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BARRIER FREE SHOWERS

OCTOBER 2009

CONFIGURATION & INSTALLATION CONSIDERATIONS

INSIDE TILE INC

CERTIFIED TILE INSTALLER (CTI) TEST THIS MONTH!

Friday October 23rd

& Saturday October 24th

GOOD LUCK TEST TAKERS!!!

*There is still time to sign up if
 anyone is still interested.*

NOW STOCKING

AMERICAN OLEAN
 AMBER VALLEY
 PORCELAIN TILE

AM85 Millstone Beige 13x13
 AM88 Bowling Green 13x13

NOW STOCKING

INTERNATIONAL WHOLESALE TILE
 INDIAN SLATE
 PORCELAIN TILE
 VERDE GREEN
 18x18 and 13x13

NOW STOCKING

FLORIDA TILE
 FORMATIONS
 THROUGH BODY PORCELAIN
 FLINT BLACK
 18x18 and 12x12

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When mobility becomes an issue in the aging population, barrier free showers are often desired. This type of shower is also increasing in popularity for their seamless look and ability to integrate into many design styles when accessibility isn't an issue.

Barrier free showers depend on the slope of the floor to be able to contain the water in the direct shower area and use that slope to guide the water to the drain. Remember, the slope should be 1/4" per foot to the drain. If possible, barrier free showers will have had the floor recessed BEFORE installing a sloped mortar bed or Schluter shower tray. This will allow for an even transition in the doorway. If the barrier free shower floor can not be recessed, you will need to provide a ramp up into the shower area, such as the Schluter shower ramp. Keep in mind that recessing the floor of a bathroom must be done in a way to maintain structural integrity and safety of the construction. This may require services of architect, engineers, etc.

Because the shower will be barrier free, it is highly recommended that the entire bathroom floor is protected with waterproofing.

Lastly, there are many different configurations to lay out a barrier free shower. Although there is such a wide range of configuration possibilities, TCNA notes that while you can eliminate a shower curb for the handicapped with required slope from entry of shower to the drain, the minimum distance between the door or entry to the drain opening shall be 4'- 0". Once again as mentioned above, TCNA also notes that "materials adversely affected by moisture in areas immediately adjacent to showers, tubs, and roman tubs shall be properly protected with a membrane."

For more questions about barrier free showers or about the products mentioned above, please feel free to contact your tile friends here at Tile Inc.

