



THE ONYX COLLECTION

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BENCH SEAT SHOWER INSTALLATION

To avoid possible problems, **please read the entire instruction sheet** before you attempt to notch any panels or start to assemble the shower.

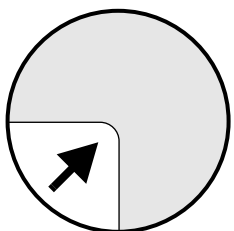
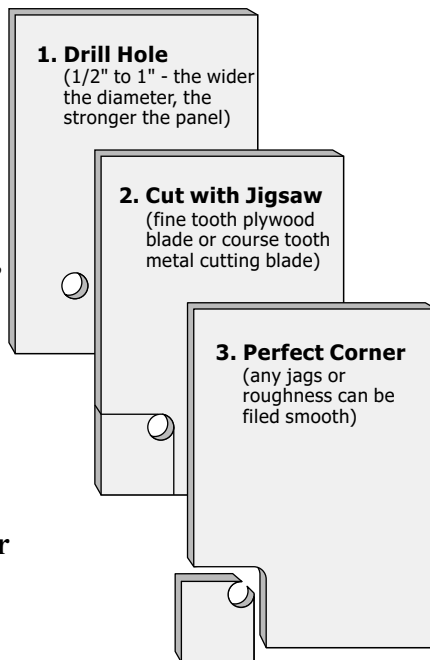
If you are installing any **Recessed Soap or Shampoo Caddies**, make sure to review the Caddy Installation section before attaching sheetrock to your shower walls.

Cutting a Panel Notch

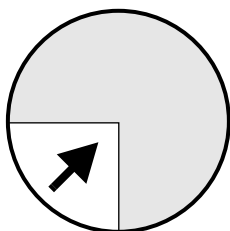
In any **Bench Seat application**, at least one Wall Panel will have to be notched to correctly wrap around the bench seat. To ensure proper fit, this must normally be done at the job site.

Notching a panel will always weaken the panel at the inside corner of the cutout. The sharper the corner, (see pictures) the more likely the panel will crack at that spot during installation, or even later on when cold weather and hot water cause expansion and contraction that apply stress to the shower and to the walls and floor that surround it.

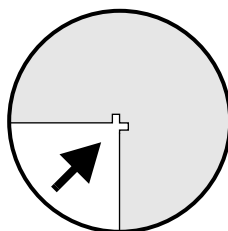
To avoid these issues, **when cutting a notch** in any panel, always start by drilling a hole where the corner is going to be (standard "High Speed Drill" bit, or "Hole Saw") and then cutting in from the outside edges of the panel to the hole (electric "Jigsaw" with Plywood blade). This creates a **nicely rounded inside corner** that is very resistant to stress fractures.



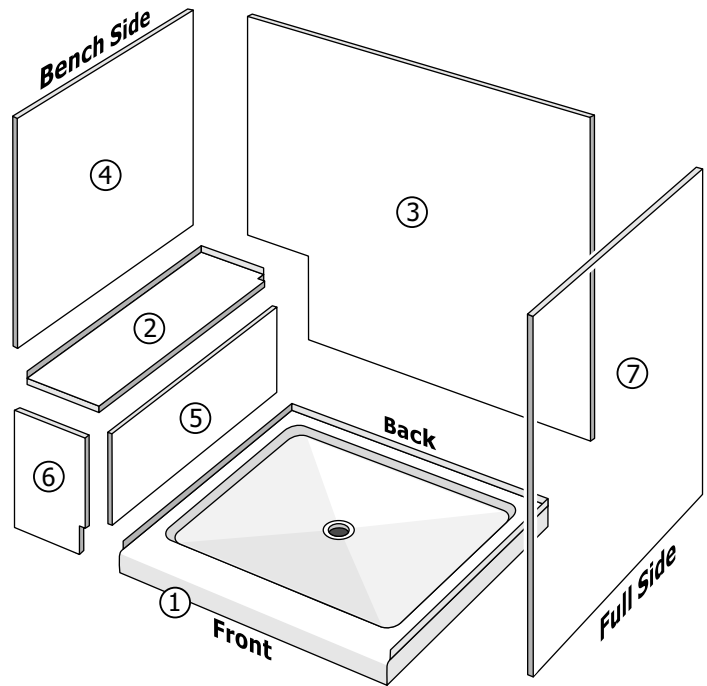
Rounded Corner
(hole drilled, then carefully cut)
BEST
Very Unlikely to Crack



