

Pro Advanced Custom Tiled Shower Kit Installation Instructions



(800) 369-5458

For 48x48, 32x60, 48x72, 72x72

Please read all instructions thoroughly before beginning. If you have questions, please call.

Tools & Materials Required or Recommended

- Jigsaw (for subfloor drain hole) & Drill (for pilot hole)
- Premium Modified (Latex/Polymer) Thin-set Mortar (no premixed)
- 5-Gallon Bucket
- Mixer, caulking gun
- 1/4" x 3/8", 3/16" x 3/16" up to 1/4" x 1/4" square or V-notch trowel
- Margin Trowel (optional) - may use flat edge of standard trowel
- Utility Knife
- PVC or ABS Cement, and section of coupler pipe for connection
- Level
- Lacquer thinner - consider your ventilation. You will need no more than 1/3 of the included applicator bottle.

Your Kit Includes:

- Primary Pan sections
- Extension sets for some kit sizes
- 108 - 216 SF waterproofing membrane
- 33 - 66 LF waterproof joint band
- 4 pre-shaped inside corners
- 1 drain flange ABS/PVC
- 1 tube waterproofing sealant/adhesive
- Drain Grate riser with construction plug
- Hair Trap & Choice of Drain Grate cover
- Plastic beads for cavity stabilization
- *Curb pieces if optionally ordered*

1. Ensure that your subfloor is flat and level. If not, use leveling compound before beginning installation. Locate drain position and arrange pan pieces to center over drain area. If the area is smaller than the pan or pan plus extension(s), trim foam with a fine-toothed hand, power saw, or utility knife and straight edge - preferably equally from each side until the pan pieces fit the custom space properly with the hole centered on the desired drain location. If the overall pan size is smaller than the desired floor plan, dry-pack mortar may be used to extend the size of the shower pan where needed.

2. Mark general drain location on the subfloor (if it does not already exist) by using the center hole of the dry-fitted pan pieces as a guide. Trace another circle 1/2" inside the existing circle. It is preferable but not absolutely necessary to leave this ~1/2" ridge for better drain flange support. You may also use a center point and create a circle with about a 4" diam.



3. Drill Pilot Hole on the inner circle you have hand drawn Use the jigsaw to cut hole in subfloor using the inner-most circle as a guide (~4" diam.). There should be enough clearance for the tail-piece of the drain flange, but the base of the flange is preferably supported by the subfloor. Be sure to (test) dry fit drain flange and pan pieces.



4. The pictures show various floor panel configurations depending on the kit.

A 48x48 pan will include 4 interlocking pieces.

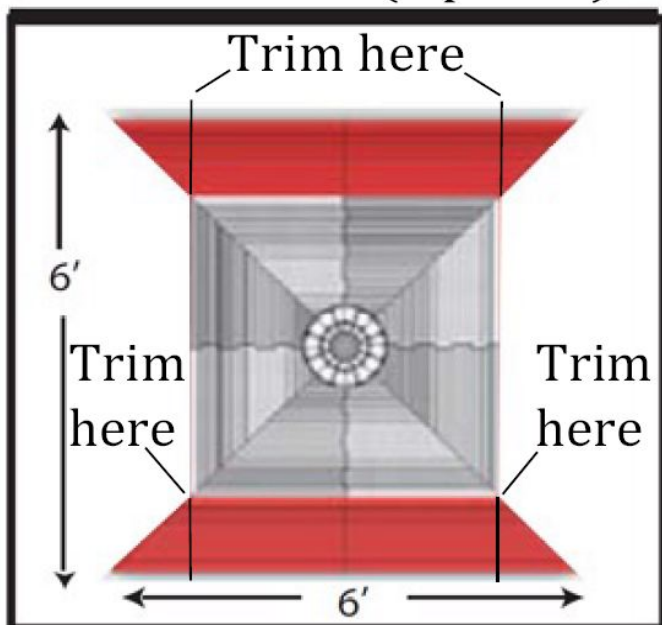
A 32x60 pan will have two.

A 72x72 kit consists of a 48x48 pan with 2 extension sets (a total of 8 additional panel pieces.)

