



HYDRO DIMENSIONS

1 (888) 818-7111



WALK-IN TUB COMPARISON

An educational overview of Hydro Dimensions products and how they compare to the competition.

IT'S IMPORTANT TO COMPARE APPLES TO APPLES

Below are the different components of a walk-in bath that are important to evaluate when making a purchase decision. It is important to compare the features of the best built walk-in bathtubs to "lower priced" models to ensure you are not spending too much money on inferior quality.



Tub Depth & SizesPg. 2

- Many choices vs. fewer choices

Frame, Platform & Legs/FeetPg. 3

- 1" x 1 1/2" vs. 3/4" framing members
- Stainless steel vs. aluminum frame
- Steel vs. wooden platform
- Four vs. six adjustable feet
- 3/8" vs. 3/4" inch legs
- padded feet vs. no padding

Tub Shell Construction.....Pg. 4

- Gel coat fiberglass vs. acrylic fiberglass
- Chopped fiberglass vs. laminated fiberglass

Door HingePg. 5

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Door HandlePg. 6

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- Single or double locking handle

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- Custom hydro jet positioning or not
- Total number of air jets and distribution

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- Individual air hoses vs. strip pressure

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GuaranteePg. 17

- Lifetime warranty vs. a few years

The following pages display pictures and descriptions of the critical components of walk-in tubs. If you don't understand the difference in these components, please call (toll free: **1 (888) 818-7111**) or email us at **info@hydrodimensions.com** for more information.



TUB DEPTH & SIZE

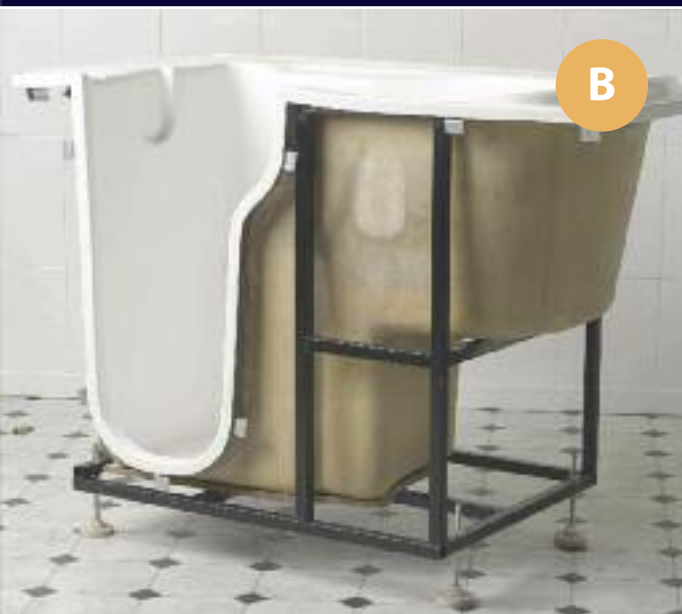
Tubs come in many heights, depths and widths to fit various installation areas. The overall quality of a walk-in tub bathing experience depends on how well a person fits into it: do you want to regularly soak from the neck down? Chest down? Waist down? It's important to be sure that you fit your tub properly so that your bathing experience is what you expect and enjoy.

A. Hydro Dimensions walk-in tubs:

- Many different heights, widths & depths for a custom fit

B. Other competitive walk-in tubs:

- Fewer sizes & choices
- Typically one size fits all



FRAME, PLATFORM & LEGS

The quality of the frame that supports a walk-in tub's outer shell dictates how little it flexes and warps over time and how well seals and seams stay lined up. The quality of the tub's legs dictates how stable the tub is when weighted down with water and a bather, and the platform that supports the tub floor is important in maintaining the tub's integrity, as well as for safety and durability. All three are critical to tub longevity.

