

Bathroom Remodel in 7 Days

99 steps | Get organized 😊



Day 1

☐ Demo Preparation

Prepare your home for dust!

Most bathroom demo debris can easily fit in the back of a pick up truck or even easier is to rent a dump trailer

Find a [Transfer station near you](#) to get rid of construction debris

Helpful tools and materials:

[Drop clothes](#)

[Ram board](#) (hardwood)

[Carpet Guard](#)

[Plastic](#)

[Zip walls](#)

[12 pack safety glasses](#)

[Respirator](#)

[Brute garbage can](#)

[Garbage bags](#)

Review [goals of the day video](#)

☐ #1 Turn off water to home before starting Demo

Always turn off water before removing any valves or disconnecting plumbing.

☒ Be sure to shut off water to home

☐ #2 Remove Toilet

Helpful Materials:

[Liquilock](#) (additive to solidify water in bowl)

[Temporary plug](#)

Helpful Tools:

[Cordless grinder](#) (to cut off rusty bolts)

[Grinder cut off wheels](#)

[Channel locks](#)

Review [video on toilet removal](#)

☐ #3 Remove vanity top, disconnect plumbing, & remove old shut off valves

Most vanity tops are siliconed in place, so it may take a little prying to remove

Be sure to remove and replace those old shut off valves

Have some end caps on hand so you can get the water back on to home

Helpful Materials & Tools:

[Channel locks](#)

[3/8" caps](#)

for stub outs or

[sharkbite caps](#)

for copper

[Teflon tape](#)

[Pipe sealant](#)

[Sawzall](#)

to cut plumbing

[Impact driver](#)

Review [video on vanity removal](#)

☐ #4 Remove Vanity

This should be a breeze

Simply find the screws fastening into place and remove

[Impact driver](#)

Review [video on Vanity removal](#)

☐ #5 Cap water supplies

Be sure to check to see the type of connections you have for your valves

If you have copper - [sharkbite caps](#) work great

If you have [3/8" stub-outs](#) - using galvanized caps are good

Helpful tools & materials

[Channel locks](#)

[3/8" caps](#)

for stub outs or

[sharkbite caps](#)

for copper

[Deburring tool / Depth gauge for sharkbites](#)

[Sharkbite removal tool](#)

[Teflon tape](#)

[Pipe sealant](#)

Review [video on capping water supplies](#)

☐ #6 Remove shower faucet trim

Some shower faucet trim can get pretty corroded and stuck. So don't be afraid to cut off with a grinder or sawzall

Helpful tools:

[Cordless grinder](#) (to cut off rusty bolts)

[Grinder cut off wheels](#)

[autocut](#)

[sawzall](#)

[heavy metal blade](#)

[Hilti impact drill kit](#)

Review [video on faucet trim removal](#)

☐ #7 Remove tub drain

Not all tub drains will come out easily.....And sometimes they don't at all.

You may need to cut the tail piece off with a sawzall through the access door of your tub.

[tub wrench](#)

[Pipe wrench](#)

[sawzall](#)

[heavy metal blade](#)

Review [video on tub drain removal](#)

☐ #8 Cut and cap water supplies for faucet

Cut these and you can get the water back on in your home!

Helpful tools & materials

[autocut](#)

[Channel locks](#)

[sharkbite caps](#)

[Deburring tool / Depth gauge for sharkbites](#)

[Sharkbite removal tool](#)

[Teflon tape](#)

[Pipe sealant](#)

[Cordless grinder](#)

[Grinder cut off wheels](#)

☐ #9 Remove Tub Surround

This can differ wildly with difficulty of removal.

Cement board or Hardibacker can be tough to remove with tile.

I suggest cutting out edges with sawzall and trying to pry out large pieces with a pry bar

Helpful tools:

[sawzall](#)

[9 inch Ax sawzall blades](#)

[oscillating tool](#)

[Long pry bar](#)

[gloves](#)

[safety glasses](#)

[respirator](#)

Review [video on removing tub surround](#)

☐ #10 Remove Tub

Removing a steel tub isn't so bad.....

For caste iron, I recommend using a sledge hammer to demo out

[Sledge Hammer](#)

Review [video on removing tub](#)

Review video on [removing a cast iron tub](#)

☐ #11 Disconnect & remove light fixtures

Turn off power lighting from switch, or turn off breaker to bathroom

Helpful tools & other items for this project:

[electrical tester](#)

[temporary light fixture](#)

[Wire nuts](#)

[Gloves](#)

[safety glasses](#)

[respirator](#)

Review video on [disconnecting light fixtures](#)

☐ #12 Remove all drywall or plaster

This isn't a very fun part of the project....but will ultimately save you time on installation of tub, tile and other items

If you have wall paper, I highly recommend removing and starting with a clean slate!

Helpful tools:

[sawzall](#)

[9 inch Ax sawzall blades](#)

[oscillating tool](#)

[Long pry bar](#)

[gloves](#)

[respirator](#)

[12 pack safety glasses](#)

[Brute garbage can](#)

[Garbage bags](#)

Review [video on removing drywall](#)

Review [video on removing plaster](#)

☐ **#13 Add temporary light fixture**

If you don't have a window....this is important

I recommend buying a simple [temporary light](#)

Review [video on adding a temporary light](#)

☐ **#14 Remove Drywall Ceiling**

This is even worse than removing the walls!

If you have blown in insulation, this will be a blast....

Helpful tools:

[sawzall](#)

[9 inch Ax sawzall blades](#)

[oscillating tool](#)

[Long pry bar](#)

[gloves](#)

[respirator](#)

[12 pack safety glasses](#)

[Brute garbage can](#)

[Garbage bags](#)

Review [video on removing drywall](#)

Review [video on removing plaster](#)

☐ **#15 Remove existing vent fan**

Turn power off at switch

Disconnect and remove existing fan

Much easier now that you have the drywall ceiling out

Helpful tools:

[Linesmans \(cutters\)](#)

[Pry bar](#)

[Electrical tester](#)

Review [video on removing a vent fan](#)

☐ #16 Install new vent fan

My favorite vent fan of all time is the [Panasonic Whisperfit](#) fans. They have adjustable speeds of motor for efficiency 50 cam-110cfm

Rule of thumb is 1 cfm per linear sqft of space

Example: 50 sqft room would require a 50 cfm fan

If you don't have an existing duct, you'll have to determine how you will vent outside

Review [video and course details](#)

Other helpful tools & materials:

[Panasonic Whisperfit](#)

[roof vent](#)

[dryer style vent](#)

[soffit vent](#)

[4" corrugated pipe](#)

[4" duct](#)

[insulated sleeve](#)

for standard 4" pipe

[insulated 4" flex duct](#)

[Y fitting](#)

[5" wormdrive clamps](#)

[foil tape](#)

[spray foam](#)

[roll of plastic strapping](#)

[4 1/4" hole saw](#)

or get a

[full hole saw kit](#)

[5/16" driver bit](#)

for wormdrive clampsPush-in plastic

[Romex connectors](#)

[White silicone](#)

to seal around dryer vent

[Hilti impact driver/drill kit](#)

[Timer switch](#)

Review [video on installing a vent fan](#)

Review video on install a [vent fan in existing ceiling](#)

☐ #17 Run wire for recessed light above shower

I always recommend separating fan from light fixture.

Rough-in a wire for a [Halo 4" light](#) is pretty simple

Helpful tools and materials:

[Halo 4" lights](#)

[14/2 wire](#)

[Spade bits](#)

for drilling through framing

[Linesmans](#)

[Milwaukee drill set](#)

Review [video on running a wire for recessed light](#)

☐ #18 Hang Drywall ceiling

✂ Hanging Drywall by Yourself ✂

Remodeling a bathroom by yourself does have its challenges. Hanging drywall on a ceiling is one of them.

Here are some helpful tools to remember to have on hand:

[Drywall Board Mate](#)

[Dimple drywall bits](#)

[Drywall knife](#)

[Rotozip](#)

[Rotozip drywall bits](#)

[Drywall glue](#)

[1 5/8" drywall screws](#)

And if you want have tall ceilings or having a rough time handling it yourself, you can always rent a [drywall lift](#)

Review [video on hanging drywall on a ceiling](#)

☐ #19 Remove Floor

There's usually nothing fun about tearing up an old floor, but it a very important step for a good tile installation. I always recommend getting down to the original subfloor

Helpful tools:

[Floor scraper](#)

[Large pry bar](#)

[Grinder blade](#)

for stubborn glue or thinset

[Grinder strip disks](#)

[Milwaukee grinder](#)

Review [video on removing linoleum flooring or tile](#)

Day 2

☐ #20 Remove existing trap

☒ Drain Prep ☒

Existing plumbing drains and configurations can wildly differ in construction from one home to another. This is an area that can take some time to reconfigure and gather the right materials to use, and sometimes its tough to speculate what's needed till you remove existing tub and uncover what's available.