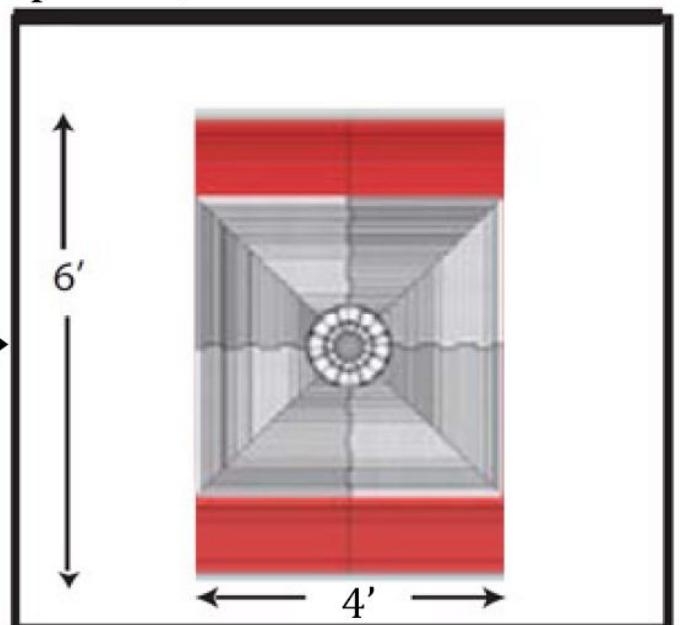
A 48x72 kit uses just one extension set with the four extension pieces laid out as per the diagram then trimmed.



48 x 48 tray with one extension set (4 pieces)



After trimming extension pieces, a 48 x 72 is created



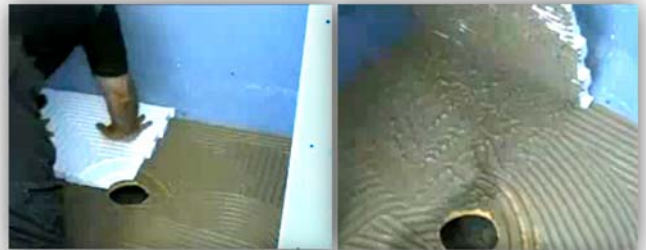
5. Your drain pan is usually precut for this custom drain flange. However if it is not, trim the inside of the pan drain opening to allow for a snug fit of the flange. It should fit as seen in the picture (this example shown in a 32x60 pan) and the drain outlet on the bottom side of the pan should look like the second picture.



6. Test Fit drain flange in pan and measure distance to 2" waste pipe fitting under subfloor. Cut and test the proper length coupler pipe that will attach flange to waste pipe but still properly seat flange into pan/floor assembly. Ensure that this is correct - your next step will be to glue the flange to the waste pipe plumbing.



7. Trowel thinset onto the entire subfloor in the pan area using a 1/4" x 3/8" up to a 3/8" x 3/8" trowel, AND the back of the pan. Although less thin-set may offer a sufficient bond, insufficient thin-set will likely create a scenario where the drain flange sits up too high (out of the "pocket").



It is desirable for the flange to have full support at the base on the subfloor unlike other designs that only have support from a larger flimsy flange. (Press the first pan section firmly into the thinset, then peel back to check coverage. If 100% coverage is not achieved, back-butter the bottom of the pan piece with additional thinset and repeat until 100% coverage is achieved. Repeat until all sections are installed into the desired pan area. Walk over the pan sections to help ensure that each piece is fully embedded into the thinset mortar.



(Please note when test/dry fitting bare pan to floor with bare drain flange on floor, you will be able to see how

8. Trowel premium modified thinset mortar into the drain flange recess of the pan as shown. This pan was designed to fit several different types of larger drain flanges. For the Advanced Custom kit, there will be an exposed recess area outside of the drain flange that will need to be completely filled with thinset before applying membrane approx. 2". Simply screed the thinset flush from the drain flange to the continuation of the pan slope. (You can use the white ring tool to prevent thinset from getting on the face of the flange. This surface **MUST** be free of thinset, remove any thinset from the surface and grooves of the flange before proceeding to lay membrane.)



9. Depending on your plumbing, begin to apply appropriate PVC or ABS glue to your waste pipe, your precut coupler pipe (from step 5) and the inside of the drain flange output neck. (If you somehow have the wrong type flange for your plumbing - ABS black, PVC white/gray - you may use a universal glue. (Check your area for code requirements.) To prevent glue from setting up too fast, you may want to bond one piece at a time - i.e. coupler pipe to waste pipe, then flange to coupler pipe.

