Installation Instructions for Shower Walls Surround Set

Please read the following before attempting to install your new Panel System.

These instructions have been written exclusively for the Shower Walls Panel System.
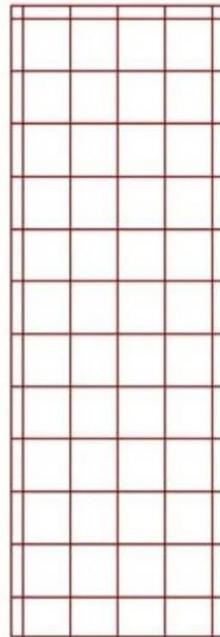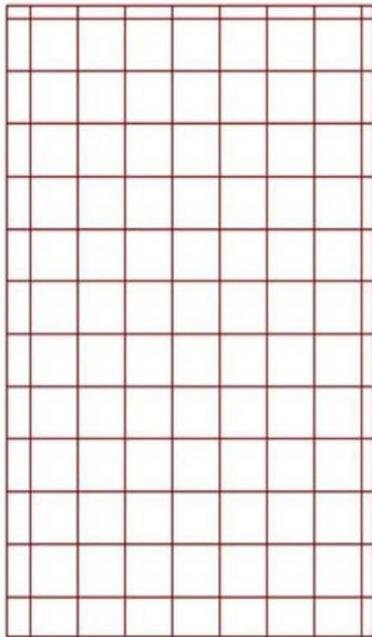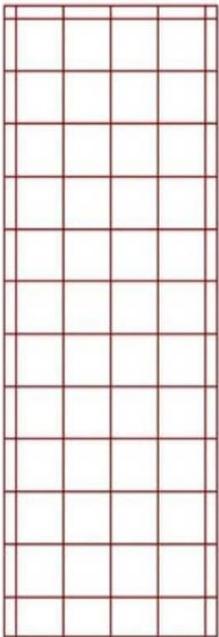
NOTE: We do not recommend using this type of panel system for lower than ceiling height, as you must cut the top of the panels, if necessary, to adjust the height of the panels. In doing so, you will have a raw edge where the cut is.

Special care must be taken in handling these panels, especially in cold weather. The indented grout lines are of necessity a little thinner than other areas of the panels causing this type of panel to be more fragile than our typical cast marble panels.

IMPORTANT: Panels are to be at room temperature (65 degrees or above) when being cut and during installation. If panels have been stored outside in cold weather, bring them inside 24 hours prior to installation so they can warm. If this is not possible, use extreme caution as cold weather makes the

IMPORTANT: The tub/pan should be installed before the substrate. This is so that the flanges on the tub/pan will be behind the substrate. If the tub/pan is installed after the substrate, the flange will be outside the edge of the substrate when the panels are installed, the bottoms of the panels will be bowed outward. If the pan is already installed and the flanges are outside the substrate, an additional piece of substrate should be installed so that the flange is underneath the substrate, but should stop about 1" above the flange. The substrate around the entire enclosure should not be resting on the flange of the tub/pan. (See drawing A).

Drawing A:

