

306 BACKSTREET
WEST JEFFERSON

A HOMEOWNER'S REMODELING GUIDE

# The Tub-to-Shower Conversion Guide

Plan the layout, compare finishes, and know what to ask before demolition.

THE DECISION

# Should you replace your tub?

Start with who uses the bathroom and what would make their daily routine easier.



Existing tub and surround



Low-threshold shower concept

## When a shower makes sense

If the tub mostly gets used for showers, a lower entry can make stepping in easier. A base with a textured surface, a handheld showerhead, and reachable storage can make the room more comfortable for daily use.

## When it’s worth keeping a tub

If this is the only tub in the house, consider how you bathe children or pets, whether anyone enjoys soaking, and what future buyers or vacation guests may expect. If those uses matter, keep the tub here or preserve one in another bathroom.

### WHAT YOU’LL PLAN

Layout and drainage • Base and wall finishes • Glass and accessories • Installation and budget • A consultation worksheet

LAYOUT & DRAINAGE

# Measure before you shop

A replacement shower may fit in the old tub alcove. The drain, framing, and finished opening determine which products fit.

## 01 Measure the alcove and the room

Record the width at the top, middle, and bottom, the depth on both sides, and the height to the ceiling or soffit. Note windows, trim, and clearance at the toilet and vanity. Ask your installer to verify framing dimensions and wall plumb before ordering.

## 02 Mark the drain center

Stand in the bathroom facing the tub and note whether the drain is on the left, right, or near the center. Measure from two fixed walls to the drain center. Compare those measurements with the base’s specification drawing. The same drain side can have different offsets across models.

## 03 Check the plumbing and floor

Ask the plumber to verify the trap, vent, and drain line and whether the existing location can be reused. Floor joists, slab access, or old piping may affect the route, cost, and choice of shower base.

### A SIZE TO COMPARE

A 60 × 32-inch alcove shower base is one available option. Use that as a starting point, then confirm the actual rough opening, drain offset, and finished clearance for the model you choose.

## Take three pictures before the site visit

Photograph the full tub wall, the drain and valve end, and the floor area in front of the tub. Include any window or soffit that may affect the surround.

MATERIALS

# Choose the base and walls

The base controls how you step in. The wall finish influences the look, installation cost, and cleaning routine.



Material study showing smooth panels, stone-look finishes, and ceramic tile.

## Start with the threshold

A prefabricated low-threshold base gives you a defined edge and a smaller step. A curbless shower can provide a flush entry. It requires a coordinated plan for floor height, slope, drainage, and waterproofing at the opening and adjacent wet areas.

## Compare wall systems at installed cost

Acrylic, shower-rated laminate, and solid-surface panels avoid field grout lines and still have seams to maintain. Tile offers more choices in pattern and size. Its grout joints need routine care, and the assembly needs a compatible waterproofing system.

## Bring home samples

Check matte and glossy finishes in your bathroom lighting. Ask how each product handles inside corners, niches, and windows, which cleaners it allows, and what the product and labor warranties cover.

DAILY USE

# Plan the details you’ll touch

Picture entering the shower, turning on the water, and reaching your shampoo before you settle on the layout.



## Enclosure

A sliding door saves swing space. A hinged door may offer a wider clear opening if the room allows it. A curtain is a lower-cost choice. A fixed panel needs enough depth and the right spray direction to manage splash.

## Controls and storage

Place the valve where you can reach it as you enter. Consider a handheld shower and a niche or shelf sized for the bottles you use. If you want a seat, check the remaining standing room and reach to the controls.

## Grab bars and towels

Decide where you want support and have the installer plan solid backing before the walls close. Choose grab bars designed for that purpose. Put the towel hook within easy reach just outside the wet area.

**BEFORE YOU ORDER GLASS**

Confirm the finished opening, entry width, and door clearance. If the enclosure is custom, have the installer measure after the walls and base are in place.

BUDGET & INSTALLATION

# Compare the installed scope

Ask for written quotes with enough detail to see where the price can change.

## What to see in the quote

Look for demolition and haul-away, plumbing and valve work, the base and drain, wall finishes and waterproofing, enclosure, accessories, and finish repairs. Ask who handles permits and inspections where applicable.

## What could change after demolition

Older bathrooms may conceal damaged subfloor, framing problems, or plumbing that needs updating. Ask what repairs the quote covers and how you'll approve the cost and schedule of extra work.

## Where you can save

Reuse the footprint and drain location if the plumber confirms they'll work. Compare a compatible base-and-wall kit with individually selected parts. If you buy materials yourself, agree upfront on who checks compatibility, receives deliveries, handles returns, and covers warranty labor.

## What to confirm before finishes go in

Ask the installer to show how the base, drain, walls, corners, and any window will be waterproofed together. Confirm how and when the assembly will be checked or tested before it's covered, per the system instructions and local requirements.

### PLAN FOR TIME WITHOUT THE BATHROOM

Ask when demolition starts, when custom glass can be measured, and when you can use the shower. Confirm any cure time after installation.

PROJECT WORKSHEET

# Bring this to your consultation

Fill in what you know. Your installer can confirm the measurements and product fit during a site visit.

**Bathroom and main users**

**Tub opening width × depth × height**

**Drain side and centerline measurements**

**Entry preference**

Low threshold / Curbless / Unsure

**Walls and enclosure**

**Fixtures, storage, seat, and grab bars**

**Budget range and target start date**

**ASK BEFORE YOU SIGN**

What is included in the installed price? Which repairs could change it? Who covers the product and labor warranties?

CARE & NEXT STEPS

# Keep your new shower looking good

Ask your installer for the cleaning instructions and warranty for each material before the final walkthrough.

### A simple care routine

Use the cleaners recommended for your base, walls, glass, and fixtures. Run the bathroom fan after showering, rinse away soap residue, and squeegee the glass if water spots build up. Check seams and sealant periodically and ask your installer how to address gaps.

## Plan your conversion with 306 Backstreet

Bring a few photos and the worksheet to your design consultation. We can talk through the layout, finishes, and scope for your bathroom.

**306Backstreet.com**