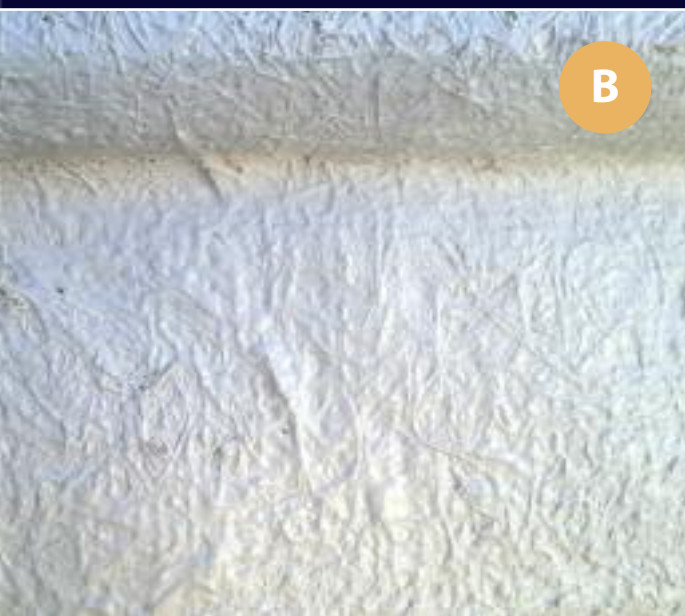
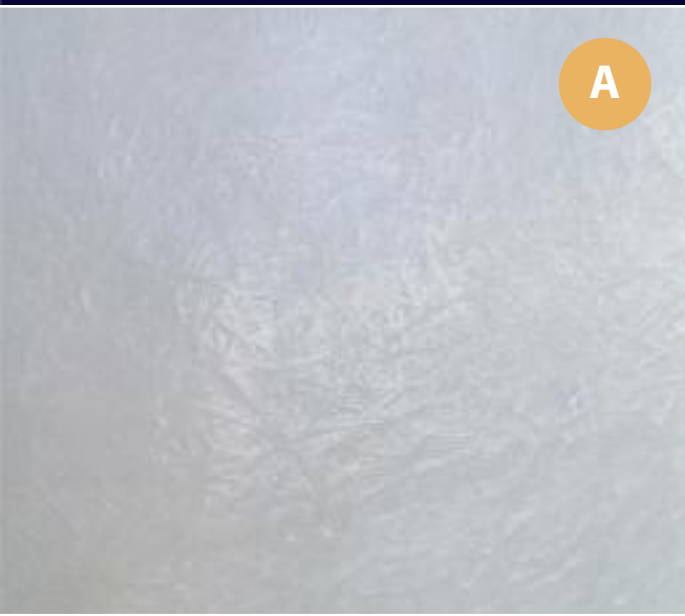
A. Hydro Dimensions walk-in tubs:

- Frame = 1" x 1 1/2" Stainless Steel
- Platform = Stainless Steel
- Legs = Six (6) at 3/4" thickness with cushioned steel feet.

B. Other competitive walk-in tubs:

- Frame = 3/4" aluminum
- Platform = Particleboard
- Legs = Four (4) at 3/8" with plastic feet





TUB SHELL CONSTRUCTION

Not all tubs are created equal especially when it comes to the tub shell. walk-in tub shells are made of acrylic over fiberglass or gel coat over fiberglass. With acrylic, there are limitations on the tubs soaking depth because acrylic can only be heated and stretched so far before it becomes too thin. Gel coat allows for a greater soaking depth because it's sprayed on and doesn't "thin" in spots when manufactured. Either way they both have one thing in common, A fiberglass backing. Unlike competing tubs that use sprayed fiberglass that comes out of a chopper gun, Hydro Dimensions applies sheets of fiberglass to the tub mold by hand. This exacting process prevents air pockets from forming between the fiberglass and the tub finish, ensuring a strong bond and providing greater durability.