10. Seat the drain flange down onto the coupler pipe until firmly embedded into the troweled thin-set. Photos show seating into a mortar bed installation rather than a pan - the concept is the same. (You can use the white ring tool to prevent thinset from getting on the face of the flange. This surface **MUST** be free of thinset, remove any thinset from the surface and grooves of the flange before proceeding to lay membrane.)



NOTE ON WATERPROOFING PROCEDURE:

These instructions show the installation from the floor up. We highly recommended to allow the floor installation to cure 24 hours before proceeding with the wall and other installation steps. If you need to complete this installation more quickly - to avoid risk of disturbing the floor installation, we recommend reversing the installation order (walls first starting at the bottom and going up) then finish with the floor install. Please be sure to pre-cut the pan membrane for your floor section if using this method and set aside for later.

Your waterproofing membrane is 1 meter or 39.5" wide. On 32" wide shower kits, you can precut a single sheet of 39" wide membrane and precut for the drain hole if desired.

On all other shower kit configurations or on larger mortar bed layouts, you will need to plan for at least two sheets with a minimum of a 2" overlap.

Ensure that the two pieces **DO NOT** overlap **AT** or **ON** the drain location to help ensure installation integrity.

Pre-cut the membrane needed for the pan and continue to the next step.

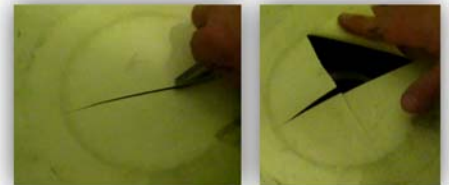
11. Trowel premium modified thin-set mortar onto one side of the pan area with a 3/16" x 3/16" or 1/4" x 3/16" V-notch trowel up to a 1/4" x 1/4" square trowel. You may use the "traditional" 1/8" x 1/8" square trowel but will be adding extra work to ensure 100% thin-set coverage of membrane. Take special care not to thin-set the drain flange - wipe off any overage.



12. Remove the white ring tool (if supplied) and apply 2-3 generous beads of Noble 150 adhesive to the flange on the grooved surface of the flange, creating ring shaped seals. The waterproofing sealant retains superior bond and flexibility compared to thin-set and will bond tenaciously to both the membrane and the plastic flange.



13. Lay the precut pan piece over the pan area paying careful attention to the alignment of the drain hole over the beads of sealant. If you wish to use the white ring tool to achieve a better bond you must now trim the excess out of the center of the flange. At this point you may replace the white ring tool and riser to create a clamping force to achieve a better more complete bond with the Nobel 150 sealant on the flange. (Do not leave on for more than 30 minutes or the excess Nobel 150 may bond with your white ring tool.



If you do not wish to use the ring tool. You may cutout this section later. For now use the margin section of your trowel to press the membrane into the Nobel 150 creating complete coverage over the flange's ribs.



14. Using the flat side of a trowel or a wooden/plastic float begin vigorously pressing the membrane into the thinset working your way out and away from the drain location. (Occasionally peel the membrane back to ensure 100% coverage on the membrane with thinset). If bubbles exist under the membrane lift the membrane, add a bit more thinset and rework the excess outward.



15. Join or extend the membrane by thinsetting a 2" overlap created by overlapping adjacent pieces by 2" or by overlapping both sides of a joint with 5" band.



ALL joints/seams must have at least two inch overlap to be waterproof.



16. Trowel thin-set into an inside corner to prepare for the pre-shaped inside corner piece. Fit the corner piece into position by hand. Using a margin trowel or the flat section of your trowel, press the corner into the thin-set area to ensure a complete bond. Be sure to peel a section back to check for 100% coverage. Smooth the corner out and check for air bubbles. A properly installed corner blends into the installation as shown in the picture. Repeat for all 4 inside corners.