Here's a list of what I would buy to have on hand:

[1 1/2" PVC Solvent weld P-trap](#)

For attaching to 1 1/2" copper I recommend using

[1 1/4" - 1 1/2" fernco](#)

, or

[copper-PVC no hub fitting](#)

(many areas require this)

[1 1/2" adapter](#)

(to connect drain assembly) male

[1 1/2" adapter](#)

(to connect assembly) female

[45 street elbow](#)

[45 elbow](#)

[22.5 street elbow](#)

[22.5 elbow](#)

90 elbow

[PVC primer and Glue](#)

Helpful tools:

[Heavy metal sawzall blade](#)

[Milwaukee sawzall kit](#)

[Makita cordless circular saw](#)

[Torpedo level](#)

[5/16" driver bit](#)

(connecting ferncos)

Review [video on removing trap](#)

☐ #21 Dryfit tub and Mark drain location

If you need new sub flooring under tub to match up with outside floor, you'll need to mark the drain location and cut out a section of plywood to allow drain assembly to attach to main plumbing

This is a good time to review the manufacture instructions of the tub installation. Here's an example of specs required for cutting of subfloor for an american standard tub

[American Standard Studio tub installation instructions](#)

I highly recommend [build.com](#) for purchasing plumbing supplies & fixtures

Review [video on marking location](#)

☐ #22 Attach Fernco to existing plumbing

It'll be much easier to adapt to existing plumbing before setting new subfloor (or patching area needed to get to existing plumbing)

Here are the adapters I recommend for attaching to 1 1/2" copper:

[1 1/4" - 1 1/2" fernco](#)

, or

[copper-PVC no hub fitting](#)

(many areas require this)

Review [Adapter installation video](#)

☐ #23 Install new subfloor

A lot of times I under a tub needs to be replaced or an added layer is needed

After adapting to your existing plumbing, you can install the appropriate sized plywood into place

Here are some helpful tools:

[Paslode nail gun](#)[Makita cordless circular saw](#)[8d nails](#)

Review [Subflooring installation video](#)

☐ #24 Install tub drain

For Drain assemblies, I would always refer to the manufacture's recommendations. A lot of these tubs have specific drain assemblies associated with each tub. Be sure to pay attention to what is required or what's included

Here are a few models of tub drain assemblies that I often use for standard sized tubs (60" wide)

[Everbuilt drain assembly](#)

[Cable driven drain assemblies](#)

[Glued drain assembly](#)

Helpful Tools and Materials:

[Ridgid tubular cutter](#)

[Ridgid tub drain wrench](#)

[Water clear silicone](#)

[newborn caulking gun](#)

[Channel locks](#)

Review [video on installation of drain assembly](#)

☐ Tubs I like and recommend

Over the years I have installed many different types of tubs. Some I love, some I hate 😊

Here are my recommendations for tubs that I love (not really in a specific order of best to worst)

[Jacuzzi Linea](#) - An acrylic tub that is well constructed. Easy to clean, comes in various sizes. Great warrantyDeep soaker

[Jacuzzi Signature](#) - An acrylic tub that is well constructed. Easy to clean, comes in various sizes. Great warrantyDeep soaker

[American standard studio](#) - Acrylic, heavy construction, easy to clean, great warrantyDeep soakerAlso available with a

[American Standard Americast](#) - Heavy construction, easy to clean, durable, great warranty, standard 15" height

[Kohler Caste Iron Tub](#)

- Super durable, very heavy, well constructed Standard height **Only Kohler tub** I recommend these days; I've seen way too many poorly constructed acrylic tubs from Kohler 😞

☐ #25 Install tub drain assembly

So much easier to install before the tub is set in place!

Helpful Tools and Materials:

[Ridgid tubular cutter](#)

[Ridgid tub drain wrench](#)

[Water clear silicone](#)

[newborn caulking gun](#)

[Channel locks](#)

Review [video on installation of drain assembly](#)

☐ #26 Dry fit tub and set ledger board

Not all tubs require a ledger board, but for the above video demonstration with the [American Standard Princeton](#) (above floor rough-in) a ledger board required. When setting tub with a ledger board, always dry fit it to make sure the flange rests nicely on top all the way across ledger board. Sometimes the bottom of flange has a rough fiberglass surface that isn't always consistent. It may take a couple times of dry-fitting to adjust the ledger board in correct position Use [silicone](#) on top of ledger when securing tub, this will give an extra bond and ensure the tub is secure.

Helpful tools and materials:

[fender washers](#) [galvanized screw](#) [silicone](#) [Bucket Mud Mixer](#) [Milwaukee mud mixer](#) [Hilti Drill kit](#)

Review [video on setting ledger board](#)

☐ #27 Dry fit tub again 😊

It always takes setting tub more than once to ensure a good installation

Double check how tub is resting on ledger board and move if needed

Review [tub installation video](#)

☐ #28 Set P-trap arm

It's easiest to set the P-trap arm in place before securing tub in place.

Sure beats cramming yourself into the access area to connect!

Here are helpful tools and links to plumbing parts:

Here's a list of what I would buy to have on hand:

[1 1/2" PVC Solvent weld P-trap](#)

For attaching to 1 1/2" copper I recommend using

[1 1/4" - 1 1/2" fernco](#)

, or

[copper-PVC no hub fitting](#)

(many areas require this)

[1 1/2" adapter](#)

(to connect drain assembly) male

[1 1/2" adapter](#)

(to connect assembly) female

[45 street elbow](#)

[45 elbow](#)

[22.5 street elbow](#)

[22.5 elbow](#)

[90 elbow](#)

[PVC primer and Glue](#)

Helpful tools:

[Heavy metal sawzall blade](#)

[Milwaukee sawzall kit](#)

[Makita cordless circular saw](#)

[Torpedo level](#)

[5/16" driver bit](#) (connecting ferncos)

Review [tub installation video](#)

☐ #29 Set & secure tub in place

There are 3 primary ways most manufactures want their tubs installed

#1 Mortar bed installation

I highly recommend this way if the manufacture recommends it. Always refer to the manufacture's specifications

#2 Setting & securing tub with adhesive

#3 Not adhesive or mortar; simply screw in place

Review [video on American standard Americast installation](#)

Review [video on tub installation with mortar](#) (this is on platform I am no longer apart of, but wanted to share since it is a common way of installing tubs, please leave a comment to Jeff telling him I sent you there and that he should pay me for my work there)

☐ #30 Attach Trap to Drain assembly

Attaching Trap is easy now that you have the trap arm set and drain assembly on tub.

Simply glue in place

I recommend having both types of trap adapters on hand incase you need more room.

[1 1/2" adapter](#) Male

[1 1/2" adapter](#) Female

Review [tub installation video](#)

☐ #31 Adapt copper supplies to Pex

In my experience, converting copper to PEX is the fastest and easiest ways to install a shower faucet.

If you have an an access to back of tub, its best to adapt at the access point and install shut off valves

Having access can also give you the ability to not have to solder and use shark bite fitting. Keep in mind that some areas in the country don't allow this per plumbing code

But it is a fast and simple way to attach shut off valves and convert to pex

[Sharkbite 1/2" shut off valves](#)

[Sharkbite debur/depth gauge](#)

[Sharkbite removal tool](#)

The other alternative is to sweat on adapters

Here is a list of tools & materials:

[Pex B \(Red\)](#)

[Pex B \(Blue\)](#)

[Pro crimp rings](#)

[90 degree elbows](#)

[Male adapters](#)

[Drop Ear Elbow \(shower port\)](#)

[Pex adapters to copper](#)

[Shut off valves \(pex\)](#)

[Teflon tape](#)

[Pipe sealant](#)

[Type L copper](#)

[90 copper elbow](#)

[Male copper adapter](#)

[Copper stub out](#)

[Sharkbite hose adapter](#)

[Ridgid Tubing Cutters](#)

[Pipe sander kit.](#)

[Sanding cloth](#)

[Map gas torch](#)

[Auto cut tool](#)

[Flux](#)

[Flux brush](#)

[Solder](#)

[Flame guard](#)

[Ridgid 1/2" crimpers](#)

[Alternative crimper Sharkbite](#)

[No-Go Go gauge](#)

[Sharkbite hose adapter](#)

Review [video installation of shower valve](#)

Choose a rough-in valve that will make things easiest for yourself. I love [Delta tub/shower faucets](#)

In [this tutorial](#) I used a standard [Delta Universal Valve](#)

If you want to make things even easier, I'd recommend getting a [Delta valve with Pex](#) adapters

And if you really want to simplify the install, get a [Delta Valve with the Tub stub out](#) included with pex adapters

If you do not have access to water supplies (no access panel or shut off valves), then getting the versions with the integral shut offs is best

[Delta R10000-PFT-PXWS](#)

Review [video tutorial on delta tub/shower faucet](#)



Tub/shower faucets I recommend

Here is a list of my favorite tub/shower faucets:

[Delta Ashlyn](#)

[Moen 90- degree collection](#)

[Hansgrohe](#)

[Kohler Bancroft](#)

Pay attention to rough-in valves:

Make it easy on yourself to install

Example: [Delta rough-in with pex & tub spout installed](#)



#33 Fill Tub and Test

Be sure to fully test your tub and check for any leaks on the tub/shower faucet installation

Some helpful items:

[Sharkbite hose adapter](#)

[Test plug - shower port](#)



#34 Move sink drain (if applicable)

If the adapter for your sink drain is soldered in, not in good condition, or needs to be moved, then this is the time to replace and adjust the sink drain to location needed

Refer to the cabinet you are going to install and adjust height of trap adapter to fit.

Most of the time 19" off subfloor works for open door cabinets, but can vary with vanities with shelving

Helpful tools and materials:

[Heavy metal sawzall blade](#)[Milwaukee sawzall kit](#)[Makita cordless circular saw](#)[Torpedo level](#)[Mission couplings 1/14" x 1 1/2" Fernco](#)

Review [video on moving a sink drain](#)



#35 GFI outlet

Most of the time, you need a dedicated circuit to your breaker box. Things may have been fine and working for decades.....but to be safe a new line is best.