A. Hydro Dimensions walk-in tubs:

- High gloss gel coat finish
- Laminated sheets of fiberglass

B. Other competitive walk-in tubs:

- Plastic acrylic finish
- Gel coat finish
- Chopped fiberglass

DOOR HINGE

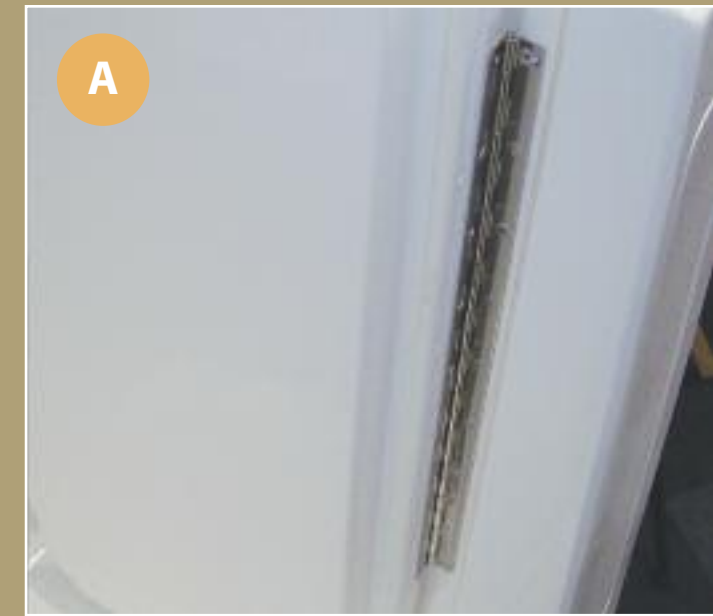
One of the most popular "trouble spots" of a walk-in tub is the door hinge. A walk-in tub that leaks is not a walk-in tub someone will be happy owning. The hinge is a major component to maintaining a leak-proof environment. Pressure is put on the hinge in many different ways: 1) each time a person enters or exits their tub through the door; 2) by the weight of the water pushing against the door while a person is bathing; 3) from the weight of the door itself; and 4) from people leaning on the door when standing, sitting, entering or exiting. A long, solid, thick, substantial hinge can bear much more weight and almost unlimited use before showing any signs of stress, whereas a small, flimsy drop pin hinge can bend rather easily. Simply leaning on the top of a door with drop pin hinges puts too much torque on the pins and bends them.

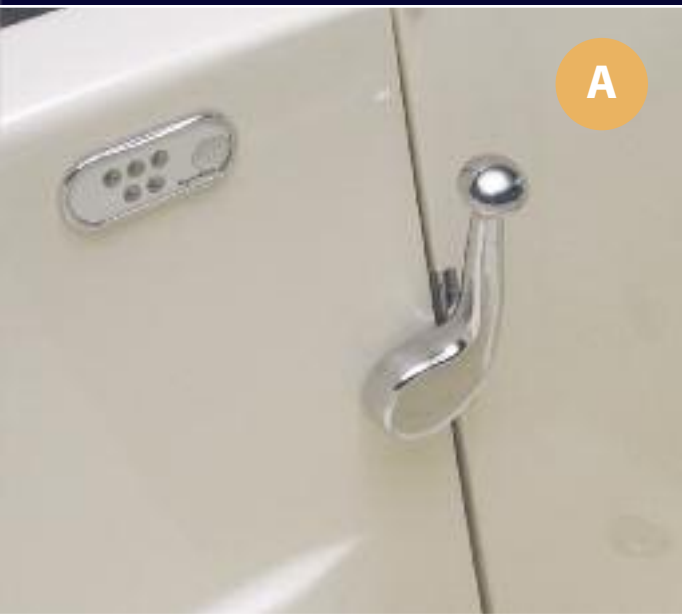
A. Hydro Dimensions walk-in tubs:

- Single, full-length stainless steel piano hinge

B. Other competitive walk-in tubs:

- Two (2), plated, drop pin hinges





DOOR HANDLE

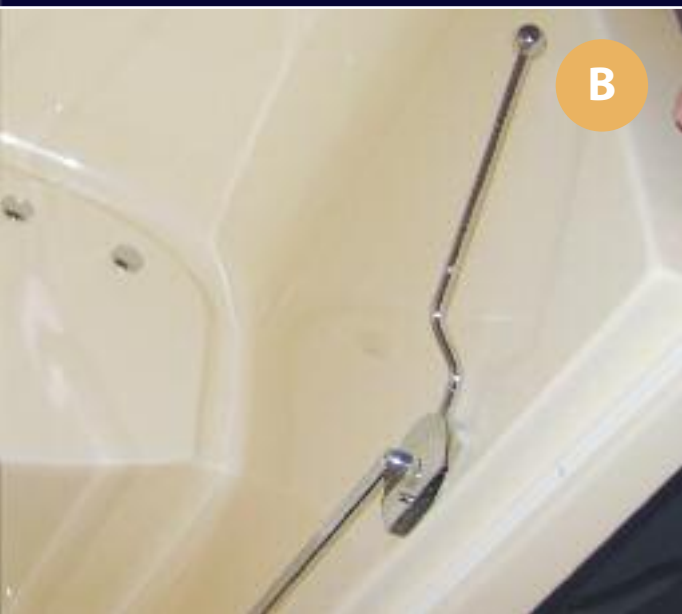
The door handle is important for a few reasons: 1) it completes and locks the seal that maintains the integrity of the tub when filled with water, and 2) it is the mechanism that lets people in and out of the tub, so it must be easy to grip and use, particularly for people with compromised strength or mobility in their hands. The handle should also be designed so as not to chafe or scrape the tub's surface with repeated use.

A. Hydro Dimensions walk-in tubs:

- Extremely heavy duty stainless steel handle with easy grip head.
- Stainless steel wedge strike plate

B. Competitive walk-in tubs:

- Thin handles with a double relay & no strike plates to protect doors.



GRAB BARS

When it comes to your safety, a strategically placed and solidly anchored grab bar in a walk-in bathtub provides extra security when walking across wet bathtub floors. It also provides stability when sitting down and standing up.

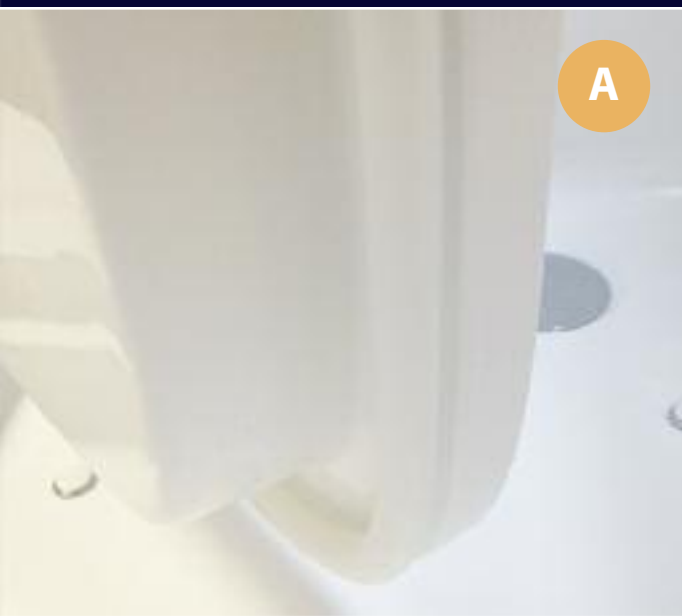
A. Hydro Dimensions walk-in tubs:

- Standard on all tubs

B. Competitive walk-in tubs:

- Optional at an extra cost





DOOR SEAL

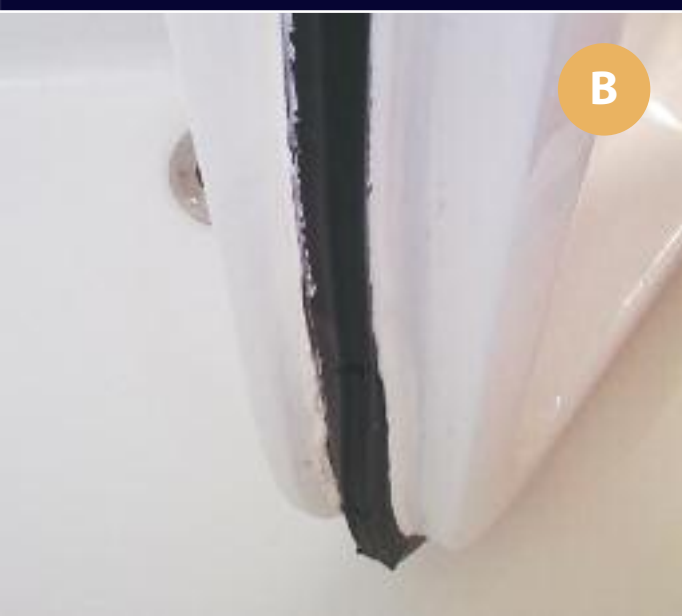
A walk-in bathtub needs a door that is always water tight, so a critical part of every bathtub door is the door seal. As a result, the material used in making the seal is extremely important. Hydro Dimensions uses a special blend of silicone rubber that maintains its shape, resists drying and cracking and provides a water tight seal, even after years of continual use. Hydro Dimensions is so confident in the quality of its seal that it comes with a lifetime warranty. If at any point during the life of your tub your seal leaks or fails, Hydro Dimensions will replace it with a new one, free of charge.