Standard Pans
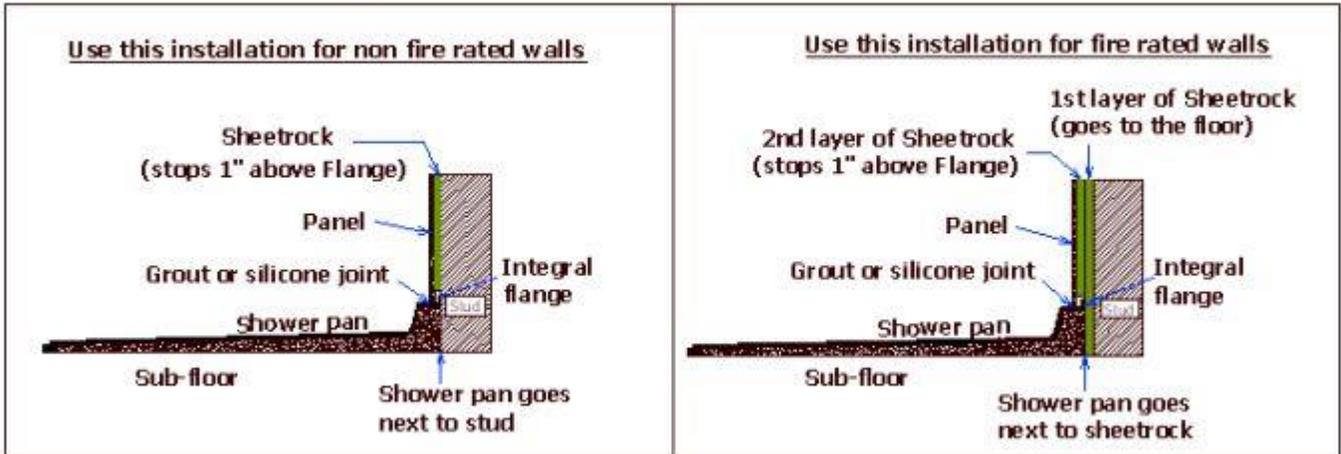
Standard Tubs
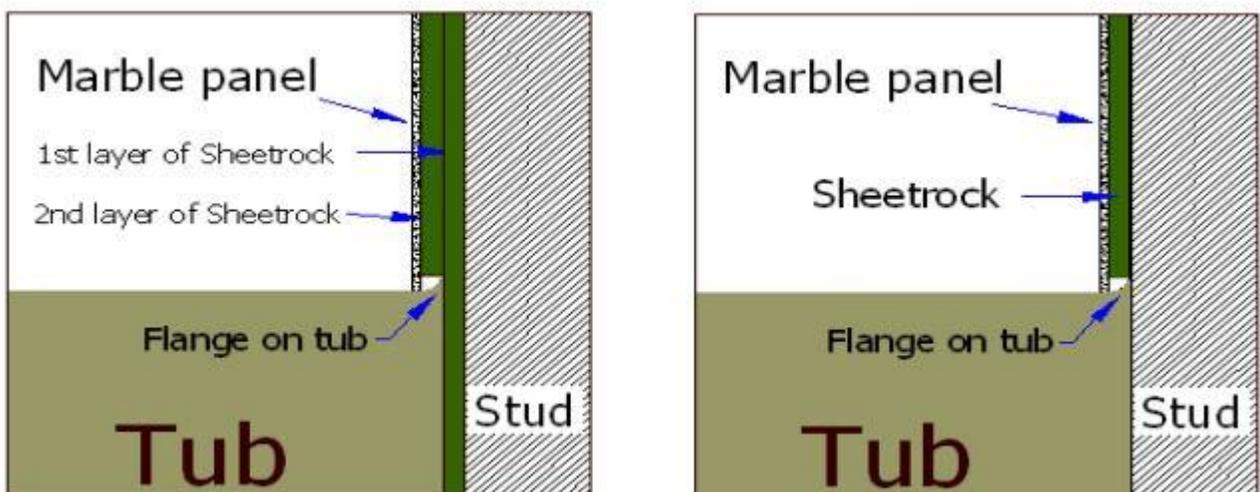
IMPORTANT: If grab bars are to be installed, blocking should be installed behind the substrate before attempting to install the grab bars on the panels. The holes for the grab bars should be pre-drilled in the same area of the blocking prior to installing the grab bars.

Failure to do this will cause the grab bars to come loose and could cause breakage or cracking of the

IMPORTANT: These panels are manufactured with full blocks of tile at the top and bottom of the panels. In order to keep the grout lines level; it will be necessary to trim the bottom of the panel if the tub/pan is out of level. All other cuts will be made on the top of the panel, to adjust the height of the panels.

IMPORTANT: To get the best possible look with these panels, it is important to align the grout lines. The best way to accomplish this is after the back panel has been installed and the overall measurements of the side panels have been taken, measure from the tub or shower base up to a grout line at eye level on the back panel. Before you cut the height of the side panels, measure from the same spot on the side panels and, if needed, you can cut a little off the top and bottom of the side panels to help align the grout lines.