☑ I recommend getting using bigger outlet boxes for GFI outlets

This will make it easier to install them [20 cubic inch boxes](#)

Helpful tools & materials:

[12/2 20 amp wire](#)[20 cubic inch boxes](#)[Nail plates](#)[Spade bits](#)[Linesman stripping pliers](#)[Klien electrical tester](#)[Ideal Wire](#)

[nuts](#)[Klein screw driver set](#)[electrical tape](#)[Hilti drill kit](#)[Headlamp](#)

Review [video tutorial on GFI](#)

Day 3

☐ #36 Framing, blocking, shimming

▣Framing, blocking & preparing for drywall▣

Fur out walls so that backer boards can slide over tub flange

Framing at edge of tub for anchoring support of drywall and backer board transition (also great for support for anchors of shower doors)

Be sure studs are inline with one another; This will ensure a flat installation of backer board and make for an easier tile installation Anything with a difference of a 1/4" or more should be addressed You can shim, plane or sister studs to accomplish this

Plane down a higher stud with [electric planer](#)

Protect plumbing and electrical with

[nail plates](#)

Other helpful tools and materials:

[Heavy metal sawzall blade](#)

[Milwaukee sawzall kit](#)

[Axe sawzall blades](#)

[Paslode nail gun](#)

[Makita cordless circular saw](#)

[Torpedo level](#)

[6ft level](#)

[4ft level](#)

Review [video tutorial on framing, blocking & shimming](#)

☐ #37 Blocking for Accessories

Adding blocking for locations of accessories will make it much easier to install and be sure things stay in place!

Helpful tools and materials:

[Heavy metal sawzall blade](#)

[Milwaukee sawzall kit](#)

[Axe sawzall blades](#)

[Paslode nail gun](#)

8d nails

16d nails

[Makita cordless circular saw](#)

[Torpedo level](#)

[6ft level](#)

[4ft level](#)

Review [video tutorial on framing, blocking & shimming](#)

☐ #38 Hanging Drywall

☒ Hang drywall in rest of bathroom ☒

Hanging drywall by yourself can be a challenge!

Here are a few tips that will make it easier for you

Always hang the ceiling first, then hang a full sheet at top of wall

This give makes for an easier finishing process. The edges of drywall have tapered edges that allow you to fill and tape, which helps to eliminate excess build up and more work to feather out the seams

[Dimple bits](#)

are an affordable way to prevent screws from penetrating through drywall paper layer

A

[Drywall gun](#)

is the next best thing. This will allow you to quickly fasten boards while struggling to hold up boards ☹

A

[Drywall Roller lift](#)

will help get the bottom board set tight to top sheets

One of the greatest tools for cutting around drywall boxes and other items is a

[RotoZip](#)

Drywall hanging is a rough carpentry project. Don't be stressed about minor imperfections, gaps or missed screw holes. The finishing process will take care of these imperfections ☒

Helpful tools for hanging drywall:

[Dimple bits](#)

[Drywall gun](#)

[collated magazine](#)

[Drywall Roller lift](#)

[RotoZip](#)

[drywall bits](#)

Review [video on drywall hanging](#)

☐ #39 1st coat drywall

☒ Drywall Finishing 1st coat ☒

Finishing drywall is something that takes patience and time to get a good result. Know that there is no rushing this step, but you do need to know when to walk away...☹ Remember sanding easy-sand drywall mud is exactly that, you can always address things with another coat and fix any mistakes

The first coat I would say is the easiest and allows you to practice

Allows mix the mud before starting.(drywall mixing paddle works best) A cup of water will get a nice consistency

When applying drywall mud, take a half a trowel [6" knife](#)

and apply to corners

☒☒ Most important part of 1st coat is to have the [paper tape](#) fully embedded in drywall mud

Scrape and embed in corner starting with the ceiling first

For straight seams, be sure to fully embed tape with mud. Its better to have too much mud than not enough!

For screw holes, I recommend using a slide method with trowel; skimming over a series of screws in one motion

You can always fix mistakes! 😊

Always clean mud around bucket to prevent mud from hardening and falling in mud

Helpful tools and materials:

[Plus 3 drywall mud](#)

[Paper tape](#)

[Dewalt drywall knife kit with pan](#)

[Mixing paddle](#)

Review [video tutorial on 1st Coat](#)

☐ #40 Tile Layout

This is the time to start thinking about your tile layout, especially if you plan to install a recessed niche

I like to simply mark out the tile on studs to determine an approximate height of each tile.

The obvious goal is to eliminate a sliver at any location (niche, ceiling, tub, etc)

Planning the border height is helpful too.

Be sure to [review video tutorial on layout and niche placement](#)

☐ #41 Frame niche

🔧Framing Niche 🔧

Before framing a recessed niche evaluate these key points:What height shelf height is needed for the products stored? (shampoo, etc.)

2. Is the wall load bearing? If so you may need a header to carry load

If floor joists sit like this on a wall, then its load bearing

3. If its not load bearing, you can simply frame to the custom size desired

4. Avoid setting a niche in an exterior wall. Its best to have at least an R-13 value of insulation behind wall and most exterior walls are 3 1/2" - 5 1/2" thick which would **NOT** provide enough room for insulation

5. Determine height of bottom and top of niche with the layout of tile. Typically setting the bottom and/or top with a grout joint works great. This way you prevent slivers around the niche

6. Remember that you can always build up the bottom or top of niche during the tiling process. So by making the niche bigger than what you may need is a safe bet 🔧

Helpful tools:

[Laser](#)

[Laser pole](#)

[Makita cordless saw](#)

[Paslode framing nailer](#)

Review [framing a niche video tutorial](#)

☐ #42 Waterproof Backerboard for Tub Surround

🔧Waterproof Backer Board Installation 🔧

After this stage, you will feel like the bathroom is back to a functional room! 🔧

And it technically is a functional bathroom at this point. Tthere's no reason you couldn't use the tub and shower after

setting these waterproof panels. Simply install the cartridge for shower faucet and add the shower head, and you'd be good to go ☑

But hopefully things worked out thus far and you can keep pushing forward ☑

Go Board is without a doubt one of my go-to backer boards for a tiled shower or tub surround.

There are many great things about it:

Its light and easy to cut (no dust, utility knife is all you need!) Already waterproof (outside surface is a waterproof membrane) Easy to waterproof seams and screw penetrations (sealant application is really simple) It's affordable! ☑ Probably one of the most cost effective boards. Roughly \$25 a sheet (contractor pricing)

Here's what's needed for a standard tub surround:

6 sheets of 3' x 5' sheets (if you're building a custom niche) Here's a

[7 board kit](#)

10 tubes of [sealant](#)

[go board screws](#)

[Schluter valve seal](#)

[Schluter pipe seal](#) (tub spout)

[Schluter pipe seal](#) (shower head port)

[Corner trowel](#)

[4" putty knife](#)

☑ Overcoming the tub flange ☑

There are 3 main ways to overcome a tub flange. Sometimes a combination of ways is needed dependent on your bathroom configuration:

1. The first way is by shimming out the studs (you probably already did this if you followed my advice in [previous video](#))
2. The second way is to rest the backer board on top of the tub flange and fill the gap
3. Notch backer board to allow it to slide over tub flange (Below is a WEDI backer board)

☑ There are a few rules to follow when installing GO Board ☑

Apply sealant to tub deck (1/4" caulk joint) before setting board in place

Caulk in between each panel (corners and walls)

Caulk all corners and apply more sealant to maintain a 1" overlap on each side of corner [Corner Trowel](#))

Apply additional sealant over all seams and screw penetrations (1" overlap)

Bring waterproofing along side of tub (recommending 2")

Custom niches - Apply sealant at all intersections and maintain overlap 1" on all panels

Pitch bottom sill and apply sealant to all corners, seams, screws

[Schluter Valve Seal](#)

Cut a 4 1/2" hole; easiest with a

[4 1/2" hole saw](#)

Pipe seals

[3/4" for shower port](#)

[1/2" for tub spout](#)

Use [Schluter Kerdi band](#) for transition between drywall and Go board

Other helpful tools & materials:

[Acetone](#)(to clean your hands!)

[rubber gloves](#)

[Oscillation tool](#)

[Spade bits](#)

[Kerdi trowel](#) (for thinset and kerdi fix application)

[Schluter All-set thinset](#) (applying kerdi band for drywall seam)

Review [video tutorial on installing GO Board](#)

☐ #43 Valve & Pipe seals

For extra insurance, installing valve and pipe seals will provide protection

Most tub spouts do not have a seal on them, by using a pipe seal will ensure no water gets behind backboard

[Schluter Valve Seal](#)

[4 1/2" hole saw](#) hole size for valve seal

Pipe seals

[3/4" for shower port](#)

[1/2" for tub spout](#)

Review [video tutorial on waterproofing a tub surround](#)

Day 4

☐ #44 Set Schluter Ditra for floor

☞ Setting Schluter Ditra ☞

Most important part of a Ditra or Membrane installation is having the thinset mixed wet enough for the fleece to adhere well.

