Installation Guide: Semi-Frameless Models

ARKSHOWERS

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Congratulations on the purchase of your bathtub shower screen and thanks for choosing Ark Showers.

Your shower screen is designed to enhance the appearance of your bathtub shower and provide a satisfying showering experience for years to come.

The following description and photos explain how to install the bathtub shower screen.

Disclaimer

Ark Showers recommends that only trained professionals install our shower doors. Ark Showers warns its customers that the installation of shower screens performed by those who are not professionally qualified or trained to do so could result in serious bodily injury or property damage. Ark Showers accepts no responsibility for such damage or injury resulting from the improper installation of shower screens.

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Plan ahead!

It is important to take the following into consideration while you are planning your bathroom renovation and before making a purchase:

- Our semi-frameless shower screens weigh between 56 and 72lbs, depending on the model you choose. Consequently they need to be securely fixed to the wall and the wall itself needs to be sound

- The weight of the semi-frameless model is taken partly by the tub (because the bottom of the continuous hinge rests on the tub ledge) and partly by the screws fixing the mounting bracket to the wall. (The weight of the frameless model is taken completely by the screws fixing the two discrete hinges to the wall)

It is recommended to find a good contractor who can assess your particular situation and make any necessary wall preparations prior to the installation. Please contact us if you have any questions about your particular requirements and we'll do our best to advise.

SAFETY WARNINGS – PLEASE READ BEFORE COMMENCING

- The frameless shower screen is both bulky and heavy (up to 83lbs in the packaging). It is recommended to use two able bodied people to move it. Failure to do this could lead to injury or damage to the screen.

- Tempered glass is considerably stronger and safer than regular glass. The tempering process creates balanced internal stresses which cause the glass, if broken, to crumble into small granular pieces instead of splintering into large, more dangerous jagged shards. Due to the internal stresses however, tempered glass cannot be modified (e.g. drilled or cut) and it should not be installed if there is any evidence of damage e.g. chips as this can cause the glass to shatter. Shattering may not take place at the same time the damage occurs, it can occur at some point in the future. So, DO NOT INSTALL THE SHOWER SCREEN IF YOU DISCOVER ANY DAMAGE TO THE GLASS, PARTICULARLY ALONG THE EDGES. Contact us instead.

- Work carefully and methodically when installing the shower screen to ensure that the glass does not come into contact with hard surfaces. The shower screen is precarious when resting unattached on the tub ledge. At least two people are required for these steps.

Check the delivery contents

Your shower screen is shipped in one large box. Occasionally the box suffers damage during shipping but damage to the contents is uncommon. As soon as conveniently possible, please inspect the box for any signs of damage. If you do notice any damage to the box we would be grateful if you would retain all of the packaging and check the corresponding area of the contents after opening the box. In the unlikely event that you find your shower screen is not in perfect condition, please notify us as soon as conveniently possible so that we can rectify the situation. Thank you for your cooperation.

What is in the box?

You will find the following inside the cardboard box your shower screen was shipped in:

1. Glass shower screen attached to hinge
2. Mounting bracket. This comes slotted onto the shower screen
3. Packet of mounting fittings comprising:
    - long stainless steel screws (3)
    - short self tapping screws (3)
    - white plastic anchors (3)
    - screw cups (3), screw caps (3)
    - small drill bit
    - clear plastic sweep ends (2)
4. Sweep for bottom of glass

(The video on our website, http://www.arkshowers.com/sein1.html, also shows grey plastic shims in the packet of mounting fittings. These have been discontinued and we now recommend the use of wooden shims because they stay in place better).

Please inspect the contents of the box carefully to ensure that all the parts are there and that everything is undamaged and blemish free. Contact us (800 275 3824) if anything is missing and we will rectify the situation promptly.