A. Hydro Dimensions walk-in tubs:

- Silicone rubber
- Lifetime warranty

B. Competitive walk-in tubs:

- Neoprene rubber
- Limited warranty



TUB DRAIN

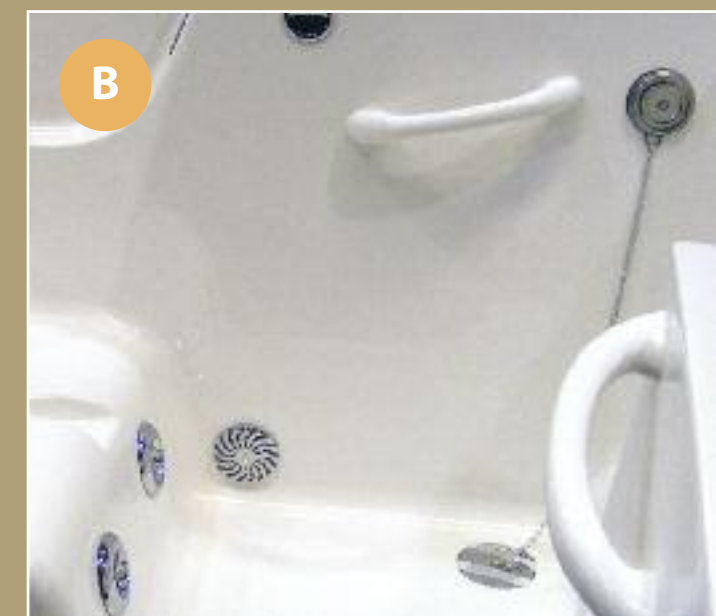
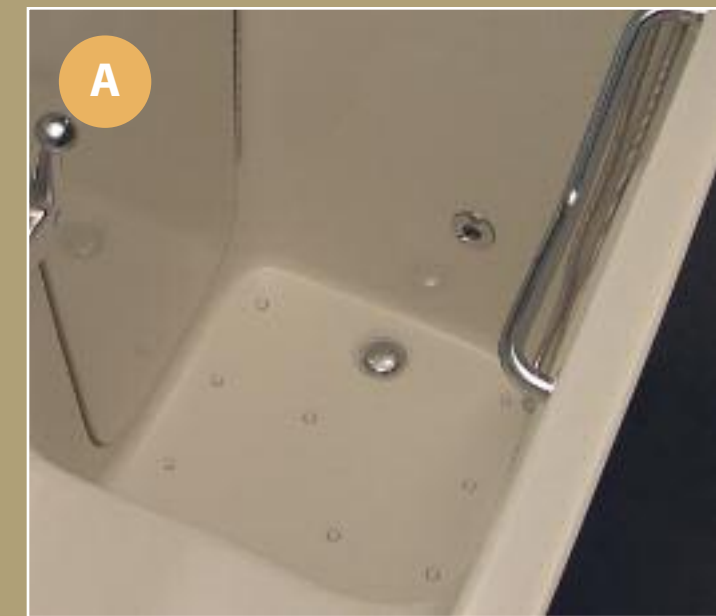
There are two types of waste & overflow (tub drain) assemblies used for walk-in bathtubs: 1) cable operated and 2) pull-chain style. Pull-chains have been known to break away from the drain stopper when pulled on to drain the tub. This is a big problem because it is extremely difficult for a person - particularly a disabled or mobility impaired person - to reach way down through deep water in a small space and grab the stopper. And if the tub is full, the door can't be opened to let a person out! Cable operated drains are the clear choice because a simple turn of the overflow knob - which is easily reachable at the top of the tub above the water - raises the drain plug and starts the water draining.

