

## Plumbing Selections for Your New Home “TUBS”

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Tubs come in an inviting array of colors, styles, sizes, functionality and materials. We will discuss some of those elements and how to go about the selection process.

While falling into disuse by many of us, favoring showers instead, to some the tub is still an essential part of the bath. There are those that feel the value of the home is reduced if no tub is present in the master bath. An elegant lounge in a warm tub, perhaps with candles and flowers and bubbles, has always been the hallmark of luxury.

It seems that every year, the selection gets larger. One of the best ways to start the process of deciding what you might like is to look on the internet (see the links below). Another is to visit the larger plumbing supply houses in the metroplex, like Fergusons, or Morrison Supply. Also Home Depot and Lowes have several to view.

Tubs may be manufactured from acrylic, fiberglass, porcelain, or man-made marble. If you plan to use the tub for soaking I would avoid the man made marble and porcelain as these tend to draw the heat out of the water quickly. The acrylic and fiberglass tubs will hold the heat longer. The acrylic and fiberglass tubs come in a wider selection of styles, sizes and function. They can be whirlpool, with inline heaters to help keep the water warm. Some are made large enough for two people to enjoy together.

You can still select a claw foot tub like the one that was in your grandmother's bath and might be installed in the middle of the room. Others are designed to be installed in the corner of the bath, while others will be long ways against a wall. Some tubs are Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) compliant, making it easier to get in and out.

Typically when we are working with a client on designing their home, they have some idea as to what they want in a tub. This is important as we may need to have electricity available near the tub for the power to operate a whirlpool and/or an inline heater. Additionally, the size of the tub needs to be determined early on to allow room for it in the bath. Other considerations in the design process are whether or not the tub will be recessed into the floor or elevated on a platform.

The design software that we work with, can give you a 3d view of how your bath will look. We can move a camera around in a virtual bathroom that you have helped design, to allow you to preview your layout. This will aid you in making that crucial, final decision of bath arrangement. You will find this process very helpful.

As promised here are some links that you might find helpful:

<http://www.americanstandard-us.com/>

<http://www.us.kohler.com/index.jsp>

<http://www.jacuzzi.com/>

1 Chronicles 16:8-10

<sup>8</sup> Give thanks to the LORD; call on His name;  
proclaim His deeds among the peoples.

<sup>9</sup> Sing to Him; sing praise to Him;  
tell about all His wonderful works!

<sup>10</sup> Honor His holy name;  
let the hearts of those who seek the LORD rejoice.

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