



## HOW-TO BOOKLET #3026

# SHOWER DOORS



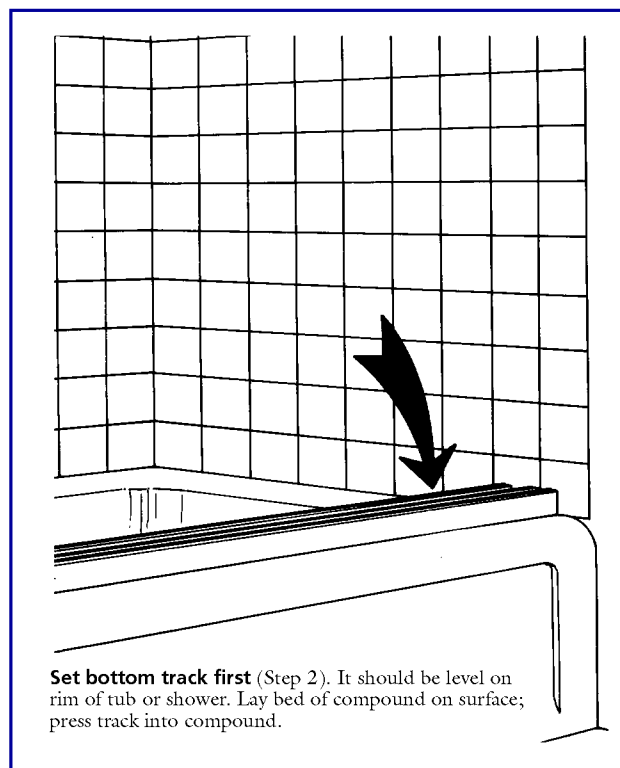
### TOOL & MATERIAL CHECKLIST

- Shower Door Kit With Tracks
- Tape Measure
- Level
- Portable Electric Drill
- Masonry Bit
- Screwdriver
- Caulking Compound
- Hacksaw

*Read This Entire How-To Booklet for Specific Tools and Materials Not Noted in the Basics Listed Above.*

There are lots of advantages to switching from shower curtain tub enclosures to a shower door enclosure. For example, the water mess is confined to the tub and/or shower area; the enclosure stays warmer longer because the heat generated by the hot water is more confined and curtains don't have to be changed because of mildew created by tub/shower dampness. Shower doors are easy to clean and maintain by occasionally wiping them with a soapy cloth and rinsing away the residue with clean water.

There are a variety of shower door designs available. Conveniently, even the most expensive of the selection is within most budgets. Installing a shower enclosure yourself is extremely easy, requiring few tools to complete the job in less than a day. The enclosures are designed to be installed on the rim of the bathtub or on the curb of a shower stall. The enclosures that you buy in a kit include a tube of sealing compound, the door, and the tracks and framing in which the door sets and slides. Usually included are the screws and shields for fastening the uprights to the walls, but not always. Be sure to check the package. You also can buy enclosures separately. That is, you can buy just the doors, track, compound, and so on. Kits generally are less expensive than individual components, although you may find a better selection with components. All enclosures are manufactured either with plastic or safety glass doors.