MATERIALS/TOOLS REQUIRED:

1. Circular Saw with a masonry blade
2. Drill for using hole saws
3. Saw horses
4. 2x4s for saw horses to help support the panels
5. Sandpaper (recommend using 80 grit) for sanding cut edges
6. Measuring tape
7. Pencil
8. 4' level
9. Acetone
10. Dry rag
11. Construction adhesive to adhere panels to drywall
12. Hole saw or jig saw to cut holes for plumbing fixtures
13. 100% Silicone for marble to marble seams
14. Latex caulk for marble to drywall seams
15. 1" x 2" or 1" x 4" material for bracing panels

INSTALLERS NOTE: You will need to start the top of all of the panels at the exact same place so that the "grout joints" will meet in the corners.

IMPORTANT: If installing the new Shower Walls panel system over existing tile, make sure the walls (substrate and framing) are in good shape (no water damage, mold or mildew) and the existing tiles are not badly broken. If this is the case, then clean the back of the panels with acetone, apply 100% silicone instead of standard construction adhesive and adhere the panel directly over the tiles. Brace with a 1 x 4 or 1 x 2 scrap until dry then install a thicker trim strip over exposed edges. Seal the trim all the way to the floor.

Installing the 12 x 12 - IL panels:

1. Check to see that the tub/pan is level from front to back and left to right. The maximum tolerance for level is +/- ¼". Also note that a gap of 1/8" is the maximum tolerance on marble seams.

2. Using a pencil, mark a level line at the desired height of the back panel*. If the tub/pan is not level, measure the line from the lowest point of the tub/pan. Using a level, extend the line out on the left and right sides. This is the line you will measure to for the height of your panels. Using a 4' level, draw a vertical (plumb) line flush with the outer edge of the tub/pan, extending to the height line. This will be the line to measure to for the width measurement of the end panels.

3. The back wall should be installed first. Check each side for plumb. If both walls are plumb, measure the width of the space where the back wall will be installed. Mark your back panel to these dimensions and trim to fit. <u>Cut equal amounts off each side of the back panel to keep the tile pattern centered on the wall.</u> Clean the back of the panel with acetone (do not use water based cleaners or denatured alcohol) and the wall with a dry rag, making sure there is no dust on either surface. Sand cut edges with 80 grit sandpaper to help prevent chipping and to keep from cutting hands while handling. "Dry fit" the panel to make sure your cut is straight and the seam at the bottom is within tolerance. When satisfied with the seam, remove the panel and apply adhesive to the wall. Large pads of adhesive will ensure proper gluing. Then install the panel in its place.

