



Choosing the right shower enclosure is easy as 1-2-3

(HIT)-It used to be that homeowners purchased a shower door for practical reasons. Now, it is just as much about the aesthetics of the shower door, and its relationship to the rest of the room, as it is about necessity. And according to a recent forecast published by a leading kitchen and bath trade publication, over 1 million shower stalls will be designed and installed in 2002.

"Many designers feel the shower has become the focal point of the bathroom," explains Ray Adams, Vice President of Marketing & Sales for Coastal Industries, one of the leading shower door manufacturers in the U.S. "As the size and function of the bathroom has expanded, so has the shower area. Homeowners are now more likely to consider the shower their primary bathing space and one of the most prominent elements in the bathroom. We are noticing more and more that homeowners want open-plan designs in order to create light and atmosphere in the bathing suite."

Designing a master bathing suite might seem overwhelming. And there are many decisions that have to be made, from the type of cabinetry or furniture the bath will have, to the

faucets, fixtures and shower enclosure. However, when it comes to customizing your shower enclosure, Coastal Industries suggests these tips to consider that will ensure you get the right look as well as the right product.

To frame or not to frame?

When choosing a shower enclosure, one of the first decisions a homeowner should make is whether or not the enclosure will be framed or frameless. This decision can best be determined by considering the design of the shower suite in relation to the rest of the room, the amount of space the enclosure will occupy and the desired budget for the enclosure. Both types of enclosures can be elegantly designed and are equally luxurious.

Framed enclosures require more material and are more rigid. A custom framed enclosure might work best for a unique shower stall design with uneven walls. A framed shower enclosure is less expensive than a frameless installation. Another convenient factor about framed shower enclosures is that they can usually be installed in one afternoon.

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To enclose or not to enclose, that is the question.

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