Sharp Corner
(cut carefully without drilling)
NOT GOOD
Likely to Crack



"Crow's Foot"
(sloppy overlapping cuts)
WORST
Will Probably Crack



Before Assembling Anything:

The numbers on the picture above indicate the **order in which the pieces will be put in** on the final assembly. If the framing is already in place, your shower components have been engineered to fit correctly into your framing based on the dimensions you have provided to us. If the framing is yet to be built, the following information will help you to **frame your shower correctly**.

- ① The framing for the shower should be constructed so that when the Shower Base is put in place, there is about a **1/8" gap on three sides** between the Base and the wood framing of the walls and the bench support.
- ② The bench support framing should include a plywood top (1/2" or thicker) that the Onyx Bench Seat will rest on. The bench support framing should extend from the back wall forward the size of the Base (front-to-back), minus 3/4" so that after the sheetrock is attached, the face of panel #6 winds up flush with the front face of the Shower Base curb.

If you plan to shim the Bench Seat slightly in the back to make it slope in for drainage, the shim should be put under the plywood so the Onyx Seat is fully supported underneath. A **slope of 1/16" to 1/8"** is enough to keep water from puddling on the Seat. Too much slope can cause someone to have an uneasy feeling of gradually slipping off the seat.

Before Assembly: continued . . .

The top of the Bench Seat support should be the same height from the floor as the finished height of Panel #6. This **panel is sometimes shipped taller** than the intended finished dimension in case the framing is not done when the shower is ordered, and the height of the seat has not been decided yet.

After the Base and Seat are set down in place, the walls can be sheetrocked (including both vertical sides of the bench support) before the wall panels go in. There should be about a **1/4" gap between** the bottom edge of the sheetrock and the top edge of the flanges that stick up from both the Shower Base and the Bench Seat.

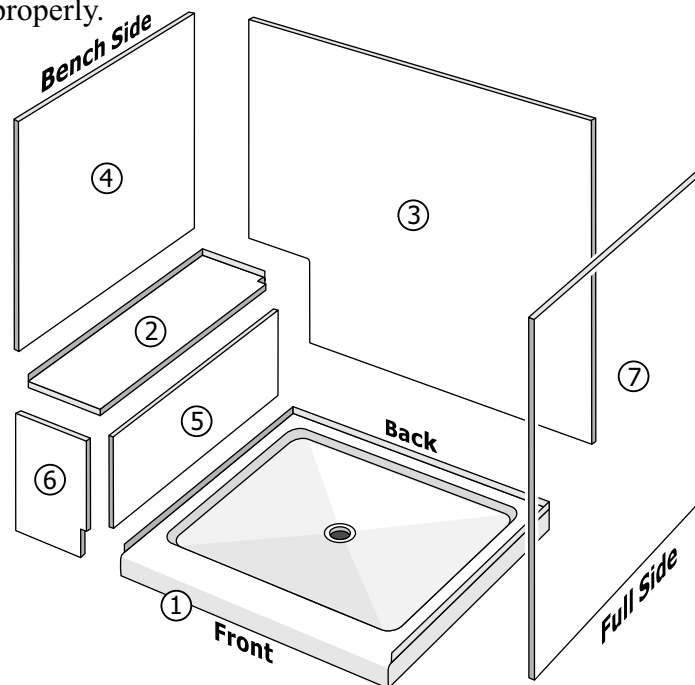
- ③ The Back Wall Panel #3 should have about a **1/8" gap on all sides** between the Panel and the walls around it, including where it wraps around the bench support. When you plan your notch cut, make sure to include this expansion gap in your plans, as well as any **slope angle** that you have created for the Bench Seat and the fact that the wing on this panel will sit on top of the Onyx Bench seat. Make sure to follow the instructions on Side 1 for **cutting your notch** in this Panel.
- ④ The Side Panel #4 and Skirt Panel #5 are **shipped as a**
- ⑤ **single panel** to be cut into two panels on-site, to fit correctly according to your bench seat framing.
- ⑥ The Bench Support End Panel #6 may have to be trimmed at the top to the correct angle if you have a sloped top Bench Support. This can be done using a Belt Sander (very coarse grit), or with an electric Jigsaw. This panel will fit under the Bench Seat, wrap up and over the Shower Base to cap off the front edge of the Skirt Panel #5, and be installed flush with the front of the Shower Base. The notch that will be required in the lower corner to put this panel in place can be cut with a Jigsaw. Because the panel is so small, there is no threat of a stress fracture, so the corner of the notch does not require pre-drilling like the one on the Back Panel.
- ⑦ The inside edge of the Full Side Panel #7 will butt up against the front face of the Back Panel #3.