Liquid Nail Behind Panels
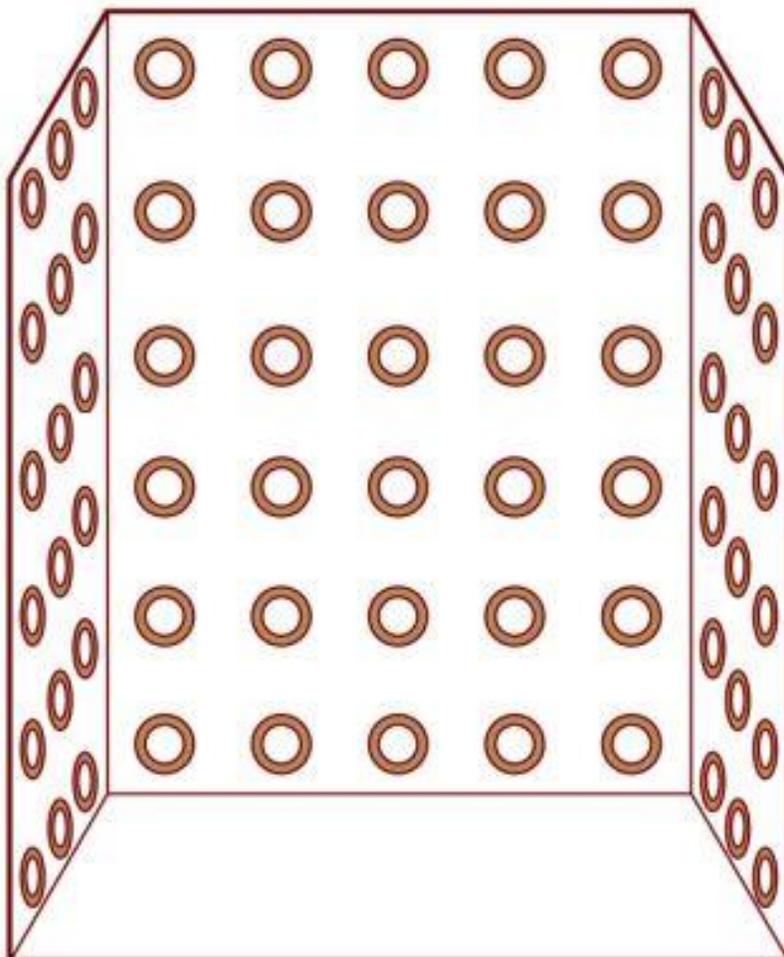
4. Measure the end panels, using the lines you have already made on the walls. It is usually easier to measure the plumbing wall first. You will need to cut the panel to desired dimensions before cutting the plumbing holes. Measure and trim the panel (cut the panel on the side butting up to the back wall-do not cut the outside edge of the panel). Now, measure and cut the holes for the plumbing.

Use a hole saw or jig saw to cut these holes. Make sure the holes cut for the plumbing are not too large to be covered by the plumbing trim. <u>Make sure when you dry fit the panel that the grout lines are even. If they are not, trim or shim the panel as necessary to get these lines even.</u> After this panel has been dry fit and installed, you can install the other panel, following the same measuring and installation technique.

5. After all three walls have been installed; it is best to brace the walls with 1x4 or 1x2 scrap, being careful not to put too much pressure on the panels, as they are fragile. Use a small block of wood on the ends of each side of your brace to help distribute the pressure. Note: Additional bracing may be required.