## INSTALLATION TECHNIQUES

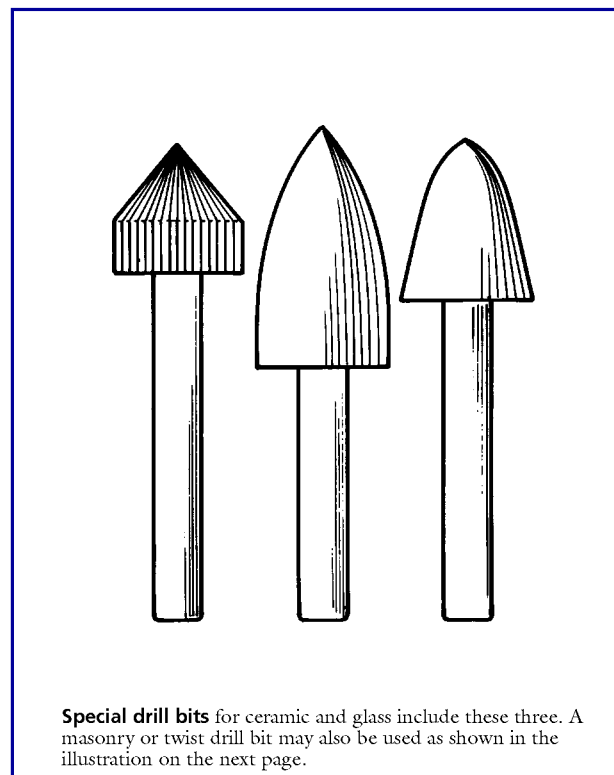
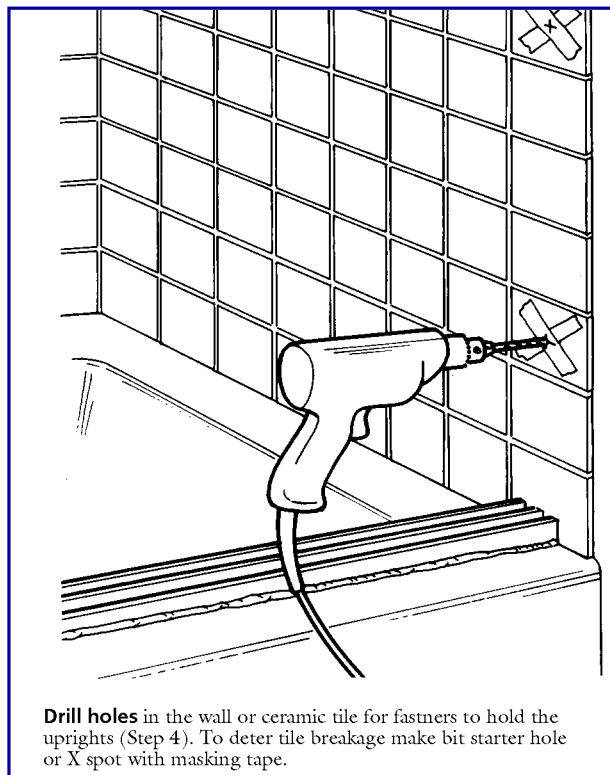
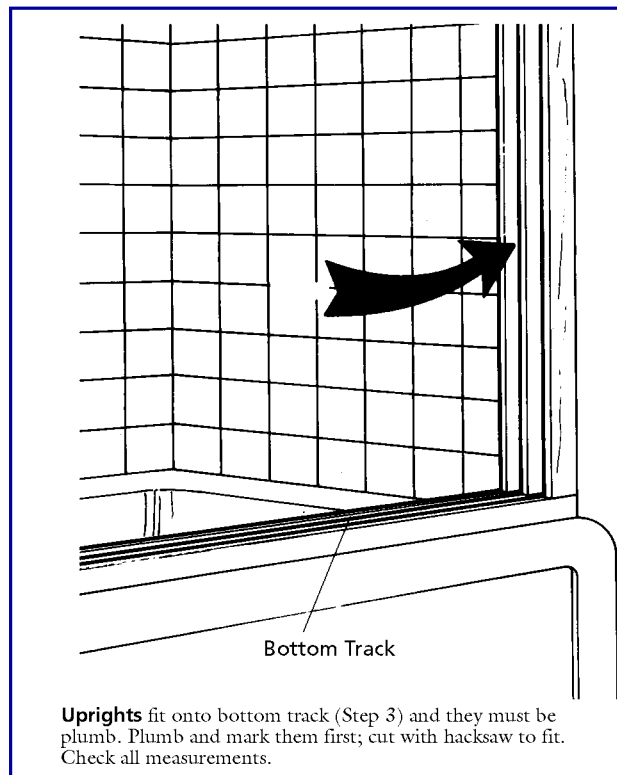
Before you buy a shower door kit or the components, measure the area that you will enclose. Most bathtubs are a standard 5 ft. long, but measure the distance regardless, just to be sure. For a shower enclosure, measure the distance from one finished wall to the other finished wall along the top of the curb—the low vertical piece that helps form the shower pan on the floor of the shower. Also measure the height you want the enclosure to be. Start at the floor and go up the walls. Most heights are standard, and the hardware is designed to fit the standards, but check again just to make sure. Take the measurements to the store with you to make sure that you buy the correct sizes.

