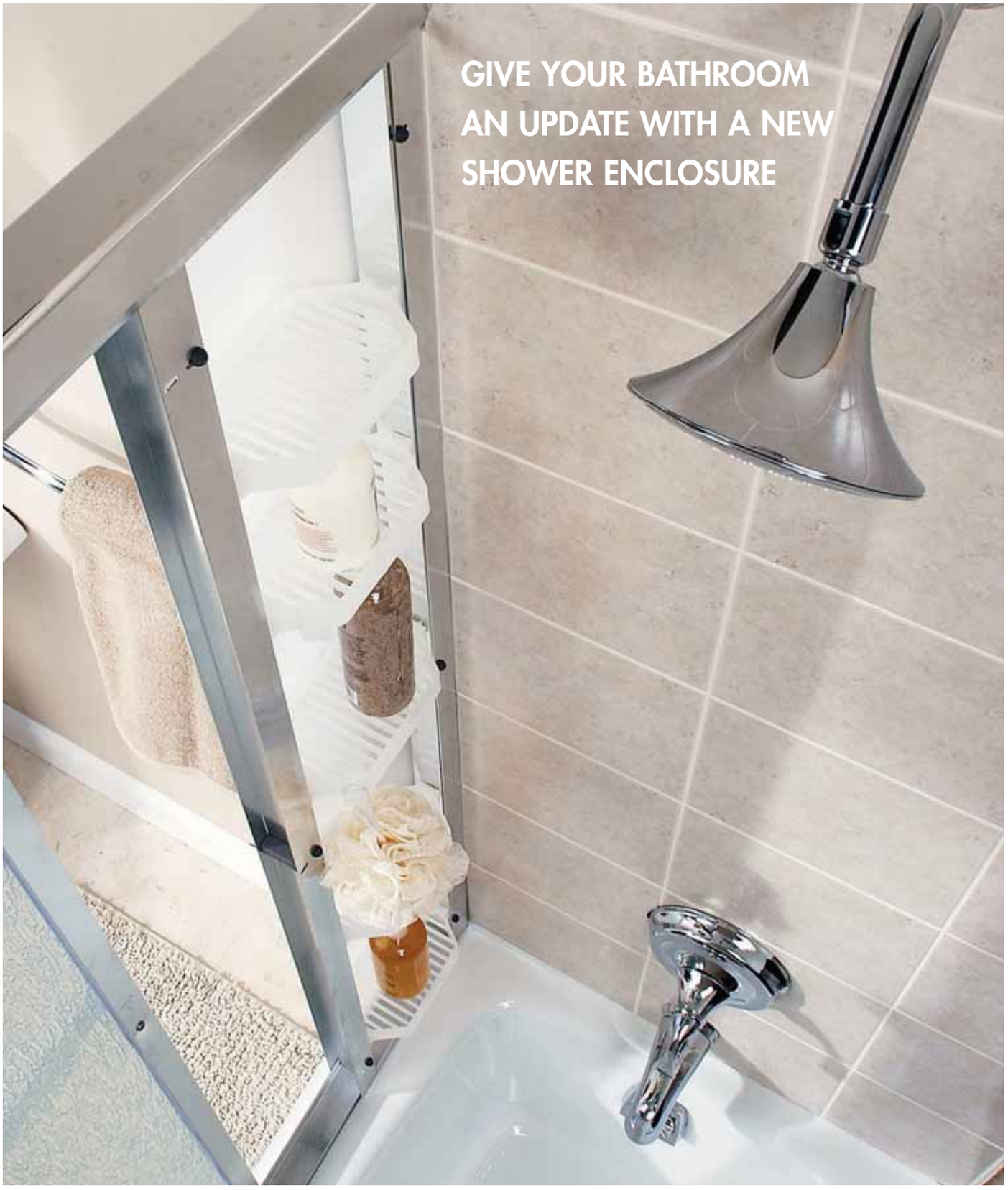
LEARN HOW



GIVE YOUR BATHROOM AN UPDATE WITH A NEW SHOWER ENCLOSURE

PROJECT KNOW-HOW

Preformed enclosures are easier and faster to install than tiling a shower surround. Between prepping, painting, and mounting the enclosure, you can expect to spend a weekend completing this project. You might have to make a cutout to gain access to a window for ventilation.

SKILL LEVEL
Medium

SKILLS
Prepping the surface, cutting a template, and installing panels

TIME REQUIRED
Experienced: 2 hrs.
Handy: 3 hrs.
Novice: 4 hrs.

TOOLS
Roller and roller pan, utility knife, straight edge, tape measure, pencil, drill, carbide hole saw, caulking gun, carpenter's level

MATERIALS
Shower enclosure, waterproof drywall, primer, cardboard template, panel adhesive, denatured alcohol

INSTALLING A SHOWER ENCLOSURE

STEP 1

PREPARE THE WALLS FOR THE PANELS.
Waterproof drywall or marine plywood are the best subsurfaces for a shower enclosure. If you're installing in an existing shower area, shut off the water supply and remove all fixtures. Clean the surface with denatured alcohol to ensure a good bond for the enclosure panels. Prime or water seal raw plaster, wallboard, or spackling before you install the panels.

STEP 2

TEST-FIT THE ENCLOSURE.
Use the cardboard shipping carton to make a template. Mark the front of the template so you know which side is which. Draw a vertical line from the base corner of the shower to an inch below the ceiling. Measure the center of the showerhead pipe and faucet valve stems from the top of the mounting surface along the vertical line. Transfer these measurements to the template. Cut holes in the cardboard large enough to fit over the fittings. Place the template on the wall and over the fittings. Align the front edge with the vertical line. Line up the holes to check the fit. Mark again as necessary.

STEP 3

CUT THE PANEL OPENINGS.
Lay the template over the end panel with the exposed surfaces facing down. Mark the holes using the template. Drill the holes in the panel using a carbide hole saw. Make the holes large enough to allow clearance for the pipe but small enough so the escutcheon completely covers the hole. To avoid chipping the surface while drilling, drill from the back side of the panel. Test-fit the panel against the wall and check for accuracy by lining up the edge with the marked vertical line.

STEP 4

APPLY ADHESIVE TO THE PANEL.
Use a caulking gun to apply adhesive to each corner of the panel. Apply adhesive following the manufacturer's instructions. Carefully position the panel and press it firmly onto the wall, then pull it back about 6 inches for a few minutes (or per the manufacturer's instructions) to let the adhesive set up. This will provide a permanent bond. Push the panel back in place and apply pressure with your hands, up and down and side to side, making sure that all areas of the panel are in firm contact with the wall.

STEP 5

CONTINUE TO APPLY ADHESIVE TO THE WALL FOR EACH PANEL SECTION.
Place a line of adhesive an inch below the top of the panel and in 11/2-inch-diameter dots at 12-inch intervals, 3 inches from the side edges of the panel.

STEP 6

INSTALL THE REMAINING PANELS.
Use a carpenter's level to line up the top of each panel and make sure it's level. Seal each panel (see step 4) to the wall by applying hand pressure over the surface, up and down and side to side, to ensure maximum contact. Remove excess adhesive. Do not use the shower for the next 24 hours. Install the fixtures after the adhesive has dried.