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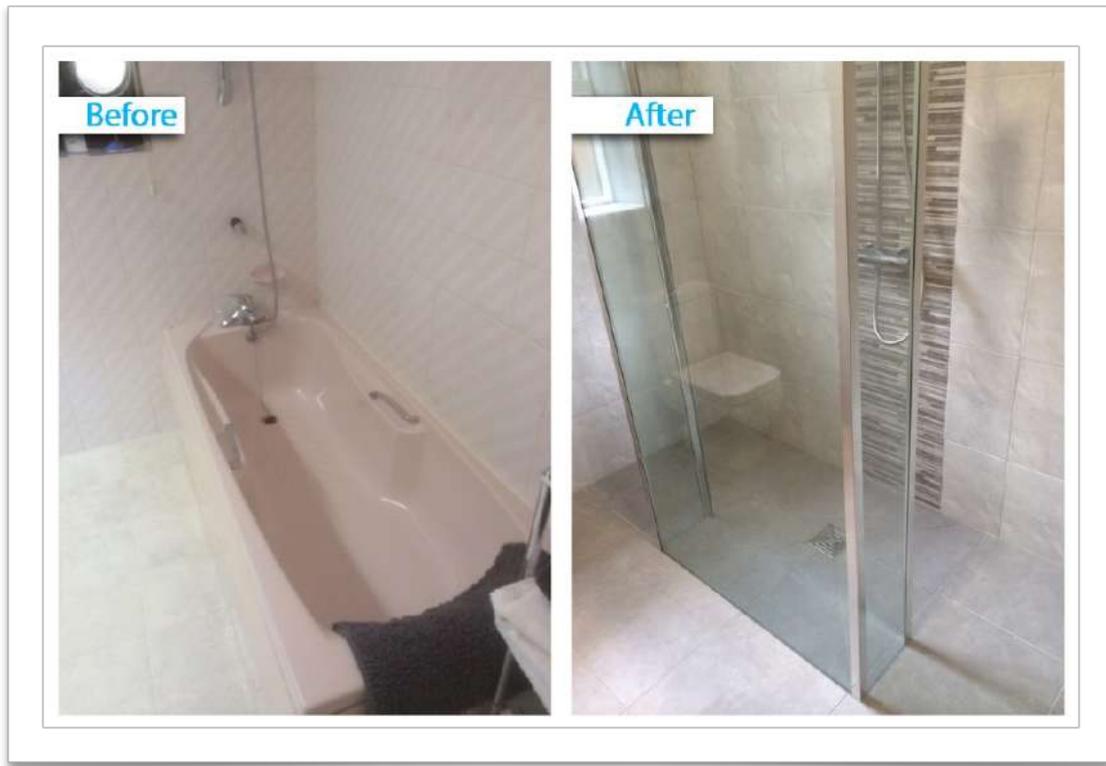
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Your Options

When replacing a bath to make bathing easier you have a few options which can be broken down into the following main categories (though there are lots of variations on the themes):

