

BUDGET-FRIENDLY \$12,000 DIY Kitchen Remodel p. 76

KITCHENS & BATHS

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Plan a kitchen island p. 40

Buyer's guide to bathtubs p. 34

Options for durable floors p. 50

WINTER 2021
FineHomebuilding.com

\$12.99 US / \$14.99 CA



Taunton Product #027068

DISPLAY UNTIL JANUARY 10, 2022

Installation options

There are six basic styles of bathtub. Virtually all tubs require a 2-in. waste line and either 1/2-in. or 3/4-in. supply lines. The larger-diameter supply pipes will fill the tub faster, but you'll have to flush twice the volume of cool water before the hot water starts flowing, unless the water heater is close by or a hot-water recirculation system is installed.

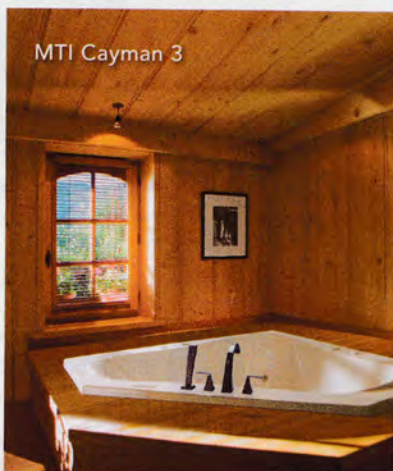
Alcove and corner



Duravit Daro
700027

ALCOVE Placed within three walls and allowing access from only one side of the tub, alcove installations are an easy path to a tub/shower combination. The two most common alcove tub sizes are 60 in. by 30 in. and 60 in. by 32 in. These are the rough-in dimensions of the tub—a typical 60-in. by 32-in. tub will have a smaller bathing well, about 55 in. by 24 in. at the top, narrowing to 45 in. by 22 in. at the bottom. Thirty-in. tubs have an even smaller bathing well (55 in. by 22 in.), which many adults find too narrow to be comfortable.

CORNER As the name implies, a corner tub installation locates the tub in a 90° corner formed by intersecting walls. Corner tubs can be freestanding, drop-in, or undermount. Installing a corner tub is virtually the same as installing a tub elsewhere in the bathroom, but because the arrangement leaves less room for the tub filler, you have to carefully consider the placement of the filler and the hot and cold taps so that you won't have to crawl over them getting in and out of the tub.



MTI Cayman 3



BainUltra Amma 7242

Drop-in and undermount

DROP-IN This type of bathtub sits on top of a wood-framed structure that is built ahead of the tub installation. Come installation time, the tub is lowered into place and the plumbing connections are completed. The tub filler is often mounted on top of the deck, but it can also emerge from the floor or from an adjacent wall. Platforms can be completely freestanding or attached to one or more walls. They can also be installed in a corner.

UNDERMOUNT This is similar to a platform installation in that it is installed in a site-built enclosure that's constructed ahead of the tub installation. Once the tub is in place, the rim of the tub and the top of the enclosure are covered by a deck top made of stone, tile, or other waterproof material. The tub itself is supported by the floor system. The tub filler can be mounted on the deck or it can emerge from an adjacent wall or from the floor.



Duravit Starck
700012

Freestanding and soaking

FREESTANDING Prior to the building boom following World War II, nearly all bathtubs in the U.S. were freestanding. Freestanding tubs can be fully exposed with finished flooring underneath or they can be skirted with panels made from virtually any water-resistant material. Freestanding tubs are most often cast iron or acrylic, but they can also be made from more exotic materials like cultured stone, copper, and even wood. Both the waste and supply lines that connect to freestanding tubs are often on display, so their aesthetics should be considered as part of the design.

SOAKING Soaking tubs are often freestanding, but they're usually deeper, wider, and longer than conventional freestanding tubs. Common lengths are 6 1/2 ft. or 7 ft., allowing even the tallest family members to recline comfortably—some tubs can even accommodate two adults. The tubs themselves weigh hundreds of pounds or more, not including the water, so most wood framing will require structural upgrades to deal with the weight.



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