**1** Remove the shower curtain and shower rod from the bathtub area. Then, with detergent in water and a soft cloth, scrub the enclosure clean and rinse and dry the area.

With a tape measure, roughly lay out the dimensions for the vertical frame. Mark these dimensions on the wall surface where the frames will be attached.

Most manufacturers of tub/shower enclosures are liberal with the length of the bottom and top door track or rails. With the tape measure, find the distance between the end walls of the enclosure. Then transfer this measurement to the horizontal sections of track.

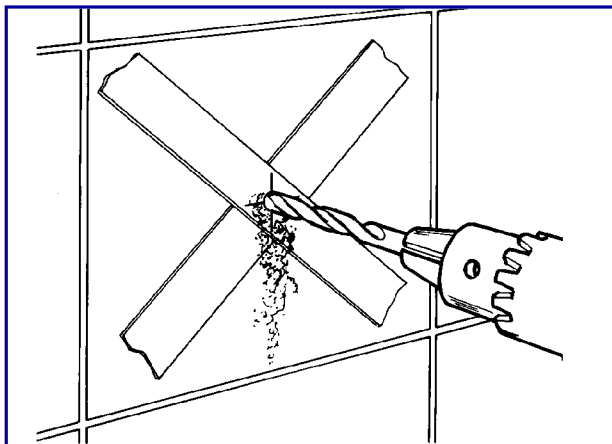
The track is cut about 1/4-inch shorter than the overall length of the track between the walls. The shorter measurement is to allow for the joint between the tracks and the vertical upright pieces that you will fasten to the wall. Double-check this measurement, using the vertical pieces as a guideline. Then mark and cut the tracks to length using a hacksaw. Lay the tracks on a piece of scrap wood for cutting. This way, the hacksaw blade will go straight through the metal causing it to burr. If the cut is rough, however, smooth the rough edges with a metal file or medium grit sandpaper. Remember that a hacksaw cuts on the forward stroke; the blade should be installed in the frame so the teeth of the blade point forward.



**2** Set the bottom track first. The drain holes in the track should face into the tub/shower enclosure. Lay a thick bead of tub/shower caulking compound on the center line of the rim of the bathtub or the curb of the shower stall. Press the bottom track firmly into the compound. The compound forms a seal between the tub or curb and the track. Use plenty of compound; you want the seal to be watertight. If the compound oozes out from under the track, remove the excess with the blade of a putty knife.

Before the compound sets, put a level on the track. The track should be level across the tub/curb. If the track is not level, you can lift the track and add more compound at the low spots to level it.

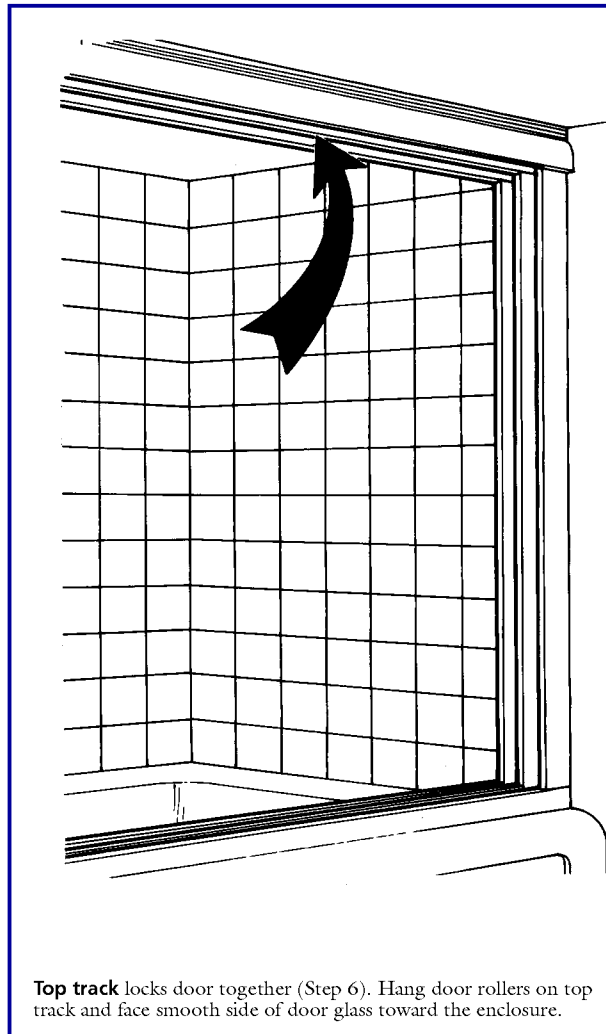
**3** Set the vertical pieces against the marks you made on the end walls. Then, with a level, plumb (vertically level) the uprights and mark the wall accordingly as a guideline. Also, with the pencil, mark the spots where the fasteners will be installed through the pre-drilled holes in the upright pieces. If the vertical pieces will go against ceramic tile, you will need a felt pen or China marker pencil to mark the tiles.