1. Install a new shower or wetroom as part of a bigger bathroom overhaul.

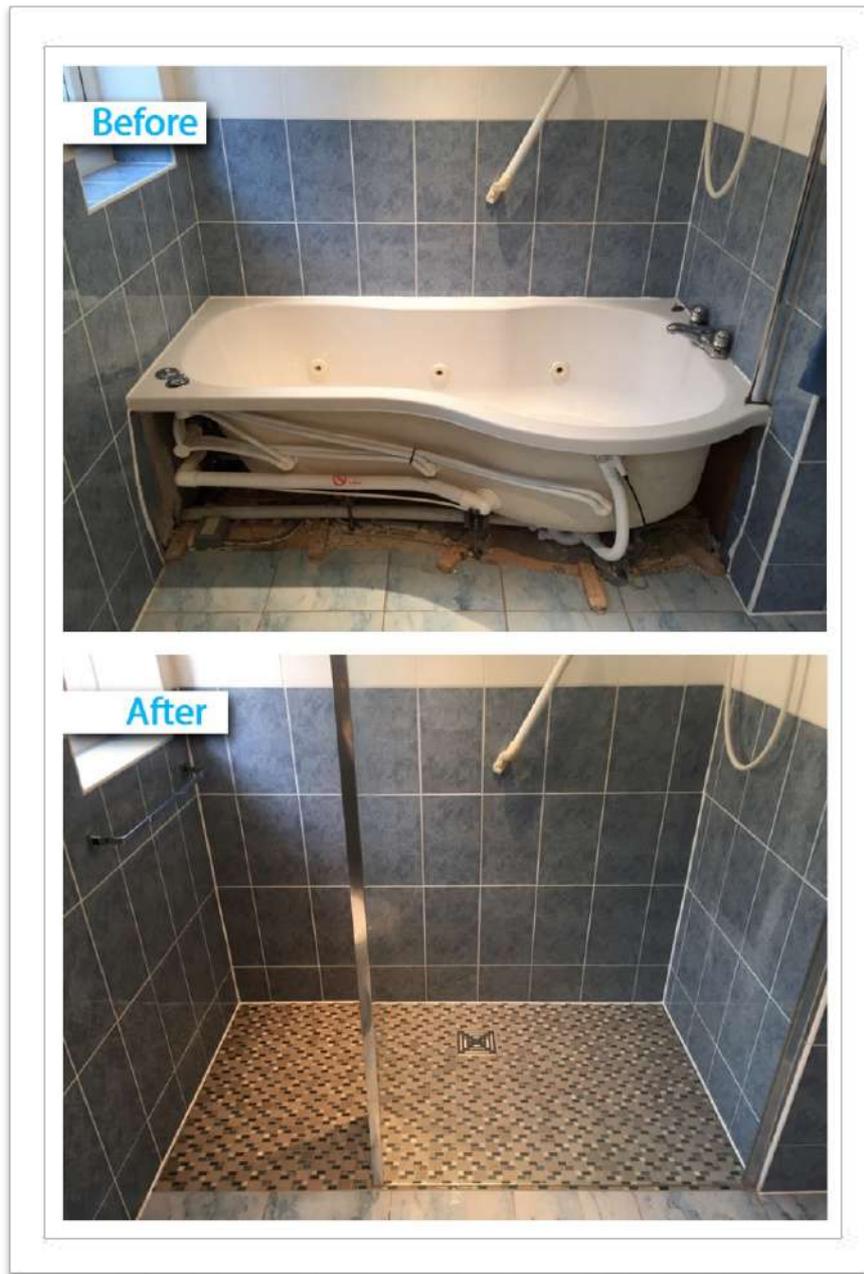


You may wish to take the opportunity to upgrade the rest of your bathroom when converting your bath to a shower area as you may feel that it is looking a bit dated for example.

However, this approach requires a lot more work than merely replacing the bath so comes with a higher price tag.

If you are perfectly happy with the rest of the bathroom but just want to be able to bathe safely & easily then read on for your other options....

3. Bath to Wet room conversion



Some people choose to install a level access walk in shower (often called a wet-room). Essentially there is no shower tray and a drain is recessed into the tiled (or vinyl covered) floor.

P.S. Having a wetroom does not mean you need a completely open shower so that everything in your bathroom gets wet when you take a shower – this is a common misconception.

How Much Does Swooping a Bath for a Shower Cost?

Many people who feel vulnerable when bathing get to a point when they decide to prioritise the safety of their daily bathing habit over the small investment required to carry out the work.

However, money is always important and you need to make sure that the work you have done is going to last.

My prices range from just £2 - £4K, and struggling to bathe in comfort and safety makes this a simple investment decision for many people.

The final result is a fully functioning bathroom that works for all the occupants of the house without looking like a disability bathroom.