Main parts of shower screen

The shower screen has two main parts:

1. A U-shaped mounting bracket
2. The glass shower screen/hinge

Summary of Installation Procedure

The shower screen is installed in five main steps:

1. Fix the long mounting bracket to the wall
2. Insert the hinge (attached to the shower screen glass) into the mounting bracket
3. Fix the hinge to the mounting bracket
4. Attach the vinyl rubber seal to the bottom of the screen
5. Caulk the joint between shower screen and the wall/tub ledge

Tools required

1. Variable speed electric drill – specific requirements will depend on the tile you are drilling through; see table opposite for suggestions.
2. 5/16" (8mm) drill bit. It is recommended to use a pilot (e.g. ¼") drill first; this helps to prevent the final drill from wandering when the hole is started and makes drilling easier, especially in hard materials.
3. Safety goggles – for while you are drilling
4. Measuring tape
5. Marker pen - to mark the holes
6. Sprit level (ideally long) for checking the walls, tub and shower screen are plumb/level
7. Philips screw driver, #2 - to screw the wall mounting bracket to the wall and to the pivot
8. Mallet - to tap the anchors into the holes (or a hammer and protective material e.g. a shim)
9. Shims – to raise the glass to the correct height above the tub ledge. We recommend wooden shims because they don't slide as easily as the plastic shims. Alternatively, a 3/8" strip of wood can also be used to create this gap. It is important that the gap is at least 3/8"; if the gap is smaller than this then the sweep will fit too snugly and the shower screen will not open/close properly.
10. 100% silicone caulk and caulk gun

*The type of drill bits required depend on the material you are drilling into. Please refer to the table below for suggestions.

Material	Characteristics	Suggested drill bit	URL for Product example	Comments
Porcelain	Dense, hard, brittle	Diamond tipped	http://www.amazon.com/Anytime-Tools-DIAMOND-GLASS-MARBLE/dp/B000HE9RO4/ref=sr_1_3?s=hi&ie=UTF8&qid=1293120873&sr=1-3	Higher silica content than ceramic, fired at higher temperatures
Ceramic	Similar to porcelain but less so	Carbide tipped (brand new) or Diamond tipped	http://www.amazon.com/Bosch-GT2000-Glass-Tile-4-Piece/dp/B001GNC8RI/ref=cm_cr_pr_product_top	Higher clay content than porcelain. May also be possible to use a masonry drill bit at slow speed and *without* hammer action
Glass	Dense, hard, brittle	Diamond tipped	http://www.amazon.com/Anytime-Tools-DIAMOND-GLASS-MARBLE/dp/B000HE9RO4/ref=sr_1_3?s=hi&ie=UTF8&qid=1293120873&sr=1-3	
Marble	Relatively soft, often with imperfections e.g. veins	Diamond tipped (Carbide tipped)	http://www.amazon.com/Bosch-GT2000-Glass-Tile-4-Piece/dp/B001GNC8RI/ref=cm_cr_pr_product_top	
Stone or Reconstituted stone	Hard	Masonry	http://www.amazon.com/Bosch-HCBG800-Granite-8-Piece-Hammer/dp/B0000TZYZC/ref=pd_cp_hi_2	Hammer action may be necessary

Beginning the installation

1. Find a place in or near to the bathroom to lay the shower screen box flat. Remove all of the external packaging and the lid. Place packaging (especially the banding) to one side to prevent tripping.

2. Carefully remove the Styrofoam packaging from around the shower screen and place to one side.

3. Turn the hinge and mounting bracket upwards so that they point upwards enough to grab one end of the mounting bracket. Starting at one end of the mounting bracket, ease the bracket away from the hinge.

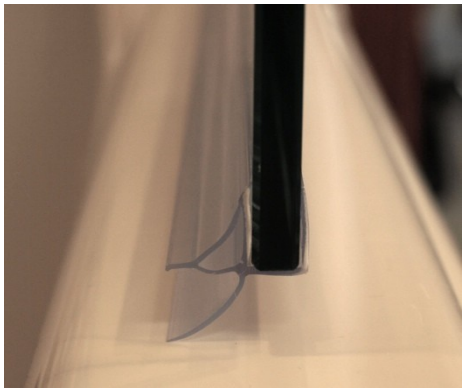


4. Move along the mounting bracket, pulling it away from the hinge (as shown opposite), until the mounting bracket is separate from the hinge.