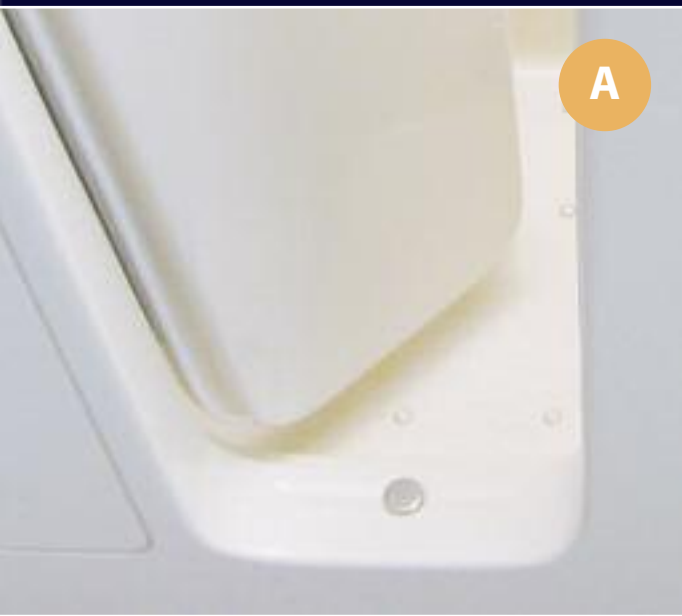
A. Hydro Dimensions walk-in tubs:

- Cable operated waste & overflow

B. Competitive walk-in tubs:

- Pull-chain waste & overflow





DOOR DRAIN

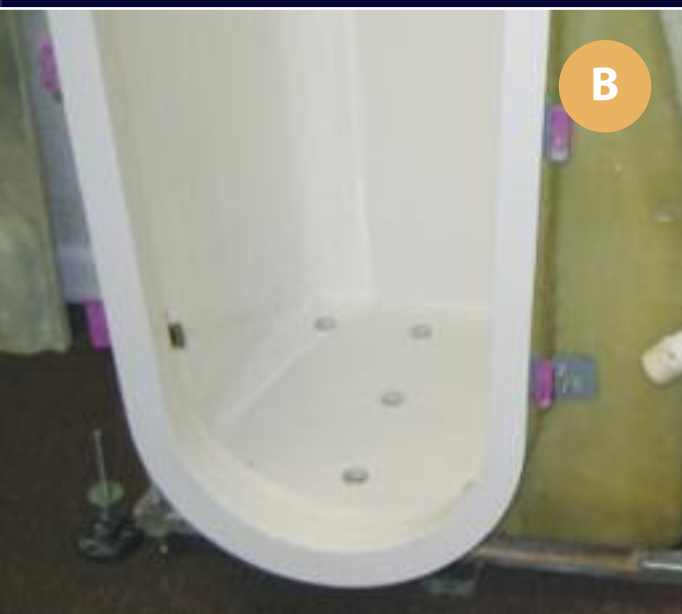
There are a number of bathtub manufacturers who overlook a critical element when producing a walk-in bathtub: the door drain. Door drains are not only a requirement in producing certified walk-in bathtubs, they provide a safety barrier in case water leaks past the door seal and keep the bathroom floor from getting wet.

