

PRESS RELEASE

Behind the screens

Jasmin Kraneveldt from leading tile and sanitaryware supplier, Bathroom Bizarre, offers a breakdown of the evolution of bath screens and reasons why they're ideal for any bathroom with an in-bath shower.

20 March 2015, Johannesburg: Modern bath screens, with their close-fitting seals, will protect your bathroom floor from water. They offer far greater protection than a shower curtain, especially if you're installing a power shower, and they are a much more hygienic and good-looking solution as well. "Bath screens are an in-bath shower essential, and unlike bath screens of the past, today's screens boast both practical designs that are aesthetically pleasing as well," explains Jasmin Kraneveldt from leading tile and sanitaryware supplier, Bathroom Bizarre.

Out with the old, in with the new

It all started with the humble shower curtain, that although they were popular, anyone who has used a shower curtain for an in-bath shower knows what a hassle they can be – from sticking to your legs while showering, to allowing water to splash or drip on to the floor, and their propensity for mould build-up. Not only are they not the most practical design, but they don't look very nice either – usually lowering the aesthetics of the bathroom in which they are featured and making it look cheap and nasty. Says Jasmin: "Simply put, shower curtains should be avoided at all costs – they really aren't a feasible solution at all."

Fortunately, she says that the invention of the bath screen offered a better-designed and functioning alternative to the age-old shower curtain. Says Jasmin: "With the right bath screen, you can turn your bathtub into a functioning shower with new impact and inspiration. One panel, two panels, three panels, rounded or angled - there are no limits to your ideas – today, there is such a wide variety on the market that you will no doubt be able to find a bath screen for your own perfect showering experience."

Different types of bath screens

There is an incredibly wide selection of bath screens available today, but they can be divided into four main categories, namely:

- **Pivot bath screens:** These bath screens work like a door – swinging around a hinge, so they can be neatly folded or "closed" against the wall when not in use. This style works better for bigger bathrooms, as they require available wall space in which the screen can fold onto.
- **Foldaway bath screens:** These work much like concertina doors and can be extended or folded away when required. Screens like this are generally available in bi-fold, 4-fold and 5-fold variations. The amount of space you have available for a foldaway screen will largely dictate what kind of screen you will be able to install.
- **Sliding screens:** These consist of a fixed portion of the screen and then, like a sliding door, the rest of the screen can be slid out when the shower is in use.
- **Fixed screens:** This sort of screen becomes a permanent feature in the bathroom and usually only takes up a small portion of the length of your bath. While many

people are opposed to a fixed bath screens, these are actually one of the most aesthetically pleasing types of screens, and since there are no moving parts, they are more sturdy and robust than the other types. For these reasons, they are becoming increasingly more popular the world over. These screens are also available in a variety of different shapes from square, to more curved screens.

Slick and simple

Bath screens are not only very functional, but they also serve to improve the style of your bathroom. When compared to shower curtains, bath screens are more clean and simple and don't detract at all from the style of your bathroom space. "While people tend to have the general idea of old fashioned, clunky bath screens, there are currently a wide variety of more slick and stylish options on the market," says Jasmin.

Modern bath screens are now available in a frameless design, which undoubtedly offer the most stylish and sleek aesthetic – due to their frameless design and clear glass parts, they don't hinder the visual view of the bathroom space, thereby creating the illusion of added space. Another aspect of bath screens that makes them a good choice for your bathroom is that they're easy to keep clean, explains Jasmin: "Unlike shower curtains that get grimy and look old in no time, bath screens are long-lasting and only require a small amount of cleaning to keep them looking shiny and brand new."

Wide open

"Bath screens are ideal for any space where an in-bath shower is being used, but specifically for smaller bathrooms," explains Jasmin. While in-bath showers are most frequently used to better utilise space in an already small bathroom, shower curtains have a tendency to make the space seem even more cramped than it already is, says Jasmin: "Shower curtains create an obvious barrier between the bath and the rest of the room, and in so doing, they close the space up visually. This is where bath screens are your friend – not only do they offer a number of options in which they can be folded or closed away, but as they are made of glass, they allow light to pass through them, helping to maximise the look of your bathroom, and keep an open and minimal feeling throughout the space.

"Bath screens offer the most effective way to keep your bathroom floor dry while using an in-bath shower, and the wide variety of options available, makes finding a bath screen that suits your particular bathroom and budget an easy task," explains Jasmin.

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Released on behalf of Bathroom Butler (www.bathroombizarre.co.za) by The Line (www.theline.co.za, ant@theline.co.za).