Introduction

In its simplest form costing look like this:

$$\text{TOTAL COST} = \text{labour cost} + \text{material cost}$$

Labour cost is directly related to time taken (or the amount of work required) and the material cost is for things like the shower tray, glass enclosure, shower & tiles etc.

So obviously a simple job with cheaper fittings that takes less time to complete will cost less than a more complicated job that takes more materials and more time to complete.

Case Studies: Budget & Timings

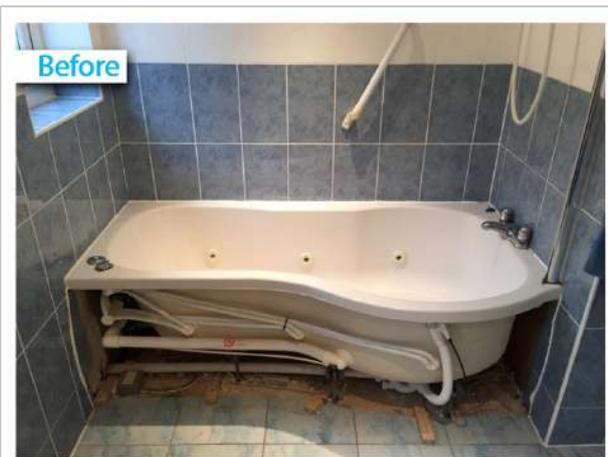
As I carry out project managed bathroom installations regularly I have put together some case study costings & timings to give you some ideas as to where your project may lie on the spectrum.

Case Study 1

SUMMARY: replacing a Jacuzzi bath with a walk in wet room shower whilst keeping the existing tiling
(Click the link above to read about it in more detail.)

COST:	£3,000
TIME TAKEN:	5 days
TRAY SIZE:	1,700 x 800mm

Before





Here you can see how we've managed to find a wall tile that is the same width as the existing tiles in a complimentary colour.

This (at least) keeps the vertical grout lines consistent, even though the new tiles were taller than the existing ones.

The Difference Between Cost & Value



Please do not confuse the costs given overleaf for merely the plumbing costs of putting in a shower as plumbing is only 1 of the several trades involved in a job of this type.

For example, the prices given previously typically include several of the following costs in addition to the plumbing costs:

- ☑ **design & feasibility assessment during FREE site survey**
- ☑ **waste disposal costs** – of the old bath & tiles if necessary
- ☑ **electrical costs** – capping off Jacuzzi bath pumps & installing electric showers if needed
- ☑ **joinery costs** – setting wet room tray formers into the floor substructure where necessary
- ☑ **suite cost** – the cost of the shower tray, enclosure or wet-room former
- ☑ **plumbing costs** – fitting the shower tray, enclosure or wet-room former
- ☑ **wall tiling costs** – supplying & fitting tiles & [tanking](#) the wet areas
- ☑ **Project management costs** – managing all of the above plus the supply of goods in some cases

Tips for Hiring the Right Tradesmen / Company

Introduction

If you're not employing a turnkey provider then you will have to hire in some help.

Organising people to do all the work required can seem intimidating but it is relatively simple process in theory:

1. Decide the work you want doing
2. Split it down into trades – likely to be plumbing & tiling for a job such as this
3. Find people to do all these trades, bearing in mind there may be some overlap or someone may claim to be able to do all the work from start to finish (a multi-trade tradesmen)

Finding tradesmen

So, if you're not employing a turnkey fitter or doing DIY, you'll need to source your tradesmen independently and for the purposes of this guide, let's assume you don't know any good ones.

Finding reliable tradesmen is never easy but you can have better chances of success if you:

- Get a referral from a friend.
- Check online reviews (though these can be tampered with so give those on trusted sites with customer names & profiles attached to them the most weight).
- Use social media to give a shout out to your network to see if anyone else has recommendations.

Avoiding Builder Disputes

The following are remedies for the most common problems listed above (according to Which):



Poor quality of work

Hire right, don't automatically choose the cheapest quote, look at past work & seek referrals where possible.