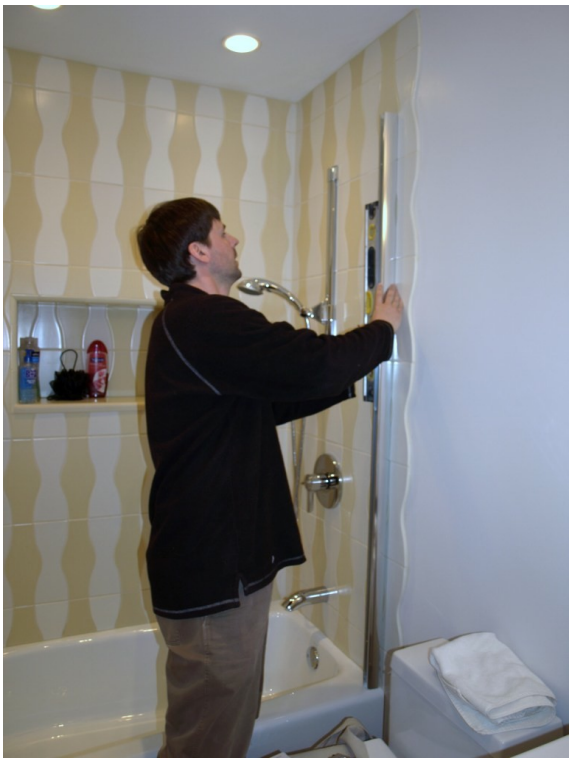
5. Remove the plastic wrapping around the mounting bracket and the shower screen/hinge and carefully inspect them in good light to ensure they are in perfect condition.

Mark the holes for the mounting bracket

The shower screen should be positioned so that water runs from the bottom of the glass back into the tub. For 'standard' rectangular US tubs (rectangular outside shape) it is recommended that the shower screen be mounted parallel to the outside edge of the tub and above the middle of the tub ledge at it's narrowest part as shown.



If the tub has a wide ledge then the shower screen should normally be positioned closer to the inside edge to prevent water from collecting on the ledge.



6. Rest the mounting bracket on the tub so that the inside (straight) face of the bracket lines up with the pencil line. (The curved face of the mounting bracket will therefore face out to the bathroom).

7. Hold a spirit level vertically against the straight edge of the mounting bracket. Keeping the bottom of the mounting bracket in place, adjust the bracket until it is perfectly vertical.

8. With the mounting bracket resting on the tub in the right position and vertical, mark the positions of the three fixing holes by tracing the three holes through the back of the mounting bracket onto the wall.

   With the positions of the three holes marked we are now ready to drill the holes.



Drill the holes for fixing the mounting bracket to the wall

5/16" (8mm) holes are required for the anchors supplied and it is recommended to build up to this size with one or two smaller holes first. It is important to select the right drill bits for the job.

DRILLING SAFELY

- Use eye protection when drilling
- Ensure that there are no electrical or water supplies behind the wall where the holes will be drilled

DRILLING TIPS



- If the tile has a very smooth, glazed surface, masking tape applied where the holes will be drilled can help prevent the drill bit from wandering until it has penetrated the glaze.
- Start each hole slowly building up the speed when the drill bit begins to run smoothly and in the right line.
- Don't push too hard on the drill, this may cause the tile to crack.
- Don't allow the drill bit to overheat:
  - keep the drill speed down and take frequent breaks to allow the drill bit to cool off
  - use a water spray (like those used at the hairdresser) to assist with cooling. Be careful not to direct the spray at the drill because this could lead to electric shock.
- Fix a plastic bag under each hole before it is drilled to collect the debris.