After locating hole position on ceramic tile, you can X the spot with masking tape and run drill bit through tape. This protects tiles from damage.

**4** If the wall is ceramic tile, you will have to drill holes through the tiles to install the fiber plugs or shields that accept the screws that hold the uprights in position. This is a tricky job; easy does it.

Select a masonry drill bit to fit the diameter of the shield and lock it in the chuck of an electric drill. Carefully and slowly start the drill through the tile at the hole marks.



Top track locks door together (Step 6). Hang door rollers on top track and face smooth side of door glass toward the enclosure.

If the drill you are using has a variable speed feature, start the drill very slowly until the masonry bit breaks through the glaze on the tile. Then speed up the drill slightly until the bit goes through the tile and into the wall covering. If the masonry bit slips and slides on the tile surface, you may have to nick the tile slightly with the point of a nail or a nail punch so the masonry bit can get a “bite.” But take it easy; ceramic tile cracks easily under hard hammer blows.

Once the holes (there are usually three to an upright) are through the wall covering, insert the screw shields into the holes. Just tap them flush.

**5** Spread a bead of tub/shower compound on the guidelines on the wall and position and push the vertical pieces into the compound. Then check the uprights for plumb, remove them and add more compound to shim them into the plumb position. Make sure that the bottoms of the uprights fit onto the horizontal track on the tub rim or shower curb. Then fasten the uprights to the wall with the fasteners provided in the kit or with stainless steel screws. Check for plumb once again. If the uprights are not plumb, back out the screws, shim with compound, and reset the screws. The framework must be square and true or the shower doors will not open/close properly.

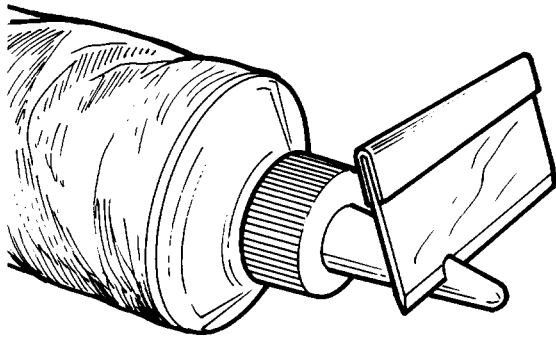
As an alternate way to fasten on the uprights you can use either Molly or toggle bolts. These fasteners, once through the uprights and into the wall, spread out in back of the wall covering material and hold the uprights tight against the front of the wall. You also can use them instead of screws and fiber plugs or shields.