Almost all the issues that I have seen over the years is from the thinset being too thick and no adhesion to fleece of a membrane or Ditra Mat

[Schluter Ditra](#)

[Kerdi Band](#)

For half bag mixing I recommend using a [scale](#) to accurately measure

I highly recommend using [Schluter All-set Thinset](#) for setting membranes. It has a superior bond and extends warranty with Schluter

Be sure to use the

[proper size trowel](#) for Ditra

For Kerdi Membranes use a [Kerdi Trowel](#)

Mixing Schluter All-set for membranes

7.5 - 8.5 quarts of water per bag Mix for 5 minutes Slack (let sit for 10 minutes) Mix for 2 more minutes (do not add water) Rule of thumb - make sure thin-set can hold trowel ridges when spreading it

☞Setting Ditra:

Burn thinset into substrate with back side of trowel

2. Directionally trowel thin-set using a [Ditra Trowel](#)

3. Embed Ditra Mat with [Float](#)
4. Always check coverage ☒
5. Use Kerdi Band to waterproof all seams - Using a [Kerdi Trowel](#)
6. At tub transition apply [Kerdi fix](#) to tub
7. Apply Thin-set to Ditra mat with Kerdi trowel
8. Embed Kerdi Band and wrap up tub slightly - oozing kerdi fix is a good sign 😊
9. For extra waterproofing insurance, embed Kerdi band around all corners of bathroom
10. Tiling floor can immediately be done after installation ☒

Other helpful tools:

[Collomix mixer](#)

[Ardex sponges](#)

[scale](#)

[Measuring bucket](#)

Review [video tutorial on setting Schluter Ditra](#)

☐ #45 Waterproof against tub

Schluter is very specific with the way they want things to be done.

To waterproof against tub you need the following:

[Kerdi fix](#)

[Kerdi Trowel](#)

[Kerdi Band](#)

Review the [video tutorial](#)

☐ #46 Waterproofing floor

Since you most likely have the materials....I would recommend going the extra step and flashing all corners of room with the Kerdi Band and go over main seam of ditra to make is 100% waterproof

[Kerdi Trowel](#)

[Kerdi Band](#)

Review the [video tutorial](#)

☐ #47 Tile Layout

⇐ Tile Layout ⇐

This is always one of the most time consuming and confusing parts of tiling. But if you implement a strategy that gives you the flexibility to adjust things as you set tile, the less frustrating this will all be.

Here are some key strategy points to consider and implement:

Start the back wall of a shower or tub surround This will hide the corner grout joints from the most common viewpoint of shower

Start out with less than a full tile on first row This way you can overcome any unevenness, or un-level areas of shower or tubIt will also allow the tile to be cut nicely around edge of tub

Mark tile layout on wall to reference a general layoutKeep in mind that spacers will most likely expand the overall height

Determine shower border heightMost shower rods for tubs are set between 58"-62"

Keep in mind you can always expand a border to provide height needed to prevent a sliver at ceiling Most mosaics come on 12" sheets and can easily be expanded from a 3" border to a 4" border Be sure to account for additional sheets to have the flexibility to do this

Helpful tools:

[1/16" horseshoe tile spacers](#)

[Montolit grinder STL blade](#) (diamond cutter wheel)

[Montolit CGX grinder blade](#) (great for porcelain)

[Cordless grinder](#) (Milwaukee)

[Quick lock accessory for grinder](#)

[Makita paddle switch grinder](#) (corded to attach to shop vac)

[Fein Grinder Shroud](#) (keeps dust down)

[Fein Shop vac](#) (with tool switch; turns on when using tool)

[Montolit Mini Puima tile cutter](#) (Great for subway and 6x6 tiles)

[Montolit Masterpuima tile cutter](#) (great for tile up to 25")

[Dewalt Wet saw](#)

[Montolit DNA 10" blade](#) (great for porcelain and ceramic)

[Diamond hand pads](#)

[Collomix mixer](#) (amazing mixer for thinset)

[Laser](#)

[Laser pole](#)

[Rubber gloves](#)

[Respirator](#)

[Sanding sponges for drywall](#)

[White Scrubby pads](#)

Be sure to review [video tutorial on mixing thinset and tile layout](#)

☐ #48 Determine trowel size

☒ Trowels

In order to have a solid and sound tile installation, you must have good thinset coverage on the tile your setting. The TCNA recommends 95% coverage on any installation in a wet area and 80% outside of that.

One any given bathroom remodel you will need multiple sized trowels. Here's a general list of the most commonly sized trowels needed in a basic remodel:

[1/8" x 1/8" trowel](#) (Kerdi Trowel) to apply membranes

[3/16" x 3/16" trowel](#) (Ditra Trowel) to apply uncoupling membranes

[1/4" x 1/4" trowel](#) (Tiles under 12" long; mosaics)

[1/4" x 3/8" trowel](#) (Schluter pans, Tiles over 12" long)

[Euro Trowel](#) (large format tile; great for 12" x 24" tiles or Plank tile)

[1/2" x 1/2" Trowel](#) (large format tiles, great for large floor tiles)

Always check coverage on tile and membranes. If the coverage is not good.....then move up to the next sized trowel
☒

Other helpful tools:

[Collomix Mixer](#)

[6 gallon Ardex buckets](#)

[Ardex sponges](#)

[scale](#)(for measuring half bags)

[Measuring bucket](#)

[Rubber gloves](#)

[Respirator](#)

Be sure to [review thinset mixing video tutorial](#)

☐

My favorite thinsets

#1 [Ardex X77](#) or [X5](#)

- a. X77 is without a doubt the best thinset I've used to date. It has a super long pot-life and an amazing non-sag aspect to it. Great for small glass mosaics, intricate tile, and anything that requires precise detail.
- b. X5 is my every day thinset. its half the cost of X77 and does a tremendous job for floor tile, large format tiles, subway tiles. It also has a great pot-life and is non-sag.
- c. I highly recommend this thinset for beginners and tradesman that need more time with things. I never worry about going to lunch or taking my time with tiling with this stuff 😊

#2 [Schluter All-set](#)

- a. I always have a bag of this in addition to the Ardex thinsets. It has a superior strength and bonding to Schluter Ditra and membranes.
- b. If you use this on a Schluter shower system it will extend the warranty from 10 years to 15 years
- c. Great for floors and large format tiles

#3 [Laticrete 4XLT](#)

- a. Honestly, not much different than Schluter All-set. Same kind of consistency & pot-life

#4 [Mapei thinsets](#)

- a. I included these because if you prefer to get your thinsets from big box stores, I would recommend getting the Mapei products verses Custom. These all pretty much perform the same.
- b. Not overly great on pot-life (1 hour or so)
- c. Not that great in the non-sag area either (for intricate penny tiles or other mosaics I would not recommend any of these)
- d. Great for when you just need something convenient to grab 😊

Be sure to [review video tutorial on thinsets](#)

☐

#49 Check coverage

This goes in hand with trowel sizing. Be sure you are getting 95% coverage, and go up a trowel size if needed

☐

#50 Tile back wall of shower

😊 Tiling the back and side wall 😊

All tiling begins with planning and a good thinset mixture. Be sure to review my recommendations on [thinset and tile layout](#).

Here is a quick reference on mixing my favorite thinset - [Ardex X5](#):

6-7 quarts water per bag! recommend 6.5 quarts for most installations

Mix for 2 minutes

Quick reference on trowels & coverage:

When choosing a trowel size for tile, always double check the coverage you are getting before committing to a trowel size. A

[1/4" x 1/4" trowel](#)

usually work great for tiles under 12" long I used a 1/4" x 1/4" trowel for this demonstration

Back buttering tiles will ensure better coverage too

☞Tools that make this process much easier! ☞

[horseshoe tile spacers](#)

[Laser](#)

[good grinder](#)

[diamond blade](#)

[Fein Shopvac](#)and

[Dust shroud](#)

A manual tile cutter is a very helpful tool Most installations I only use a manual cutter and grinder

My favorite is

[Montolit Masterpuima](#)

The

[Minipuima](#)

is great for 6 x 6's and subway tile

[Linoleum knife \(scraper\)](#)

This is by far my most used tool when tilingGreat for scraping out joints and maneuvering tiles around

A wet saw is not always necessary, but very help for cutting intricate pieces such as shelving and L-cutsMy favorite is the

[Dewalt Wet saw](#)

White scrubby pads for clean upIt is always easier to remove thinset within 24 hours after settingIt is okay to clean-up before hand as long as thinset is firm and keeping tiles in place

☞Tile layout tips to remember☞

Start on back wall to hide the corner joints from main viewpoint

Start with less than a full tile on first rowThis will allow you to scribe cut and overcome any unevenness

Start from center when able and works for your layoutThis will provide even cuts on either side of wall

Maintain at least a 1/16" joint between tub and first rowThis provides a good silicone joint by allowing the silicone to go into joint

If you need to stop at any point for the day, always clean thinset on wall and against tilesI typically stop at the border height for the day; gives me time to set up mosaics on Kerdi Band

For removing stubborn thinset the next day or week use

[Sulfamic Acid crystals](#)

Helpful materials & tools:

[1/4" x 1/4" trowel](#)

[Wood float](#)

(embed ditra)

[Grout float](#)

[Ditra](#)

[Ditra Trowel](#)

[Kerdi Band](#)

[Kerdi Trowel](#)

[Ardex sponges](#)

[Ardex X5 thinnest](#)

[Schluter all-set thinnest](#)

[Linoleum knife \(scraper\)](#)

[1/16" horseshoe tile spacers](#)

[Montolit grinder STL blade](#)

(diamond cutter wheel)

[Montolit CGX grinder blade](#)

(cheaper option; great for porcelain)

[Cordless grinder](#)