Dry-Fitting the Pieces

Before putting adhesive on anything it is important to "dry-fit" the different pieces in place to make sure everything is there, all the sizes are correct and your notch fits the bench framing correctly. If anything is missing, wrong or broken, please call us before you start gluing things together.

If the Shower Base does not sit level on the floor or if the floor is not flat and sturdy, the floor will have to be shored up and made flat and level first. If you have any doubts about whether or not the floor needs to be

reinforced or leveled, please do it now. You don't want to find out after everything is installed that the floor is squeaking or the Base is rocking or won't drain properly.



While dry-fitting all your parts, keep in mind that each wall panel has only one or two **finished edges** and the rest are unfinished cut edges. All panels should be positioned so that the smooth **finished edges will be showing** after they are installed. If it looks like a cut edge will be showing, the panel is probably upside down, or the left and right panels have been switched.

While dry fitting all your parts, keep in mind that each wall panel has only one or two **finished edges** and the rest are **unfinished cut edges**. All panels should be positioned so that the smooth **finished edges will be showing** after they are installed. If it looks like a cut edge will be showing, the panel is probably upside down, or the left and right panels have been switched.

If you ordered a **Ceiling Panel** to go with your shower, this panel should be **installed first before everything else** so that the wall panels can help hold it up on the final assembly for added safety. An experienced installer can probably do the rest of the shower in the same session, but for someone who does not do this every day, it is probably best to let the Ceiling Panel adhesive cure completely overnight, and then install the rest the next day after removing the ceiling bracing.

Before you get started with your final assembly, make sure you have enough Onyx Adhesive and Colormatch Silicone to complete the job. It normally takes about one tube of **adhesive** (10.3 oz) for **every 1,500 square inches** of wall panels, and one tube of Colormatch silicone for the seams.

Onyx Adhesive Application

The **Onyx Adhesive** and **Colormatch Silicone** provided with your Shower are **specially made** to adhere to our products, keep them in place, and make your shower waterproof forever. Normal construction adhesives and commercially available caulks will almost certainly fall short and are never recommended for use when installing our products.

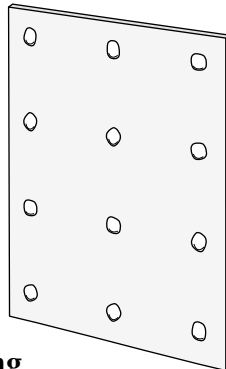
During installation, if it becomes necessary to **bend a panel** in order to get it into place, warming the panel with a **heat gun** or hair dryer from the back side will reduce the **risk of the panel cracking** when it flexes. Care should be taken so that heat is not applied to the adhesive or it may "skin over" and not stick properly.