To install Molly fasteners, locate and drill the holes. Then insert the fasteners into the hole and turn the screws in the fasteners to activate the holding “prongs” in back of the wall. It will take at least 10-15 full turns to set the

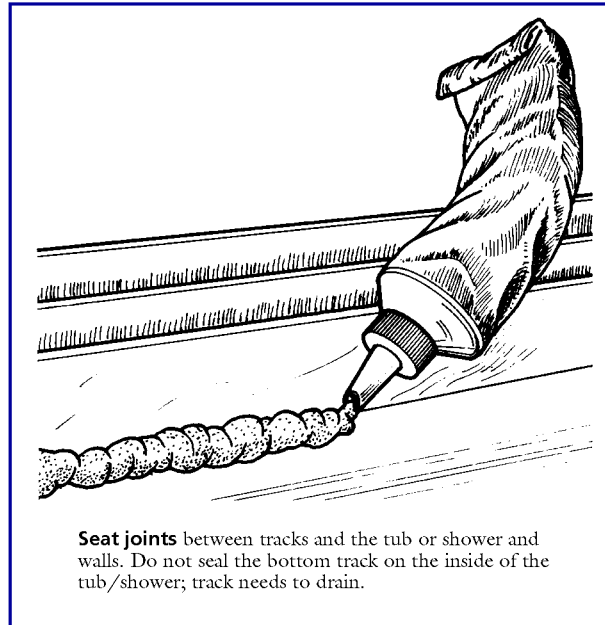
fasteners properly. Remove the screws from the fastener and thread them through the holes in the uprights. Then drive the screws back into the fasteners and snug the screws up tight.

If you use toggle bolts, drill the holes for the uprights in walls. Then slip the bolts of the toggles through the upright holes and thread the bolts onto the toggles. Now push the toggles through the holes. The toggles are spring-loaded and will compress as they go through the holes. Then the springs will “spread” them behind the wall covering. Tighten the screws.

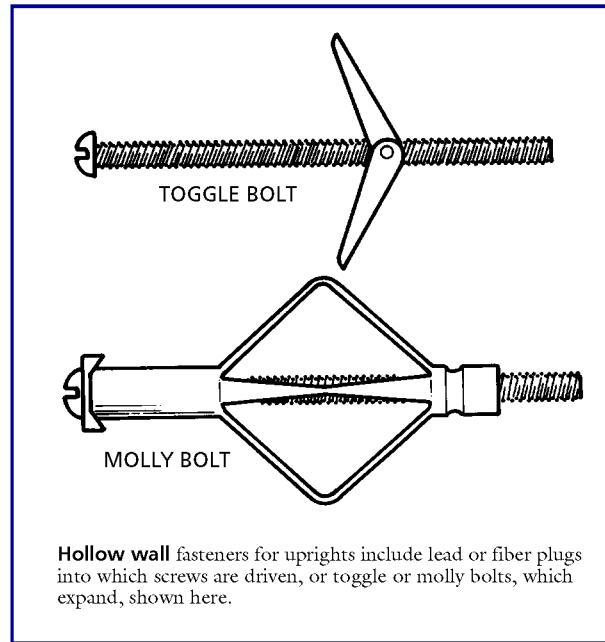
- 6 Measure and mark the top rail so it fits tightly between the vertical uprights. Then cut the rail to fit and fasten it in place.



Cut nozzle of the tube and shower sealing compound at a 45-degree angle. Squeeze the compound out of the tube from the bottom up.



Seat joints between tracks and the tub or shower and walls. Do not seal the bottom track on the inside of the tub/shower; track needs to drain.



Hollow wall fasteners for uprights include lead or fiber plugs into which screws are driven, or toggle or molly bolts, which expand, shown here.

- 7 Hang the doors on the top track. When you position the rollers on the top rail, be sure to install the smooth side of the glass or plastic doors so it faces the inside of the bathtub or shower enclosure. Cleaning is easier with the smooth side facing in. Test the doors to make sure they work easily without binding and that they fit into the metal framework. If they don't, remove the doors and re-adjust the frame, using tub/shower compound as a “shim” material.

## MAINTENANCE

Tub and shower doors need little maintenance, but you should check the caulking seals from time to time. The caulking usually has to be renewed once yearly, and you may have to dig out the old caulking with a putty knife before you apply new. The old stuff usually can be started with a putty or case knife and pulled out of the joint with your fingers.

At this time, check the framing for level and plumb. You may have to shim the frame with caulking to bring it back to level and plumb. Do this by backing out the screws that hold the framing in place against the walls. If the frame is not square, the door will “rack”.