



TE How to Build a Handicapped Wheelchair Accessible Shower

I completed a roll in **shower** for some very nice folks In **Essex MA** about a month ago. The lady of the houses older mom was moving in and she was preparing for the future. The prices she was getting were out of this world, and I was about the 5th guy looking at the job. The **bathroom** was a typical old new England over 100 years old. All the walls in the shower were **3 inch concrete** with **metal lathe**, the outside walls of the **bathroom** were **horse hair plaster**. The first obstacle was the tear out. This was where they were being charged the most \$ for labor I walked the man of the house through what it would take and he felt confident he could handle the task. Next I explained step by step what it would take to build their **shower** in a economic way while still getting a top quality long lasting **installation**.

After the tear out, came the **rubber shower pan liner installation** making sure the **shower liner** is at least **12 inches** up the walls and NEVER nailed below the **8 inch** mark. The front of the **liner** will go straight out of the mouth of the shower 2 ft into the bathroom floor (because there is no curb) the liner just keeps going into the room and is nailed at the end **2ft** out of the mouth of the **shower**.

With the **liner** now installed the **1/2 inch hardie board** is nailed to the **studs** everywhere that **tile** will be installed again NO NAILS BELOW the **8 INCH waterline**. **Hardy board** is **caulked** and sealed with "silicone II" 50 year caulk.

Wall tile is now **installed** on the **walls** and we are ready to build the **bench**. Almost all the **tile installers** who had given quotes on the job were going to build the **bench** out of wood.

I knew however that concrete block was much more economic and would last forever. So in about 1 hour I laid 9 concrete blocks with 1 - 60 lb bag of masonry mix and YA! a bench for the next 200 years!

So now came the **concrete 3 inch roll** over "**speed bump**" **wheelchair accessible shower floor** with slant to the **drain**. This was accomplished in part by having built up the outside **bathroom floor** a couple of inches high, leaving the **shower floor** area **2 inches** lower before we even started with the **concrete**. It took 5- 60 lb bags of "**sand topping**" mix to "**dry pack**" the **shower floor** with a slant to the band a "**speed bump**" instead of the normal **curb**.

The rest was tile finishing **Hardiboard** on top of the **block bench** in a thick bed of "**marble and granite**" "**thinset/medium bed mortar** (home depot product) then tiled. **Mosaic shower floor tile** laid just right over the "**speed bump**" and meeting the outside **floor tile** finished off the job.

©Tile Excellence. All Rights Reserved.

[Tile Excellence Website](#)

[Ask Tile Excellence Blog](#)

[Facebook](#)

[Twitter](#)