(Milwaukee)

[Quick lock accessory for grinder](#)

[Makita paddle switch grinder](#)

(corded to attach to shop vac)

[Fein Grinder Shroud](#)

(keeps dust down)

[Fein Shop vac](#)

(with tool switch; turns on when using tool)

[Montolit Mini Puima tile cutter](#)

(Great for subway and 6x6 tiles)

[Montolit Masterpuima tile cutter](#)

(great for tile up to 25")

[Dewalt Wet saw](#)

[Montolit DNA 10" blade](#)

(great for porcelain and ceramic)

[Diamond hand pads](#)

[Collomix mixer](#)

(amazing mixer for thinset)

[Laser](#)

[Laser pole](#)

[Rubber gloves](#)

[Respirator](#)

[Sanding sponges for drywall](#)

[White Scrubby pads](#)

[Sulfamic Acid crystals](#)

(to remove stubborn thinset)

Review [video tutorial on setting tile on back wall](#)

☐ #51 Cut shelving

There are many options out there for shelving

If you pick up a threshold sill at box stores you can cut down to fit your custom niche

Here's a few options:

[Marble](#)

[Gray marble](#)

[travertine](#)

[another marble option](#)

Most of the time a wet saw is the only option to cut things down nicely

My favorite wet saw is

[Dewalt Wet saw](#)

Review [video tutorial](#)

☐ #52 Tile side wall

Continue your pattern from back wall

Review [video tutorial on setting tile](#)

☐ Clean tiles

If you clean up tile in the same day as setting, it'll be much easier!

Here are a couple helpful tools:

[Ardex sponges](#)

[Linoleum knife \(scraper\)](#)

[Rubber gloves](#)

[White Scrubby pads](#)

☐ #53 2nd coat drywall

☒ Drywall Finishing 2nd Coat ☒

Its best to lightly sand all areas and corners before applying second coat. This isn't a very serious sanding.....just making sure all the chunks are removed.

I use these

[sanding blocks](#)

with a 45 degree bevel on them. They can get into the corners nicely

It's also not a bad idea to remix your mud (I did not demonstrate or do this on this coat 😊)This will give a more creamy consistency before applying

I like to start with corners for second coatThis seems to work out better to do straight seams after cornersAnd ceiling top corner is easier (In my opinion)

After applying mud to one side of corners, Apply mud with a 10" on straight seams

Remove with a 12" or 14" blade

Go over screw holes again with a larger blade

Helpful tools and materials:

[Plus 3 drywall mud](#)

[Paper tape](#)

[Dewalt drywall knife kit with pan](#)

[Mixing paddle](#)

Review [video tutorial on 2nd coat application](#)

☐ #54 Tile floor layout

☒ Tile Floor Layout & Prep ☒

Don't over think it ☺. If you have a similar sized bathroom floor, you will quickly realize that most of the floor space will be covered by fixtures. Not saying to be sloppy about it, but spending too much time on layout and being precise with sizing edging pieces is not all that productive, especially if you have large format tiles like these 12" x 24" tiles

Here's an overview of the layout process:

Reference the most visible area for squareness and placement of most attractive tile pieces

Mark center points and reference edging pieces Typically a 5ft wide room works out well with 12" wide tiles; can simply start from center and get equal side pieces

Be sure to avoid any slivers at door entrance. Typically going to edge of door stop is where you want to end things

Double check length of room to avoid slivers

Pay attention to the curvature of your tiles this will help determine the staggered pattern needed to avoid excessive lippage A good reference from the

[TCNA](#)

is to stagger tiles over 15" in length to 33%

Check squareness of edging of tiles This is important for determining spacers used to get the desired grout joint size you want Most tiles I use the

[1/32" clips](#)

(My favorite leveling system is T-Lock)

Helpful materials & tools:

[TCNA Handbook](#)

[Euro Notch Trowel](#)

(great for 12" x 24")

[T-lock Leveling System](#)

(1/32" kit)

[T-lock Leveling System](#)

(1/16" kit)

[Ardex sponges](#)

[Ardex X5 thinset](#)

[Linoleum knife \(scraper\)](#)

[1/16" horseshoe tile spacers](#)

[Montolit grinder STL blade](#)

(diamond cutter wheel)

[Montolit CGX grinder blade](#)

(cheaper option; great for porcelain)

[Cordless grinder](#)

(Milwaukee)

[Quick lock accessory for grinder](#)

[Makita paddle switch grinder](#)

(corded to attach to shop vac)

[Fein Grinder Shroud](#)

(keeps dust down)

[Fein Shop vac](#)

(with tool switch; turns on when using tool)

[Fein Oscillating tool](#)

[Montolit Mini Puima tile cutter](#)

(Great for subway and 6x6 tiles)

[Montolit Masterpuima tile cutter](#)

(great for tile up to 25")

[Dewalt Wet saw](#)

[Montolit DNA 10" blade](#)

(great for porcelain and ceramic)

[Diamond hand pads](#)

[Collomix mixer](#)

(amazing mixer for thinset)

[Laser](#)

[Laser pole](#)

[Rubber gloves](#)

[Respirator](#)

[Sanding sponges for drywall](#)

[White Scrubby pads](#)

Review [video tutorial on tile layout](#)

☐ #55 Cut and prepare floor tile

Cutting circles in tile can be done many ways, I like using an

[STL blade](#)

and grind cut my way through. This does not need to be super accurate, there will be plenty of room to hide an ugly cut by the toilet

Layout tiles before mixing thinset and setting into place ☐

Review [video on cutting and tile layout](#)

☐ #56 Setting mosaics on Kerdi Band

✂ Mosaic border Prep ✂

So this task can be done when you have thinset already prepared. I had done this after setting the ditra membrane at the beginning of the day; using the rest of the [Schluter All-set thinset](#) to apply it

Time spent preparing this will save you time tomorrow ✂

First determine the size of your border You can always make it bigger and cut things down before setting

Cut Strips of

[Kerdi Band](#)

Apply thinset Most of the time a

[3/16" notched trowel](#)

works well

Be sure to clean up substrate after apply thinset You don't want the kerdi band being set to whatever your on 😊

Set Mosiacs

Tamp in place with a

[grout float](#)

Make sure you keep the border straight Use a level or other form of straight edge

Let sit overnight ✂ Much easier way to install a border!

Helpful materials & tools:

[1/4" x 1/4" trowel](#)

[Grout float](#)

[Ditra Trowel](#)

[Kerdi Band](#)

[Kerdi Trowel](#)

[Ardex sponges](#)

[Ardex X5 thinst](#)

[Schluter all-set thinset](#)

[Linoleum knife \(scraper\)](#)

[1/16" horseshoe tile spacers](#)

Review [video tutorial on setting mosaics](#)

Day 5

☐ #57 Tile plumbing wall

◆ Tiling Plumbing Wall & Niche ◆

You are a PRO now ✂

Here's the drill ✂

Set your [laser](#) to tile height of the first row

Scribe cut tiles to maintain consistent joint to tubCut tile around edge of tub rim

Cut tile around valveReference the escutcheon plate that comes with your faucet to be sure cuts are good ☺

Helpful materials & tools:

[1/4" x 1/4" trowel](#)

[Wood float](#)(embed ditra)

[Grout float](#)

[Ditra](#)

[Ditra Trowel](#)

[Kerdi Band](#)

[Kerdi Trowel](#)

[Ardex sponges](#)

[Ardex X5 thinnest](#)

[Schluter all-set thinnest](#)

[Linoleum knife \(scraper\)](#)

[1/16" horseshoe tile spacers](#)

[Montolit grinder STL blade](#)(diamond cutter wheel)

[Montolit CGX grinder blade](#)(cheaper option; great for porcelain)

[Cordless grinder](#)(Milwaukee)

[Quick lock accessory for grinder](#)

[Makita paddle switch grinder](#)(corded to attach to shop vac)

[Fein Grinder Shroud](#)(keeps dust down)

[Fein Shop vac](#)(with tool switch; turns on when using tool)

[Montolit Mini Puima tile cutter](#)(Great for subway and 6x6 tiles)

[Montolit Masterpuima tile cutter](#)(great for tile up to 25")

[Dewalt Wet saw](#)

[Montolit DNA 10" blade](#)(great for porcelain and ceramic)

[Diamond hand pads](#)

[Collomix mixer](#)(amazing mixer for thinset)

[Laser](#)

[Laser pole](#)

[Rubber gloves](#)

[Respirator](#)

[Sanding sponges for drywall](#)

[White Scrubby pads](#)

[Sulfamic Acid crystals](#)(to remove stubborn thinset)

Review [video tutorial on tiling plumbing wall](#)

Set sill of niche first

☞You may want to buy a large tile that matches to avoid a grout joint on sill

Set mosaics with a [grout float](#)

Trowel size is dependent on thickness of mosaic

[1/4" x 1/4" trowel](#) typically works great

Set side pieces of niche a and allow to sit slightly past wall to maintain small grout joint with edging

Set shelf and apply thinset on either side of shelf before setting

Set second set of mosaics

If using a [wet saw](#) to cut mosaics, be sure to wipe off excess waterExcessive water can be a bond breaker between tile and thinset

Set second shelf And finish mosaics

Finish mosaics and inside of niche

Review [video on tiling niche](#)

☐ #59 Set edging of Niche

Set bull nose tiles and evenly space

Support top bullnose if needed

other options of edging

[Schluter Rondec](#) - [image](#)

