

# An Introduction to 'Frameless' Shower Screens

Below are answers to some of the most frequently asked questions we receive.  
For more information, please contact us directly on 0870 201 1915

## ■ What is a 'Frameless' Shower Screen?

The word 'frameless' is used to describe the overall visual appearance of the shower screen. This does not mean that no 'frames' are used. Shower screens can be made up of hinging glass doors, glass panels that run inline with doors (In-line panels) and glass panels that are fitted at 90 or 135 degrees to the door or inline panel and return to the wall (Return panels) All hinged glass doors have polished edges with no framework. In most cases the edges have a translucent plastic water seal attached. All fixed panels (either in-line or return) are attached to the finished surface (wall, floor, shower tray, ceiling etc) by use of a narrow, highly polished aluminium channel, which is used to securely hold the glass and produce an effective water retaining seal between the glass and finished surface. The use of this channel also provides the installer a small amount of tolerance to allow for walls that are not 100% square.

## ■ Will my Shower Screen be 100% Watertight?

The simple answer to this is no! An inherent characteristic of a frameless shower screen is the fact that there are gaps between the door and panels as well as underneath the door and the hinges through which water may pass. These gaps may be closed, with good effect, by using translucent seals. Frameless screens are really suited to 'wet' environments (i.e. tiled floor etc) that are suitably prepared so that any small amount of water that does escape is not an issue. The slight disadvantage that may be caused by this is far out-weighed by the stunning visual effect achieved.

## ■ What is my Shower Screen made from?

All glass is 8mm thick safety glass, toughened in accordance with BS6206 class A. All hinges, handles, brackets etc are made from brass or stainless steel and are 'plated' to match chrome. All channels are made from highly polished aluminium.

## ■ What Glass Finishes can I have?

Glass is offered in a choice of clear or sandblasted finishes. Special designs can be produced – please contact us for more information.

A special 'anti-plaque' glass finish can be applied to the surface of the glass. This helps to repel a build up of lime scale and makes the glass much easier to keep clean.

## ■ Is there a choice of Handles?

Yes. As standard we supply a 150mm D handle – model no H1. You can choose from a number of alternatives, details of which can be found with in this brochure.

## ■ What dimensions can my Shower Screen be made to?

All dimensions are quoted in millimetres (mm). Depending on the configuration you choose, your shower screen can normally be made to suit the space you have. Consideration must always be given to the physical safety of the structure and the day-to-day operation of the screen. As a guide, the normal width of a door is 650mm with larger spaces requiring an in-line or return glass panel to fit your opening. The normal height of a shower screen is 2000mm and an over bath screen is 1500mm. Depending on your requirements, supporting stay bars may be required or fixed glass panels may need additional support from the ceiling. All of these details can be discussed once we are supplied with your finished opening dimensions. In addition, where walls are out of square or you have a ceiling that is sloped, we can have the glass cut to suit the angle.

## ■ Who should install my Shower Screen?

Aquaplus Solutions will manufacture your shower screen to the dimensions provided by you. In our significant experience, it is imperative that you

employ someone fully qualified to both measure and install your screen. We strongly suggest that you use a specialist installer who has experience of this kind of work. Whilst we cannot directly accept any responsibility for their work we can provide details of specialist installation companies who have regularly installed our products. Please contact us for more information.

## ■ How should I prepare the area where the screen is to be installed? Please show this information to your Builder

Your screen will be hand-made, specifically for you and as such; great care must be taken when preparing the area where the screen is to be installed. The following points **MUST** be observed:

All bases (shower trays, tiled floors, etc) should be horizontal over the whole length. If the base is out of level the screen may be difficult to install and remedial work may need to be carried out by your installer prior to installation.

Please note that where your screen is being installed directly onto a tiled floor it is imperative that you consider any items below the tiles (i.e. under-floor heating, pipe-work etc) that could be damaged when the glazing channels are being screw fixed into place. You should also be aware that the plastic seal on the bottom of the door works by the wiper blade making contact with the tiles. Therefore it is possible that when the tiles are grouted, gaps may be left that water may pass through.

All walls should be upright, level and plumb. If the walls are not upright, level and plumb the screen may be difficult to install and remedial work may need to be carried out by your installer prior to installation.

Your shower screen is manufactured using thick toughened safety glass that is heavy. It is important that all walls (and ceiling where appropriate) are suitably prepared so that the installer can achieve a suitable secure fixing (for hinges, channels, stay bars etc) during installation. If the wall is a stud wall (as opposed to a solid wall) timber supports **MUST** be located behind the fixing points. The minimum specification of these timbers is either **300mm x 300mm x 25mm** squares where the hinges or stay bars are fixed directly to the wall (the exact location of these is governed by the overall height of your shower screen – contact us for more info if required) or **100mm x 50mm x required length** where glazing channels are fixed directly to the wall (and ceiling where panels are being installed full height).

Your dimensions should be taken to finished works. This means that all bases and walls should be in their finished condition (i.e. tiled or marbled etc) before measuring.

If you specifically require any channels to be installed before you tile (so that you can tile up to them to conceal them) all sub wall surfaces must again be fully prepared. Please note that this kind of installation will require additional visits by your installer to measure.

You must ensure that your installer is fully informed, at the time of the initial visit to site to measure, of any items that you intend to position after either the measuring or the installation has taken place, that may effect, in anyway, the future operation of your shower screen (i.e. wall mounted towel radiators, WC's, basins etc).

## ■ How do I proceed and how long will the whole process take?

Once you are ready, please contact us to discuss your requirements. We will then issue you with a written estimate for the supply of the goods. From receipt of a signed order acknowledgement form which will be issued upon receipt of your finished sizes, we aim to process your order and deliver your goods within 28 days. In practice, most orders are completed in less time; however, all quoted delivery dates are estimates and cannot be guaranteed.