When gluing the Panels in place, it is best to put **temporary shims** under the bottom edge of each panel so the weight of the panels is on the walls, and does not press against the the top side of the Base or the Seat. Popsicle sticks work well as shims, but anything made of wood or even cardboard can be used to create about a **1/16" gap** between the Wall Panels and the Base or Seat underneath it.

After the Adhesive cures and you **fill the seams** with the Colormatching Silicone, this 1/16" gap gives the Silicone a place to really grab on, and it also creates a cushion between the Base and Wall Panels so when everything **expands and contracts** at different rates there is no friction, tension or squeaky sounds.

To avoid trapped air pockets and promote proper curing, **apply adhesive silicone to the back side of panels in 2" wide x 1" thick circular 'globs'** - spaced about 18" apart and about 4" in from the edges, as shown in the illustration.

As the panel is pressed against the wall, the globs flatten out and act like suction cups, so a **minimum of bracing is needed** while the adhesive is curing. **Warmth and humidity shorten the cure time**, and coldness and dry air make it take longer to cure. The average adhesive cure time is around 24 hours.

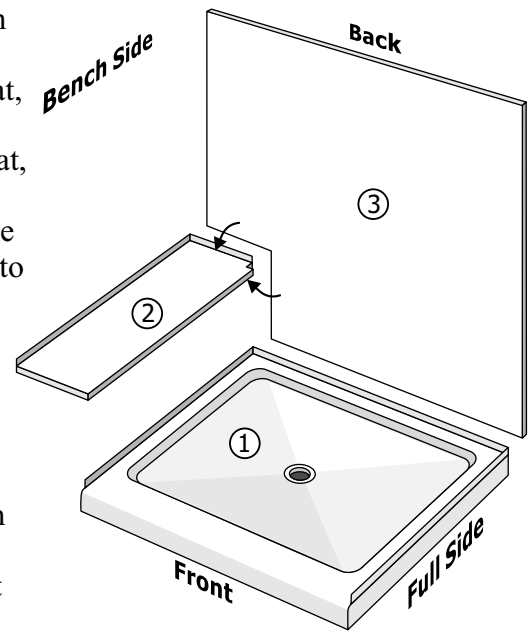


Assembling the Shower

First, set the Shower Base in place on your flat, level floor. It does not get glued to the floor or nailed to the walls, just set on the floor and sealed in the front. If everything has been done correctly, the front of the base will stick out 7/8" farther than the front of the Bench Support Framing (from the back wall), and there will be a 1/8" gap between the Base and the wood framing all around it.

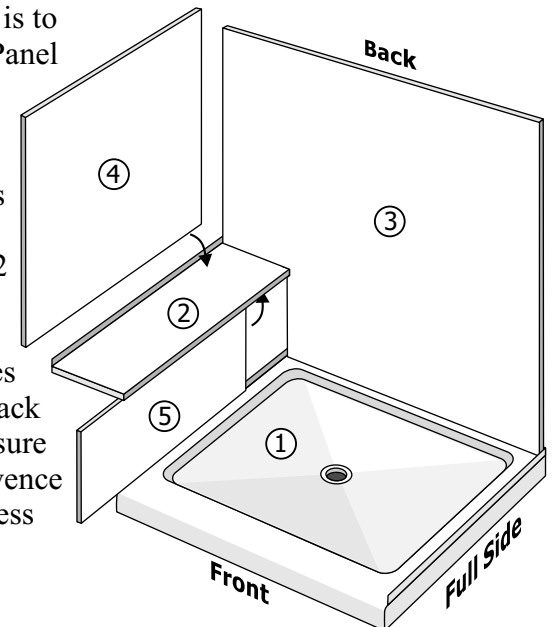
Next you want to seal between the front edge of the base and the floor so stray water can't wander under there. You can run a small bead of Onyx Colormatch Silicone along the seam, or if you want to make a neater job of it, you can jack up the front edge of the Base with a couple of pencils and shoot your Silicone bead under the front edge, set the Base down on it, and wipe away any Silicone that squishes out before it hardens up.

