

The Pros & Cons of Frameless Shower Doors

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A frameless shower door gives your bathroom a wide-open look.

When designing a contemporary bathroom, you may consider installing a frameless shower door to give the space a sleek, modern feel. Unlike traditional shower doors that feature metal frames that hold the glass in place, frameless doors utilize heavy glass that is mounted directly to the wall with discreet metal hardware. While there are benefits to this type of shower door, you may encounter some problems as well. Before committing to frameless shower doors, consider both the pros and cons to determine whether they're the right fit for your bathroom.

Pro – Sleek Design

- One of the most significant benefits of a frameless shower door is its sleek, modern design. Because it doesn't have any visible frames, the door provides a wide-open look that fits well in a contemporary, minimalist-style bathroom. Because it provides an unobstructed view of your shower, a frameless door is also an ideal option if you have a custom tile design for your shower surround that you wish to showcase. In particular, it is an attractive look if your shower features a mosaic pattern, since the design is visible throughout the bathroom. The thicker glass used provides a more sturdy feel when using the door.

Pro – Easy to Clean

- Another advantage of a frameless shower door is that it is easier to clean than a traditional framed door. A frameless door does not require any tracks, so there is no channel for mildew or mold to grow on and residue from soap to collect in. As a result, it requires less time and effort to clean than a framed door. In addition, because the door does not contain a metal frame, there is no risk of corrosion or rust, which typically allows a frameless door to outlast a framed model.

Con – May Leak

- Depending on the position of your showerhead, you may find that your frameless shower door causes leaks on your bathroom floor. A traditional framed door has a magnetic closure and rubberized seals that help keep water from splashing out of the shower while it is in use. However, a frameless shower door typically has a small gap around it because there is no track. As a result, if your showerhead is located too close to the door, water may splash from inside the shower to the floor outside. Repositioning your showerhead so it is further away from the door may help you avoid this issue.

Con – Cost

- Frameless shower doors usually carry hefty price tags that may put one out of your price range if you are on a strict budget for your bathroom remodeling project. Frameless doors feature glass that is heavier and thicker than traditional shower doors because the glass must be sturdy enough to remain in place without the assistance of a frame. This type of glass is more costly, which drives up the price of the shower door. In addition, most frameless shower doors are custom projects, so they require more time and effort to make and install. These extra labor costs also make them more expensive than prefabricated framed doors.
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