Tub Surround Tiling Sheet

Map your layout and transform a bare alcove into a spa wall.

Grab your tape measure to map out a perfectly symmetrical tile layout. This guide helps you establish critical lines for a flawless, waterproof installation.



Key Clearances

1 tile + two 1/8-in gaps
Ledger height above lowest point

+ 10 percent
Extra bullnose trim for edges

72 hours
Cure time before sealing grout

100% silicone
Caulk for the tub joint

Run a bath, then caulk

Weigh down the tub with water before applying the final silicone seal. Leaving water in while it cures ensures the flexible joint stretches perfectly when empty.

The Order of Work

1. **Frame the niche box** Adjust studs so the waterproofed niche sits exactly on a horizontal grout line.
2. **Start on row two** Fasten a straight ledger board with exterior deck screws into studs to support the grid.
3. **Tile past the apron** Build your grid, deliberately extending the side wall tile down to the baseboard line.
4. **Prep the joints** Remove spacers, scrape excess thinset with a utility knife, vacuum, and wipe with a damp sponge.
5. **Cut bottom row last** Fit the exact gap left beneath the ledger, as bathtubs settle unevenly over time.

Centerline Adjustment

Find your row: **Back wall layout**

Back wall layout	Your pick	Why
Leaves a half tile	Use true center mark	Ensures equal cuts both ends
Leaves a tiny sliver	Shift half a tile	Prevents fragile, cracking corner edges

Your Layout Measurements

- ○ Ledger height: Find the lowest tub deck point with a long level.
- ○ Back-wall centerline: Measure width at bottom, middle, and top.
- ○ End-cut widths: Calculate your grid for perfectly balanced corners.
- ○ Niche height: Mark vertical courses on a story pole.
- ○ Side wall depth: Measure from back wall to the front apron edge.

Project Notes

Enjoy your beautiful new spa wall and relaxing soaks!