17. Measure your joint seam band section and cut your 5" or 6" wide band to measurement. The following photos show a very short section for more practical viewing. Fold strip in half lengthwise and press to crease. Test fit pre-creased section to ensure proper fit. Trowel thin-set onto the section to prepare for the pre-creased joint band section. Fit the joint band piece into position by hand. Using a margin trowel or the flat section of your trowel, press the section into the thin-set area to ensure a complete bond. Be sure to peel a section back to check for 100% coverage. Smooth out and check for air bubbles.



18. After completing all lower horizontal joint strips, proceed to installing vertical joint strips using the exact same techniques. If you are not taking your tiling all the way up to the ceiling, be sure to mark where your tiling will end and measure the correct length for each piece. Repeat for any vertical corner surfaces. Note: If you run short on band, you can create your own out of any excess membrane.



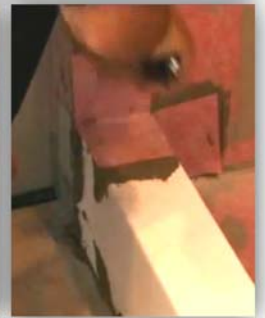
19. Take care when moving over your freshly installed floor sections.

With all joints and corners complete, begin to install the wall pieces starting from the bottom up. Ensure at least a 2" overlap on any adjoining sections. Installation continues exactly like it did for floor sections. As always, peel back membrane to ensure 100% coverage and constantly run hands over membrane to feel for any trapped air bubbles.

You may wish to wait for the floor to cure a bit before proceeding (please review information at steps 9-10 regarding alternative install order to avoid risk of disturbing floor). In any case, take



20. If you have constructed your own curb, ensure that it is sheathed with a rigid material like concrete board or sheetrock. If you purchased the optional curb, test fit your curb sections and trim as necessary to fit the desired space. Trowel thin-set into the curb seating area and back-butter the ends, sides and bottom of each curb section. If your curb includes a groove or cavity, be sure to fill it with thin-set. If you have pre-coated curbs from Noble, they already include plenty of grip and do not require a groove or cavity. Install the curb sections into position. If you purchased a curb, you should have pre-shaped outside corners.



Use your corner-installation techniques to install these at each end of the curb. Finally, measure and cut a proper sized piece of membrane to cover the curb. Ensure that there is a minimum of a 2" overlap onto the pan floor. Install like other membrane sections.

21. Allow installation to dry / cure. Although modified thin-set provides a superior installation, it does take longer to cure than unmodified thin-set. A box fan in the room circulating air will help speed cure time. You probably will need at least 24 hours for a reasonable cure. You may test an exposed bit of thin-set with the point of your razor knife to test cure progress.

If you must walk on the uncured surface use a sheet of plywood to spread out your weight. Do not apply point loads with ladders or scaffolding without protecting the membrane and pan.

When ready, thread in your drain riser with construction plug. Use spacers to dry fit your floor tile within a grout-space width of the riser construction plug. During this process, thread your riser so the drain plug is flush with your tile install. Our example photo shows an installation involving complex cuts.