## Bracing for panels
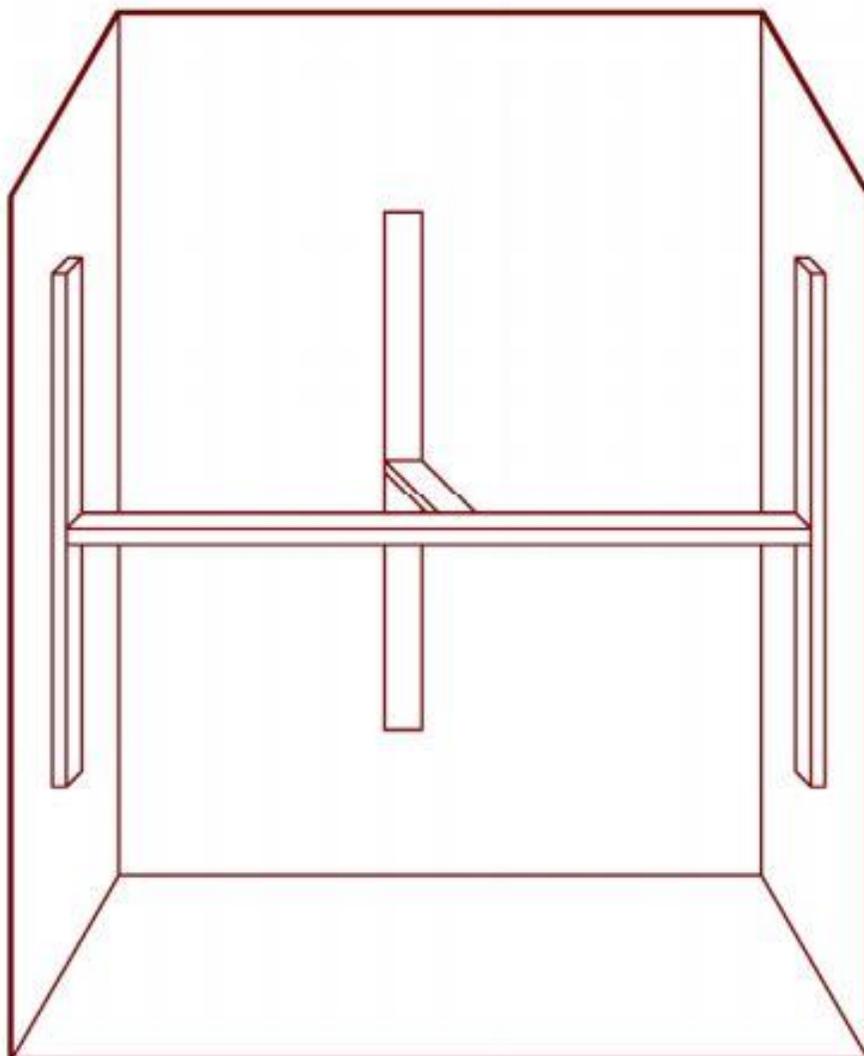
6. Install trim next to the side panels, measuring from the tops of the panels to the floor (if applicable).
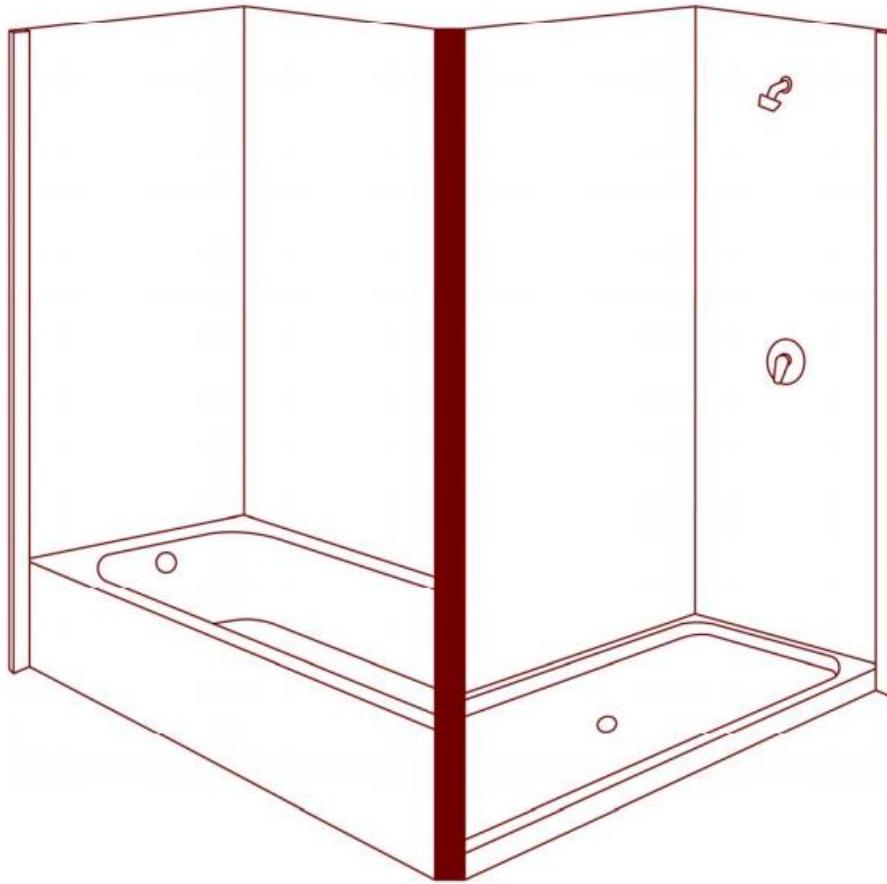
7. Install soapdishes on panels. If using cast marble, ceramic or chrome plated wire soapdishes, shampoo shelves or foot rests, see separate instructions for these.

