

Glossary of Terms

Aquarium Corner: glass to glass corner where glass panels butt together at 90 degrees or are mitered to fit together to form a corner. If the joined panel is providing structural support corner brackets should be used for safety. The panels are sealed using a mildew resistant silicone.

Barrier-Free: in terms of handicap access, this refers to an enclosure system that has a minimal or no bottom track and openings that are wheelchair-accessible.

Bi-Fold: a door that folds in the middle, usually having one end in a fixed position while the other runs along a guide track.

Buttress (Tile Rise): the raised portion of a shower curb that is on more than one level. Sometimes referred to as a "pony wall", the buttress is a less than full height wall on which an inline or return panel will sit. The step up height is called the riser height.

Bypass: a door consisting of two or more panels that run in parallel tracks.

Center Line Measurements: Imaginary line that will split the thickness of the glass being used. Center line measurements are taken right where the unit is set to be installed

Clear Glass: glass that is transparent.

Curb: a raised edge or border of a shower, usually made of tile, marble or fiberglass.

Curved Glass: glass that has been specially formed to fit into a circular floor plan.

Custom Enclosure: an enclosure that requires specially cut glass and framework.

Drip Channel (Drip Trough): a metal channel that is designed to prevent water running down the door from dripping onto the floor when the door is opened.

Etched Glass: glass that has had a pattern cut into its surface, usually by an acid treatment.

Fixed Panels: the glass or plastic panels of an enclosure that do not move.

Framed: a bath enclosure system that mounts all glass or plastic panels in a metal frame.

Frameless: a bath enclosure system that minimizes the amount of metal used to hold the system panels and door in place.

Heavy Glass: glass used in many European-style frameless enclosures. Usually 3/8-inch or 1/2-inch in thickness.

Glossary of Terms

Hinge Door: a shower door that usually has a jointed metal hinge on the side of the door.

Hinge Left or Hinge Right: designates how the door is to swing when standing outside of the shower facing the door.

In-Line Panels: fixed panels that are “in a line” or in the same plane as the shower door.

Laminated Glass: glass that has been made by uniting layers of glass in order to increase the strength of the glass.

Magnetic Latch: a latch that holds the door shut through the use of magnets.

Neo-Angle: a shower that consists of a center door with a fixed panel at an angle on either side of the door.

Notched Panel: glass panel that has a corner cut away, usually at 90 degrees, to allow it to slip over the edge of a buttress or knee wall

Obscure Glass: glass that lets light through, but is not totally transparent.

Out Of Level: refers to the horizontal plane. It applies to the curb, threshold, sill, floor, ceiling or tub deck.

Outside Dimension: the outer edge of an existing enclosure as it sits on the sill

Patterned Glass: glass that has a repeating shape embedded in the glass.

Pivot Door: a shower door that rotates on two metal pivots on the top and bottom of the door.

Plumb: refers to the vertical plane. This applies to walls, step-ups or buttresses. Typically a level is used to determine whether the surface is plumb.

Powdercoat: a technique for applying paint to aluminum shower door frames. The aluminum is covered with a powder of dry paint particles and is then baked in an oven. This causes the powder to melt and then harden into a tough, colorful finish.

Reflective Glass: glass that bounces back at some of the light that strikes it.

Return Panel or End Panel: fixed panel that is set at a 90° angle to the shower door returning to the back wall.

Riser Height: refers to the height of a step up or buttress from the door threshold.

Silk-Screened Glass: glass that has graphic images silk-screened on the surface to give the illusion of etched, textured or patterned glass.

Glossary of Terms

Sliding Panels: The moving panels in a bypass door.

Steam Bath: an enclosure that is usually equipped with special plumbing to create steam. The enclosure itself either runs from the floor to the ceiling or has a top (Transom Panel) to contain the steam.

Tempered Glass: glass that has been annealed or strengthened by a process of gradually heating and cooling. Once a piece of glass has been tempered it cannot be cut. If it breaks, it breaks into many small pieces. By code, all glass shower doors and enclosures must use a safety glass such as tempered glass.

Textured Glass: glass that has been made with a texture on its surface that creates a translucent effect.

Tile Rise (Buttress): the raised portion of a shower curb that is on more than one level.

Tinted Glass: glass that has a color running through it.

Transom Panel: a panel usually located above the door of an enclosure. Can be used to keep steam inside of a steam-shower unit. Transom can be hinged to create a "moving transom" to vent the steam or fixed in place permanently.