The Before-the-Tile Rough-In Checklist

Standard positions to hand to your trades before walls close

Planning a bathroom remodel means making critical spatial decisions long before the drywall goes up. Use this guide to confidently mark exact framing locations and ensure flawless surface finishes.



Standard Rough-In Heights

15-18 in
Valve offset from door glass

36-48 in
Shower valve height from floor

80-84 in
Standard primary showerhead height

17-19 in
Shower bench finished tiled height

45-48 in
Toilet carrier height for deep ledge

28-30 in
Vanity sconce spacing for even light

Before the Walls Close

1. **Size to Your Tile** Work backward from chosen materials to calculate the exact niche layout on full-tile grout lines.
2. **Clear the Glass** Verify the shower valve handle swing clears all adjacent glass panels before finalizing the placement.
3. **Align the Lines** Align the valve trim plate height with adjacent niche framing for a beautifully seamless look.
4. **Ventilate Right** Position the exhaust fan housing directly over the shower edge and route insulated ductwork straight outside.

The Final Walkthrough

Take photos of all open walls with a tape measure held up to the plumbing and electrical lines to create a permanent reference map.

Blocking for Future Fixtures

Find your row: **Planned fixture**

Planned fixture	Your pick	Why
Horizontal grab bar	33-36 in high	Requires 30 in wide blocking
Vertical entry bar	36-54 in high	Requires 12 in wide blocking
Towel hooks	60-65 in high	Requires 24 in wide blocking

Measure on Site

- ○ Add 6 inches to the tallest user for custom showerhead height.
- ○ Frame niche rough opening 1 to 2 inches larger than final size.
- ○ Ensure top of backsplash sits at least 2 inches below mirror.
- ○ Confirm 14.5-inch header box for a recessed medicine cabinet.
- ○ Ensure framing accommodates 1/4-inch per foot linear drain slope.

Trade Coordination Checklist

- ☐ Route primary diverter 10 to 12 inches above mixing valve.
- ☐ Pitch niche bottom sill plate 1/16-inch forward before waterproofing.
- ☐ Drop floor joists to accommodate the sloped mud bed.
- ☐ Install continuous solid blocking flush for floating vanity rails.
- ☐ Coordinate with your electrician for the in-drawer outlet circuit.
- ☐ Place single-gang box precisely at towel warmer bracket location.

Project Notes & Measurements

Here's to a beautifully seamless bathroom build, from the studs to the surface!