8. After the adhesive has had time to dry, remove the bracing and caulk all of the joints where marble touches marble or the tub with 100% silicone that closely matches the color of the marble. Caulk the cast marble panels to the substrate with paintable latex caulk.

Marble to Sheetrock
Paintable Caulk

Marble to Marble
100% Silicone
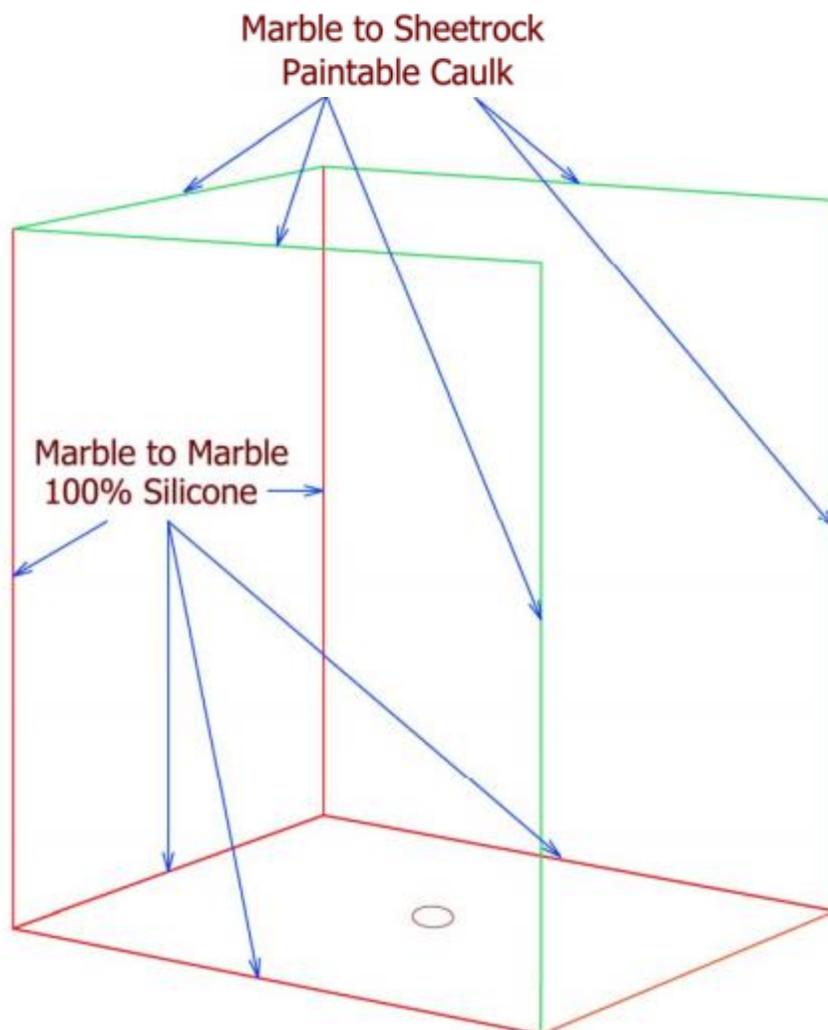
*NOTE: IF PANELS ARE TO BE CUT TO GO TO THE CEILING, THIS LEVEL LINE WILL NOT BE NECESSARY. INSTEAD YOU WILL NEED TO DETERMINE HOW MUCH THE CEILING IS OUT OF LEVEL AND TRIM THE TOP OF THE PANELS ACCORDINGLY. To do this, make a level line using your level and a pencil, approximately 48" from the top of the tub/pan. You can measure this line to both the ceiling and the tub/pan to determine how much needs to be trimmed from both the top and the bottom to keep the grout line level. The same can be done to determine the squareness of the back wall using your level and a pencil, mark a vertical plumb line on the back wall (on the substrate). You can measure from this line both to the right and the left to determine how square the opening is so that, if necessary, the back wall can be cut prior to dry fitting so that it fits without a large gap on either side.

IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTION OR NEED ASSISTANCE, PLEASE SEND US EMAIL TO SALES@IXON.CA.