

Guest Column,

## Plumbing Selections for Your New Home Part II

By Ronnie Godfrey, CGB, president, R Godfrey Homes

In this article we will discuss the selections involved with the showers in your new home. We'll look at the materials and designs available and their pros and cons.

Showers are becoming more and more popular, especially in the master bathroom. Most of the houses we build today don't even have a tub in the master bath. And if they do, the owners typically acknowledge that it will get little or no use.

You can buy showers of fiberglass that are set in place, are attractive, economical and easy to repair if needed. However they come in a limited number of sizes, such as; 3'X3', 4'X4', and 3'X5'. Also the color choice is limited. See the web site for some of these below.

For more custom sizes and finishes you might consider, ceramic tile, stone such as marble, man- made marble, or polymer. All of these materials can be configured to any size and design you might wish. You need to realize that there is a cost concern. The bigger, the more complicated, the pricier it will be.

I often hear folks say that they want a walk-in shower. I used to think that was a funny term. Now think about the future, though distant it might be, you might opt for a shower that you can roll into, in case you or a loved one becomes wheelchair bound. It is easier to build that at initial construction than remodel later and it still functions in every way as the so called walk-in shower.

Several weeks ago when this space was given over to foundations for your new home, it was mentioned about how the earth is dynamic. That is, it is always changing and moving. We have expansive soils in this part of the country and there is a penalty to pay for that should you decide to have a shower of ceramic tile or stone that is installed like tile. When you get soil movement the grout will crack. Grout is the substance that fills the area between the tiles. When this happens, you will have to have someone scrape out the old and then re-grout. This could be a regular occurrence.

That being said, tile showers can be quite attractive and the maintenance may be worth it to you.

Man-made marble and polymer such as Corian, are bought in sheet goods and installed as large slabs of material. They are usually glued at the joints with silicone adhesive to make them water tight. Because of the size of the pieces that make up these types of showers, there are very few joints that need to be maintained and with no grout or grout lines they can be easy to clean. Like tile these come in a wide variety of colors and the man-made marble colors can be custom mixed.

In our personal home, we installed three shower heads in the master bath shower. There is one down low to wash your feet, after coming in from gardening. There is another at 7' from the floor of the shower to use for normal showering. And yet another called a rain head directly overhead for removing tension. When you custom build your shower think about where you would like to place the shower heads and the valves. Again in our home the valves can be reached and adjusted without getting into the shower.

You can see shower heads at the Delta Faucet link:

<http://www.deltafaucet.com>

And you can see several tubs and showers at:

<http://www.lascobathware.com/index.shtml>

Be sure to read your Bible.

Ephesians 6

<sup>13</sup>Therefore put on the full armor of God, so that when the day of evil comes, you may be able to stand your ground, and after you have done everything, to stand. <sup>14</sup>Stand firm then, with the belt of truth buckled around your waist, with the breastplate of righteousness in place, <sup>15</sup>and with your feet fitted with the readiness that comes from the gospel of peace. <sup>16</sup>In addition to all this, take up the shield of faith, with which you can extinguish all the flaming arrows of the evil one. <sup>17</sup>Take the helmet of salvation and the sword of the Spirit, which is the word of God. <sup>18</sup>And pray in the Spirit on all

occasions with all kinds of prayers and requests. With this in mind, be alert and always keep on praying for all the saints.

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