It may take some time to drill the holes so be patient, don't push too hard on the drill

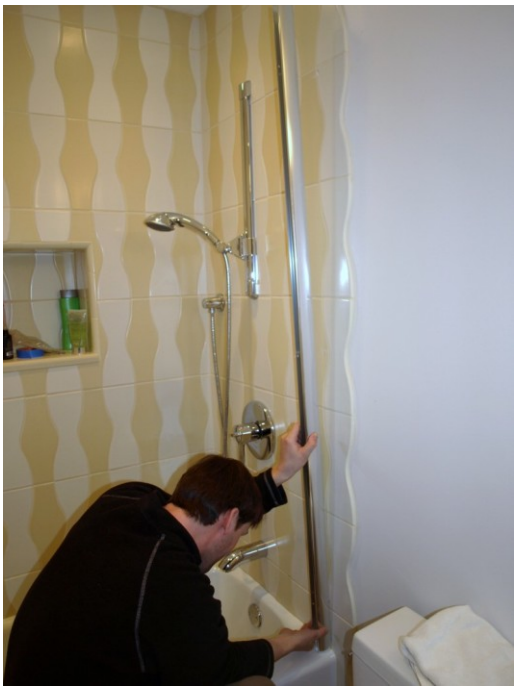
9. With the three holes drilled, press the white plastic anchors fully into the hole





10. Apply a line of 100% silicone to the back of the mounting bracket. This helps to fix the bracket to the wall and prevent water leakage

11. Carefully reposition the bottom of the mounting bracket and slowly press it back to the wall so that the holes drilled line up with the holes in the back of the bracket.



12. Recheck that the mounting bracket is vertical using the spirit level before screwing the screws fully home.



Attach the shower screen to the mounting bracket

NOTE: This requires two able bodied people



13. Carefully lift the shower screen into position, offer it up to the mounting bracket and insert it into the bracket.

14. Raise the vertical edge of the glass up to create a parallel gap between the glass and the tub ledge. Insert shims between the glass and the tub to support the glass. Check that the vertical edge of the shower screen is vertical using a spirit level. Adjust if necessary using the shims to create the correct gap.



15. With the shower screen inserted into the mounting bracket and supported by shims, drill through each of the three holes on the inside face of the mounting bracket using the drill bit provided.



16. Place a self tapping screw into a screw cup.



17. Screw the screw/screw cup into the shower screen hinge. Repeat for the other two screws.

18. Place the caps on each of the screw cups.



Fit the sweep and plastic sweep ends

Two oddly shaped plastic parts are supplied with the fixings, as shown. These fit into end of the sweep to fill the gap between the hinge and the sweep. There two parts are handed, for right and left hand installations. The other part can be installed at the other end of the screen if desired – it is arguably slightly better looking than the end of the sweep.



19. Slot the correct sweep end into hinge end of the sweep so that the 'fat' end of the plastic part lines up with the bottom of the U shape in the profile of the sweep, as shown. To check that you have installed the correct part, hold the end of the sweep up next to the glass and check that the curve of the plastic part follows the curve of the hinge.





20. Fit the sweep. Wipe along the bottom of the glass with a wet rag to make it easier to slide the sweep on. Take the hinge end of the sweep and ease it up on to the glass as close as possible to the hinge.

21. With an inch or so of the sweep on the glass, push the sweep along the bottom of the glass until it meets with the hinge. Check that the sweep end mates with the hinge (i.e. that the correct part has been installed - if not, remove the sweep and install the other sweep end). Then carefully ease the hinge upwards onto the glass, moving from the hinge towards the other end.

22. Optional. Fit the other plastic part to the other end of the sweep. Alternatively, a drop of clear caulk can be used to plug the hole and prevent water entering.

Caulk the joint between the shower screen and the wall/tub ledge

23. Apply 100% silicone caulk at the joint between the mounting bracket and the wall. Continue the caulk out from the bottom of the wall at the joint between the mounting bracket and tub ledge, to prevent water going under the shower screen. Continue the caulk around the bottom of the pivot up to where the glass starts in the closed position. (It helps to open the shower screen into the bathroom where possible to finish the caulking).

This completes the installation. We hope you enjoy your new Ark Shower Screen; we stand by our products so please contact us if you have any questions or concerns about your shower screen in the future.