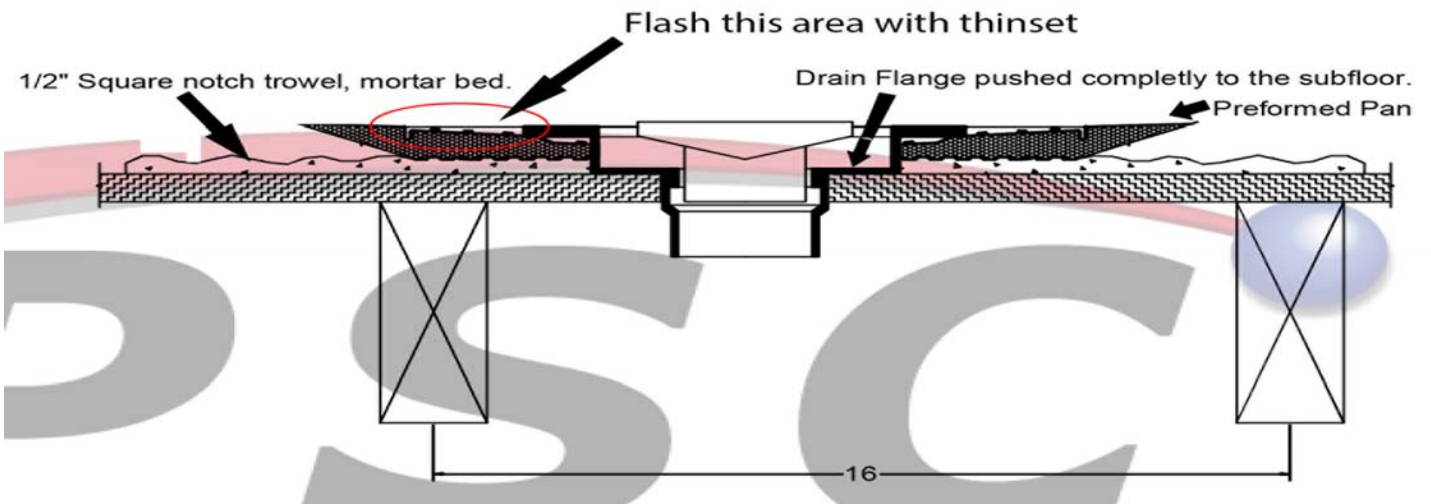


22. After setting grate riser position, remove dry-fitted tile from around drain area. Locate the bag of plastic beads included with your kit. Pour these into the four sides of the cavity surrounding the riser. Clean up any scattered beads, smooth out fill and ensure the bead fill is level with the surrounding floor. Because lacquer thinner evaporates quickly, ensure the area is well ventilated. **FILL THE INCLUDED APPLICATOR BOTTLE TO NO MORE THAN 1/3 with lacquer thinner.** Using the included applicator bottle, squirt lacquer thinner into the beads which will then instantly “melt” the beads together into a cohesive substrate. The beads will set fairly quickly and excess lacquer thinner will evaporate. Use margin trowel or flat edge to press firmly on frozen beads to ensure stability. Gently attempt to twist riser to ensure that it has been fully stabilized. Allow installation to fully cure.



23. After setting of the bead substrate, it is a good idea to flush the drain out of any possible buildup of excess lacquer thinner within the drain (trap). To remove construction plug (black cover) at any time, drive a dry-wall screw a few turns into the center indent of the cover, grab the screw (with pliers if necessary), and pull. Flush drain with water sufficient to flush possible buildup.

24. After installation has completely cured, most codes require proper flood testing. Please check for your local requirements.



Additional Considerations

- **Choosing the highest quality premium modified (latex/polymer) thin-set you can find will make your installation much easier and yield better results. After decades of using every brand available, we highly recommend TEC brand adhesives which are available on our web site(s). However, we certainly understand the high cost of shipping heavy materials. If purchasing locally - as of 1/1/2013, your local retail price for a high-quality 50# bag of thin-set generally ranges from \$25 to \$35. Please question the quality of anything costing less unless you have special purchasing power.**
- **Despite claims to the contrary regarding waterproof membranes, modified thin-set is recommended by the Tile Council of America (TCA) for most modern tile installations and provides contemporary standards of performance. However, you may at your discretion use an unmodified thin-set if you have good reason to do so and/or are very experienced with maximizing results with such material; it does cure faster. Maximizing air flow in the work area will really help accelerate cure times of your thin-set.**
- **If you are installing very large, heavy tiles on your walls (12 x 18s, 12 x 24s), we highly recommend purchasing our TEC Ultimate Performance large-format Latex Modified Mortar - the 40 lb bag yields the same coverage as a 50 lb bag of standard-style mortar. This mortar is rated for thin-set or medium-set beds. No other mortar compares to the non-slump holding power of this product.**
- **Rather than sealing and resealing and scrubbing grout, we recommend the use of TEC's Power Grout. This grout has been engineered to perform like very expensive epoxies and urethane grouts but offer lower pricing and much easier installation. Power Grout is VERY stain resistant, permanently sealed, won't effloresce or discolor, is easy to install like standard grout, and cures very quickly - 4 hours for dry traffic, 24 hours for wet.**
- **If your installation requires a grout color not available in the Power Grout family, use TEC Grout Boost Advanced Pro. Although it will not offer fast cure times, this product will dramatically improve the stain resistance and permanently seal your standard grout (guaranteed for TEC Accucolor standard grouts. This product is available in a 70 oz. liquid designed to treat exactly 25 lbs of dry grout (use instead of water - but may add extra water to achieve desired consistency.)**