[Marble pencil trim](#) - [image](#)

Review [video tutorial on setting edging](#)

Review [video on setting Schluter Rondec](#)

☐ #60 Set mosaic border

Mosaic border setting will be a breeze with the preparation done on [Day 4](#)

☞Here's the steps:

Cut off excess [kerdi membrane](#) off of mosaics

You can also cut down the size of border as well if wanting a more slender border

Cut to length

Apply thinset - can be as thick as needed to bump out mosaics flush with other tilesSet back wall first

Tamp into place with

[grout float](#)

Space with spacers

[Horseshoe shims](#) are awesome ☞

Finish off top rowsMaintain at least a 1/16" space between ceiling and tile

Finish off tile along side of tubThis may need to be done during the floor tile installation

Clean up! Use

[scrubby pads](#) to remove thinset

My favorite scrapper is the

[linoleum knife](#)

Helpful materials & tools:

[1/4" x 1/4" trowel](#)

[Wood float](#)

(embed ditra)

[Grout float](#)

[Ditra](#)

[Ditra Trowel](#)

[Kerdi Band](#)

[Kerdi Trowel](#)

[Ardex sponges](#)

[Ardex X5 thinst](#)

[Schluter all-set thinst](#)

[Linoleum knife \(scraper\)](#)

[1/16" horseshoe tile spacers](#)

[Montolit grinder STL blade](#)

(diamond cutter wheel)

[Montolit CGX grinder blade](#)

(cheaper option; great for porcelain)

[Cordless grinder](#)

(Milwaukee)

[Quick lock accessory for grinder](#)

[Makita paddle switch grinder](#)

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(great for tile up to 25")

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[Montolit DNA 10" blade](#)

(great for porcelain and ceramic)

[Diamond hand pads](#)

[Collomix mixer](#)

(amazing mixer for thinst)

[Laser](#)

[Laser pole](#)

[Rubber gloves](#)

[Respirator](#)

[Sanding sponges for drywall](#)

[White Scrubby pads](#)

[Sulfamic Acid crystals](#)

(to remove stubborn thinset)

Review [video tutorial on setting a mosaic border](#)

☐ #61 Clean tile & tub

If you clean up tile in the same day as setting, it'll be much easier!

Here are a couple helpful tools:

[Ardex sponges](#)

[Linoleum knife \(scraper\)](#)

[Rubber gloves](#)

[White Scrubby pads](#)

☐ #62 Sand Drywall

Sanding, sanding, sanding ☺

Using a [3M sanding block](#)

Review [video on 3rd drywall coat](#)

☐ #63 3rd coat drywall

☒ Drywall Finishing - 3rd Coat ☒

This will get easier over time!

Try to be patient and not play with it too much.....☺ Easier said than done I know...

Helpful tools and materials:

[Plus 3 drywall mud](#)

[Paper tape](#)

[Dewalt drywall knife kit with pan](#)

[Mixing paddle](#)

[3M sanding block](#)

[Respirator](#)

Review [video tutorial on 3rd coat](#)

☐ #64 Set tile floor

☒ Setting Tile Floor ☒

☒ Be sure to refer to [Tile layout and Prep](#) if you do not have tiles preliminarily cut and ready to set

☒ Also be sure to reference [tutorial on recommended thinsets & coverage](#)

Ready, set, GO

Select a trowel that will get good coverage Always test a piece by troweling, setting and pulling up a piece to check coverage

Use a leveling system for large format tiles My favorite is

[T-lock](#)

Be sure to check sides of tile for squareness select a tile spacer that will provide the grout joint you want

Completely fill in waffle of Ditra mat

Applying with a [grout float](#) or back side of trowel

Directionally Trowel Best to go in direction of short size of tile

Back butter tiles

Set clips and wedges

If you place wedges in direction of previous set tile, the grout joints will be easier to maintain evenness

Remember you can always add more thinset to tiles if something is off or there isn't enough on tiles

Set edging at door

My favorite is [Schluter Rondec](#)

Shim edging if needed

You want the edging to be flush with tile

Helpful materials & tools:

[3/8" x 1/2" Trowel](#)

[Schluter edging \(Rondec\)](#)

[TCNA Handbook](#)

[Euro Notch Trowel](#)

(great for 12" x 24")

[T-lock Leveling System](#)

(1/32" kit)

[T-lock Leveling System](#)

(1/16" kit)

[1/4" x 1/4" trowel](#)

[Wood float](#)

(embed ditra)

[Grout float](#)

[Fein Oscillation tool](#)

(cutting door jamb)

[Ditra](#)

[Ditra Trowel](#)

[Kerdi Band](#)

[Kerdi Trowel](#)

[Ardex sponges](#)

[Ardex X5 thinst](#)

[Schluter all-set thinst](#)

[Linoleum knife \(scraper\)](#)

[1/16" horseshoe tile spacers](#)

[Montolit grinder STL blade](#)

(diamond cutter wheel)

[Montolit CGX grinder blade](#)

(cheaper option; great for porcelain)

[Cordless grinder](#)

(Milwaukee)

[Quick lock accessory for grinder](#)

[Makita paddle switch grinder](#)

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[Montolit DNA 10" blade](#)

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[Diamond hand pads](#)

[Collomix mixer](#)

(amazing mixer for thinst)

[Laser](#)

[Laser pole](#)

[Rubber gloves](#)

[Respirator](#)

[Sanding sponges for drywall](#)

[White Scrubby pads](#)

[Sulfamic Acid crystals](#)

(to remove stubborn thinst)

Review [video on setting floor tile](#)

☐ #65 Cut door jambs for tile

Cut door jamb to allow tile to slide under. Keep in mind most doors swing into bathroom, so stopping at door stop (middle of jamb) is a typical location. An [Oscillating tool](#) is helpful.

Review [video tutorial on setting tile](#)

☐ #66 Set floor edging

Set edging at door. My favorite is [Schluter Rondec](#).

Review [video tutorial on setting floor tile](#)

Day 6

☐ #67 Sand Drywall

Sanding, sanding, sanding 😊

Using a [3M sanding block](#)

Review [video on touch-ups](#)

☐ #68 Touch-up drywall

☑️ Final coat

This would technically be the 4th coat for drywall finishing.

I like to get this out of the way first thing!

This should be to simply fill in any air bubbles or other nicks and scratches.

[5 minute mud](#)

If needing more time, there is 20, 45 &

[90 minute mud](#)

[White Scrubby pads](#)

[Ardex sponges](#)

Helpful tools and materials:

[Ardex sponges](#)

[Respirator](#)

[Sanding sponges for drywall](#)

[White Scrubby pads](#)

[5 minute mud](#)

[Microfiber clothes](#)

[Milwaukee mud mixer](#)

[Mixing paddle](#)

[Dewalt drywall knife kit with pan](#)

Review [video tutorial on final coat](#)

☐ #69 Clean up tile floor

😊 Clean-up 😊

If your kind of messy like me.....this isn't always the most fun project 😊

That's one thing I want to get better at - being cleaner and neater when setting tile

Here are a few tips that will help:

Use a [rubber mallet](#) to avoid chipping tiles

Hit the clips parallel with grout joints

If a clip gets stuck, no big deal, just cut below tile layer 1/8" or so is good enough

Be careful not to penetrate waterproofing

If you let thinset sit for more than a day or so,

[Sulfamic acid crystals](#)

will soften thinset

Add a couple tablespoons to water and spray areas needed Be careful on natural stones (marble, travertine, etc) this may etch it

Test an area before applying everywhere (primarily for sensitive tiles)

Wear a respirator and DO NOT get in your eyes

Let sit for 5-10 minutes Scrub with a

[White Scrubby pads](#)

After removing thinset, wash well with water Let everything completely dry before grouting This could harm grout if left in joints

[Linoleum knife \(scraper\)](#) is great for this!

Especially if you used sulfamic acid

Helpful tools and materials:

[Ardex sponges](#)

[Linoleum knife \(scraper\)](#)

[Diamond hand pads](#)

[Rubber gloves](#)

[Respirator](#)

[White Scrubby pads](#)

[Sulfamic Acid crystals](#)

[Microfiber clothes](#)

[Windex with vinegar](#)

Review [video tutorial on tile cleanup](#)



#70 Mix Epoxy Grout

⌘ Mixing Epoxy Grout ⌘

Laticrete Spectralock Epoxy Grout comes in two size packages

[2 1/2" lb kit](#)

[9 lb kit](#)

Mixing is fairly straightforward:

Add Part A & B first into a clean bucket

Be sure to get every last drop! This makes a big difference with making a fluid mixture

Thoroughly mix part A and B

Thoroughly mix part C

Helpful tools:

[Milwaukee mud mixer](#)

[Mixing paddle](#)

[Rubber gloves](#)

Review [Epoxy grout video](#)



My favorite grouts

Over the years I've used many different kinds of grouts and have grown to love and hate many of them....

I'm also very cautious when it comes to white grout.

So when it comes to white grout, I've only been recommending Epoxy grout. These two are the best I've found:

[Spectralock Pro Epoxy](#)

[Ardex WA Epoxy](#)

For other colors, its a little less concerning to me, but here are my recommendations in order of best to good

[Spectralock Pro Epoxy](#)

[Spectralock1](#) (pre-mix) becoming a favorite & very DIY friendly

[Laticrete Permacolor](#)

[Mapei FA](#)

All grouts above do not need sealed or require any further maintenance



#71-Set grout

☒Setting Grout ☒

This is the hardest part of the whole installation process.