The Bench Seat and the Back Wall need to be put in together. First put a few lines of Adhesive across the plywood bench support (the long way) and set the Bench Seat down in place without pressing down yet. If it is pushed all the way against the Bench Side Wall behind it, and pulled a bit out away from the Back Wall, it will be easier to lift and slide the notched Back Wall Panel behind the notch on the front corner of the seat, and set it down on top of the Seat, in front of the flange. Apply the Onyx Adhesive to the back side of the Back Panel in the method described on page 2. After the Back Panel is in place, the Bench Seat can be slid out to its correct position.



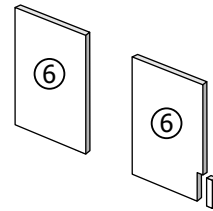
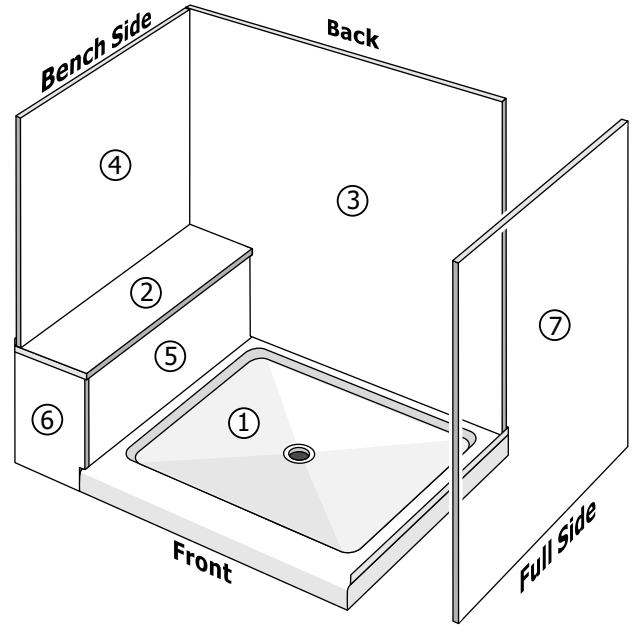
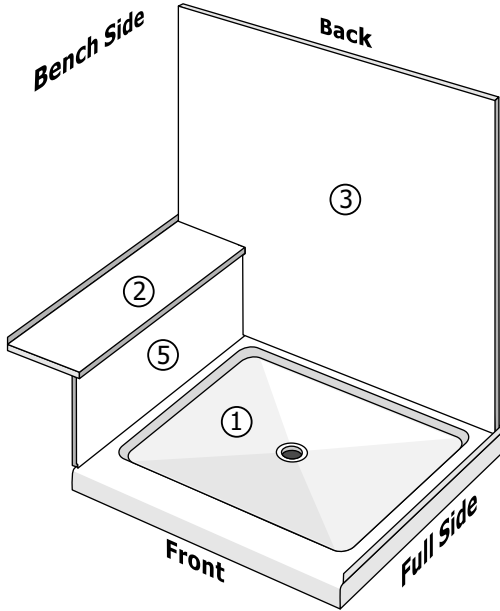
The picture below shows the Back Wall and the Bench Seat installed with their notches interlocked together.

The next step is to cut the Skirt Panel #5 off the bottom of the Bench Side Panel so it fits under the Bench Seat #2 and trim the bottom of #4 so the top lines up with the Back Panel #3. Be sure to make allowance for the thickness of your shims under all the panels.



Title

type



Installing Recessed Caddies

Recessed Soap and Shampoo Caddies are installed last, after the shower wall panels are in place and fully supported by the wall. But since they are recessed **into the wall between the wall studs**, the location of each Caddy should be planned before the sheetrock is put on the walls so there will be no conflicts later when it is time to cut the hole in the wall.

Each **Caddy comes with instructions** for its own installation, but they assume that the **stud placement in the walls was planned and recorded** before the Onyx Wall Panels were installed.