Packing the joints can be exhausting.....This is where you may want to buy a couple of the [mini kits](#)

to lesson the labor. Do one wall at a time and take breaks

Here are the steps to repeat on each area and wall:

Dampen the surface of wall with a [sponge](#)

Don't allow water to run down grout joints; this is simply to wet the surface to allow grout to glide over tiles

Pack joints I like to start with the border at top of wall, but any top portion of wall works

A good [Grout float](#) helps a lot

Focus on packing joints

Don't worry about grout leftover on wall, but remove what you can without pulling any grout out joints

A [grout float margin trowel](#) can help in tight spaces

After packing all joints, be sure to make a ball out the remaining grout so you can touch up things later

Be sure to clean tub during this process

Helpful tools and materials:

[Grout float](#)

(trox)

[Grout float](#)

(Marshalltown)

[Ardex sponges](#)

[Linoleum knife \(scraper\)](#)

[Rubber gloves](#)

[White Scrubby pads](#)

[Windex with vinegar](#)

[Laticrete epoxy haze remover](#)

[grout float margin trowel](#)

Review [Epoxy Grout Video tutorial](#)

☐ #72 Prep for paint

Final sanding for drywall use a [3M sanding block](#)

and wet sand with sponge. Wipe down all walls and ceiling; removing all dust

This will keep the project rolling while waiting for epoxy grout to set up. Typically it take 10-20 minutes for grout to set up enough to start scrubbing

Don't get side tracked too long. Be sure to periodically do a test on grout:

After 10 minutes or so test joint with fingerIf grout is coming out of joint wait another 5-10 minutesYou want to be able to press the joint and not pull out grout onto your finger

Review [wet sanding process in this video](#)

☐ #73 Clean & tool grout

☒Clean-up☒

Timing is everything!

Timing of initial wash will depend on humidity and temperature of your homeIf its dry and hot, It may be able to be worked on right awayTypically its 10-20 minutes after everything is packed (which could take 25 minutes by itself)

After 10 minutes or so test joint with fingerIf grout is coming out of joint wait another 5-10 minutesYou want to be able to press the joint and not pull out grout onto your finger

Test again If grout is moldable but not sticking and pulling out onto your finger, your ready for initial scrub

Test an area with scrubby pad and make sure grout is not running out of jointsIf grout is moving out, stop and wait for another 5-10 minutes and repeat finger test

Great thing about epoxy is that you don't have to worry about the amount of water used[White Scrubby pads](#) are a must-have for epoxy grout removal

Wipe off excess water and grout with a sponge[Ardex sponges](#) are worth the extra expense!

This is an important step; use[Microfiber clothes](#)It will reduce the haze residue remaining on wall from wet sponges and cleaning

Helpful tools and materials:

[Ardex sponges](#)[Linoleum knife \(scraper\)](#)[Rubber gloves](#)[White Scrubby pads](#) [5 minute mud](#) [Microfiber clothes](#)[Windex with vinegar](#)

☐ #74 Prime Walls & ceiling

☒ Priming ☒

Let's get things ready to paint ☒

Wet sand areas needed with spongeRemove dust from ceiling and walls with damp sponge

A standard [drywall primer](#) or [PVA primer](#) is all that is needed for new drywall

Cut ceilings in firstl like using a

[2 1/2" brush](#)

Prime all walls

Use [3/8" nap rollers](#) for new drywall

Other helpful tools:

[Paint tray](#)[Paint tray liners](#)[9" Roller](#)[3/8" nap rollers](#)[2 1/2" brush](#)[drywall primer](#)[Sherwin Williams 1050 QD](#)[Newborn 950-gts](#) (drip-free caulking gun)

Review [video on priming walls & ceiling](#)

☐ #75 Caulk ceiling and edging joints

To have a long lasting caulk joint (especially at ceiling and tile joint) - Use a siliconized latex caulk

This gives the flexibility needed, but also allows you to paint it easilyMy favorite is

[Sherwin Williams 1050 QD](#) (quick dry)

Start out cutting the tip of caulking tube small

Fill ceiling joints

[New born caulking guns](#) are great!

Review [video tutorial on caulking](#)

☐ #76 Paint ceiling

Use a flat white ceiling paint My favorite is

[Masterhide by Sherwin Williams](#)

Cut in around perimeter of ceiling first with ceiling paintBe sure to coat the caulking joint to match ceiling ☺

Using [3/8" nap rollers](#) is best for this too

Typically 2 coats is neededIf you run vent fan and/or of a fan moving air in bath, you can get second coat on fairly quickly

Other helpful tools:

[Paint tray](#)

[Paint tray liners](#)

[9" Roller](#)

[3/8" nap rollers](#)

[2 1/2" brush](#)

[drywall primer](#)

[Sherwin Williams 1050 QD](#)

[Newborn 950-gts](#) (drip-free caulking gun)

Review [video on painting ceiling](#)

☐ #77 Shower trim

☒ Shower Faucet Trim ☒

This is an easy step ☺

Helpful tools & materials:

[Klien Temp reader](#)

[Teflon tape](#)

[Pipe sealant](#)

[Autocut tool](#)

[Debur tool](#)

[Sanding clothe](#)

[Allen wrench kit](#)

Review [video tutorial on shower trim installation](#)

☐ #78 Paint walls

☒ Painting ☒

Quick and easy now ☒

Keep continuous motions with your brushMy favorite is the[Purdy 2 1/2" brush](#)

My favorite paint it [Super paint](#) from Sherwin Williams

Be sure to apply paint over latex caulking on edging of tile

Use [3/8" nap rollers](#) for smooth surfaces like this

Other helpful tools:

[Paint tray](#)

[Paint tray liners](#)

[9" Roller](#)

[3/8" nap rollers](#)

[2 1/2" brush](#)

[drywall primer](#)

[Sherwin Williams 1050 QD](#)

[Newborn 950-gts](#) (drip-free caulking gun)

Review [painting video tutorial](#)

☐ #79 Caulk corners of tub surround

☒Caulking Tub ☒ and corners ☒

Only do this part of project if you are done making a mess 😊

You don't want anything to fall into joints before they dry ☒

For bright white, I use [GE Kitchen & Bath Caulking](#)

If matching to your selected grout, be sure to purchase the 100% silicon version[Latasil matching caulk](#)

Cut tip of caulking gun small at firstTry to apply minimal amount of sealant, but enough to fill entire void

A good caulking gun makes a world of differenceMy favorite is

[Newborn 950-GTS](#)

Spray [windex](#) (preferably windex without the dye) over entire joint

This will help prevent silicon from smearing on tile

Many time your finger is the best tool

[Caulking tools](#) can work great too

Helpful tools & materials:

[Newborn 950-gts](#) (drip-free caulking gun)

[GE Kitchen & Bath Caulking](#)

[Latasil matching caulk](#)

[windex](#)

[Caulking tool kit](#)

[Box of rags](#)

Review [video on caulking corners of a tub surround](#)

☐ #80 Fill and caulk tub

Fill the tub before caulking the edges of tub

This ensure a long lasting caulk joint

Helpful tools & materials:

[Newborn 950-gts](#) (drip-free caulking gun) [GE Kitchen & Bath Caulking](#) [Latasil matching caulk](#) [windex](#) [Caulking tool kit](#) [Box of rags](#)

Review [video on caulking tub](#)

☐ #81 Grout floor

☒ Grouting Floor ☒

[Spectralock1](#) is one of the easiest grouts to use No mixing required

No sealing required

A good grout float makes a difference

[Marshalltown floats](#) are a favorite of mine ☒

You won't regret using a good [Ardex sponge](#)

Helpful tools and Materials:

[Spectralock1](#)

[Grout float](#) (Marshalltown)

[Ardex sponges](#)

[Linoleum knife \(scraper\)](#)

[Rubber gloves](#)

[White Scrubby pads](#)

[Windex with vinegar](#)

[grout float margin trowel](#)

[Microfiber clothes](#)

Review [video tutorial on grouting a tile floor](#)

Day 7

☐ #82 Replace Switches

☒ Switches ☒

There are many different wiring configurations that exist. The most basic option is having power supply coming into the main double switch box

After you find the power lead, Turn off power at breaker panel to bathroom

Much safer that way 😊

Helpful tools and materials:

[Leviton single pole switches](#)

[Linesman stripping pliers](#)

[Klien electrical tester](#)

[Ideal Wire nuts](#)

[Klein screw driver set](#)

[electrical tape](#)

[pigtail ground line](#)

Review [video tutorial on replacing switches](#)

☐ #83 Install new GFI

☒ New GFI☒

With a new [deep 18 cu inch box](#) installed, this will be a breeze

A [15 amp GFI device](#) is sufficient for bathrooms, but the actual line feeding GFI should be [20 amp wire](#)

Review [GFI installation video](#)

☐ #84 New breaker for GFI

☒ New Breaker for Panel ☒

There are many different manufacturers that make Breaker Panels

Some common ones are:

[Murray](#)(siemens)

[Cuttlerhammer](#)(eaton)

[Square D](#)

[GE](#)

[Leviton](#)

You'll need to choose the correct breaker for the kind of panel you have

You'll need a 20 amp breaker for the dedicated GFI

[Murray 20 amp breaker](#)

[Eaton 20 Amp breaker](#)

[Square D 20 amp breaker](#)

[GE 20 amp breaker](#)

[Leviton 20 amp breaker](#)

[Romex connectors](#)

Helpful tools and materials:

[Linesman stripping pliers](#)

[Klien electrical tester](#)

[Ideal Wire nuts](#)

[Klein screw driver set](#)

[electrical tape](#)

[Hilti drill kit](#)

[Headlamp](#)

[Romex connectors](#)

Review [Installation video of new breaker](#)

☐ #85 New Trap adapter for sink

With new PVC or ABS piping use a:

[Spigot adapter \(1 1/4"\)](#) or

[female trap adapter \(1 1/4"\)](#)

Helpful tools and materials:

[PVC primer & Glue](#)

[Empire level \(2ft\)](#)

[Channel locks](#)

[Stud finder](#)

[Hilti drill set](#)

[Spigot adapter \(1 1/4"\)](#)

[female trap adapter \(1 1/4"\)](#)

[Milwaukee hole saw kit](#)

[Porter Cable Electric Planer](#)

[Teflon tape](#)

[T2 sealant](#)

[1/4 turn valves \(3/8 thread\)](#)

[Milwaukee grinder](#)

[Montolit STL blade](#)

[water clear silicon](#)

[GE white kitchen & bath silicone](#)

[Ridgid tubular cutter](#)

Review [video tutorial on installing vanity](#)

☐ #86 Install Vanity

☒Vanity Installation☒

The hardest part is selecting a vanity ☺

The [vanity in this video](#) was a cheap one.....

It was a big box special

A great site I use often to browse and look for vanities is

[Build.com](#)

For corner installations like this, I recommend getting a cabinet with a flush end so that it can tuck into corner nicely

A lot of [free-standing vanities](#) have uneven sides that can provide gaps at the wall area Some kits have filler pieces available to make up for this problem

Much easier getting a cabinet with straight edging for corner installations

Helpful tools and materials:

[Empire level \(2ft\)](#)

[Channel locks](#)

[Stud finder](#)

[Hilti drill set](#)

[Spigot adapter \(1 1/4"\)](#)

[female trap adapter \(1 1/4"\)](#)

[Milwaukee hole saw kit](#)

[Porter Cable Electric Planer](#)

[Teflon tape](#)

[T2 sealant](#)

[1/4 turn valves \(3/8 thread\)](#)

[Milwaukee grinder](#)

[Montolit STL blade](#)

[water clear silicon](#)

[GE white kitchen & bath silicone](#)

[Ridgid tubular cutter](#)

Review [video on vanity installation](#)

☐ #87 New shut-off valves

I recommend installing 1/4 turn shut off valves

The internal bearing will outlast other compression type valves

I personally love the [Sharkbite shut off valves](#) - easy to install and to remove

If you have 3/8" stub outs -these [brasscraft shut-off valves](#) work great

Helpful tools & materials

[Channel locks](#)

[Deburring tool / Depth gauge for sharkbites](#)

[Sharkbite removal tool](#)

[Teflon tape](#)

[Pipe sealant](#)

Review [installation of valves](#)

☐ #88 Install sink faucet

Most sink faucets are a straight forward installation

I personally like single hole faucets. Whats the point of having more to clean?

Here are a couple of my favorites:

[Delta](#)

[Moen](#)

[Vigo](#)

A great place to browse faucets is [Build.com](#)

Helpful tools and materials:

[Teflon tape](#)

[T2 sealant](#)

[water clear silicon](#)

[GE white kitchen & bath silicone](#)

[Ridgid sink wrench](#)

[Basin wrench](#)

Review [video on vanity installation](#)

☐ **#89 Set sink top**

Not much to this....but boy connecting faucet before setting makes things much easier!

Helpful tools and materials:

[GE white kitchen & bath silicone](#)

Review [video on vanity installation](#)

☒ **#90 Install base trim**

This is important to install right away so you can caulk and paint before setting toilet

For a quick installation use:

[Sherwin Williams 1050 QD](#) (quick dry)

[New born caulking guns](#) are great!

[Milwaukee finish nailer](#)

Review [video tutorial on caulking](#)

☐ **#91 Connect Trap for sink**

When installing a new trap, be sure to prevent trap from going to far into wall

Here are the traps I typically use:

[Keeney 1 1/4" trap](#)

[6" extension](#)

Review [installation video of trap](#)

Review a [video on a common problem](#) and solution for a trap that doesn't fit right

☐ **#92 Install heat vent and rest of base trim**

For a quick installation use:

[Sherwin Williams 1050 QD](#) (quick dry)

[New born caulking guns](#) are great!

[Milwaukee finish nailer](#)

Review [video tutorial on caulking](#)

☐ #93 Install Light fixture

☒Light Fixture☒

There's always a lot of discussion with a client or spouse about the hanging of a light fixture ☺

It's tough to tell what the distance should be from the ceiling and how close you should be to a mirror

Unfortunately there are no "right" or wrongs when it comes to this, but as a contractor I'm always preparing myself for a change in location.

That's why I like to only poke out a wire in the general location of the fixture

With a standard 8 foot ceiling

I recommend 8-12" from ceiling and centered over sink

There are many ways to go about installing an electrical box for a light fixture, Here are 3 great ways:

#1 Install blocking before hanging drywall & use a [standard 4" round box](#)

If you install a 2x8 or 2x10 against back of wall (in a 2x4 wall) a [standard 4" round box](#) works great to fasten in place

#2 Use an [Old work box](#) that simply mounts to the drywall

#3 Use a [4" Pancake box](#) when a stud is centered in location needed

[Helpful tools & materials:](#)

[Leviton single pole switches](#)

[Linesman stripping pliers](#)

[Klien electrical tester](#)

[Ideal Wire nuts](#)

[Klein screw driver set](#)

[electrical tape](#)

[pigtail ground line](#)

[4" Pancake box](#)

[standard 4" round box](#)

[Old work box](#)

Review [video tutorial on installing a light fixture](#)

☐ #94 Install Mirror

☒Mirror Hanging☒

An easy installation ☒

Helpful tools and materials:

[Laser](#)

[Laser pole](#)

[Klien anchors](#)

Review [video tutorial on hanging a mirror](#)

☐ #95 Install toilet

☒ Toilet Installation ☒

One of my favorite toilets of all time is the [American Standard Cadet 3](#)

I've installed at least 30-40 of these in my career, and very rarely have an issue with them. They flush well.

Easy to install

Has a reasonable price (IMO)

Before ordering a toilet, be sure to check the distance of the center of flange to the wall.

Toilets come in 3 common rough-in sizes:

[10"](#)

[12" \(most common\)](#)

[14"](#)

Be sure to account for trim thickness; The tank is what is different from model to model. In my experience if you are within 3/4" of a common sized rough-in, the toilet will fit.

Example1: If the wall measurement to center (not trim, but from the wall) is 11 1/4" - then go with a 12" rough-in toilet.

Example2: If the wall measurement to center (not trim, but from the wall) is 12 3/4" - then go with a 12" rough-in toilet.

When it comes to the toilet flange; It's best to be flush with the floor or up to a 1/4" above.

Another great option is a [Sani-seal Foam gasket](#).

Helpful tools and materials:

[American Standard Cadet 3](#)

[Oatey Wax ring](#)

[Sani-seal Foam gasket](#)

[Oatey Extension ring](#)

[White Silicone](#)

[Matching caulk for grout](#)

[Windex with Vinegar](#)

[Linesmans](#) (to cut toilet bolts)

[Hilti screw gun kit](#)

[Newborn caulking gun](#)

Review [video tutorial on installing a toilet](#)

☐ #96 Accessories

☒ Accessories ☒

I find this portion of the project to be one of the most frustrating parts of the project 😞

Even if you made it easy on yourself and [followed guidance on Day 4](#), it can still be frustrating with cheaply manufactured accessories.

Take your time installing, you'll get it!

A [Laser](#) makes things much easier.

Helpful tools and materials:

[Toggle bolts](#)

[Milwaukee Diamond Plus](#)

[Laser](#)

[Laser pole](#)

[Makita drill](#)

Review [video on installing accessories](#)

☐ #97 Shower rod

Most shower rods these days are [tension fit types](#) of rods.

However if you get a [curved shower rod](#) it will give a lot more room and most likely need to be anchored in

I might be old school, but I like the [standard anchor type rods](#)....less likely to fall out of place

Helpful tools and materials:

[Toggle bolts](#)

[Milwaukee Diamond Plus](#)

[Laser](#)

[Laser pole](#)

[Makita drill](#)

Review [video on installing accessories](#)

☐ #98 Carpet Tuck

☑☑Carpet Transition☑☑

This is it!! Congratulations you did it ☑☑

This always seems to be the last task for me...

Helpful tools and materials:

[Carpet tack strips](#)

[Linoleum knife](#)

[Stanley utility knife](#)

Review [video on carpet tuck](#)

☐ #99 Enjoy 😊

This is the easiest task of all!

If you are not a member of my course, I encourage you to become one, It will make the bathroom remodeling process much easier

[Tub & Shower in 7 days or less](#)

Thank you!

Also be sure to subscribe to my Youtube Channel and all other platforms - <https://linktr.ee/bathroomremodelingteacher>

☐ Join the course☑

If you are not a member of my course, I encourage you to become one, It will make the bathroom remodeling process much easier

[Tub & Shower in 7 days or less](#)

Thank you!



Buy me a coffee ☕

Support is always appreciated

Coffee always keeps me going

Here's the link - [buy me a coffee](#)

Thank you

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