A. Hydro Dimensions walk-in tubs:

- Door drain

B. Competitive walk-in tubs:

- No door drain



FAUCET

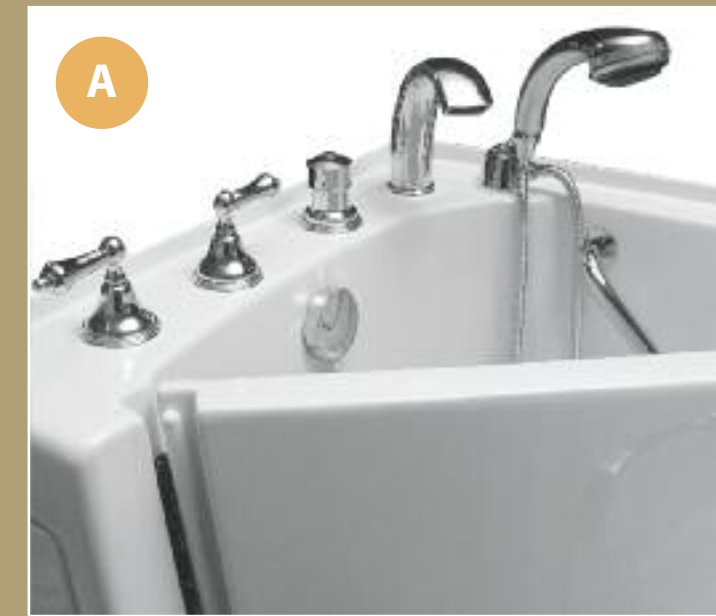
Many people don't think about the faucet when evaluating a walk-in tub, they just know they need one so they can get the water running. But a bad faucet can make bathing difficult by lengthening the fill time. Small handles or handles that are placed too close to the faucet can be difficult to grip and turn, especially with arthritis, and a single unit can lead to other complications with the tub installation.

A. Hydro Dimensions walk-in tubs:

- Large ¼ turn handles
- ¾" individual valves
- ¾" supply hoses
- Separate hand shower
- Push down hand shower diverter

B. Other competitive walk-in tubs:

- Clumsy, small handles
- Single unit complications
- ½" valves
- Supply hoses not included
- Hard to grab pull up hand shower diverter





A

HYDRO & AIR SYSTEMS CONTROLS

The system controls on a walk-in bathtub allow the bather to turn on or off the hydrotherapy options. Pneumatic (or “air pressure”) switches are frequently used for controls in the walk-in bathtub Industry. Depending on the tub’s system configuration, there may be one or more of these buttons on the bathtub and it’s up to the bather to figure out which button controls which system. When used with Air Massage Therapy options, the correct button must be pushed several times just to turn the system off.

The biggest problem with these types of switches are clement changes. The air in the air hose itself may not be the same temperature as the surrounding air. When this happens, it may be impossible to turn the system on or off without changes to the ambient air temperature.

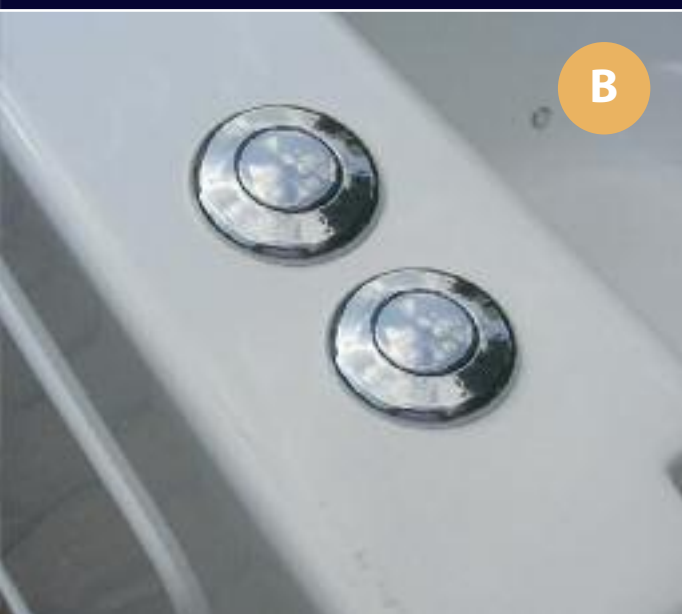
A better solution is an electronic switch. Electronic switches offer a single panel on the tub that controls everything with a simple touch! The panel of an electronic switch offers intuitive, user friendly controls that ensure a pleasant bathing experience for years to come.

A. Hydro Dimensions walk-in tubs:

- Electronic touch pad controls

B. Competitive walk-in tubs:

- Pneumatic/air buttons



B

HYDRO & AIR MASSAGE SYSTEMS

In a walk-in tub that has water and/or air massage therapy, the greater the number of jets - and the placement of these jets in relation to specific body areas that require the massage treatment - the bigger the benefit to the bather.

Water jets that are placed in strategic body areas - like behind the lower legs, upper thighs, and lower, middle and upper back - are sure to deliver a far more beneficial massage to the bather.

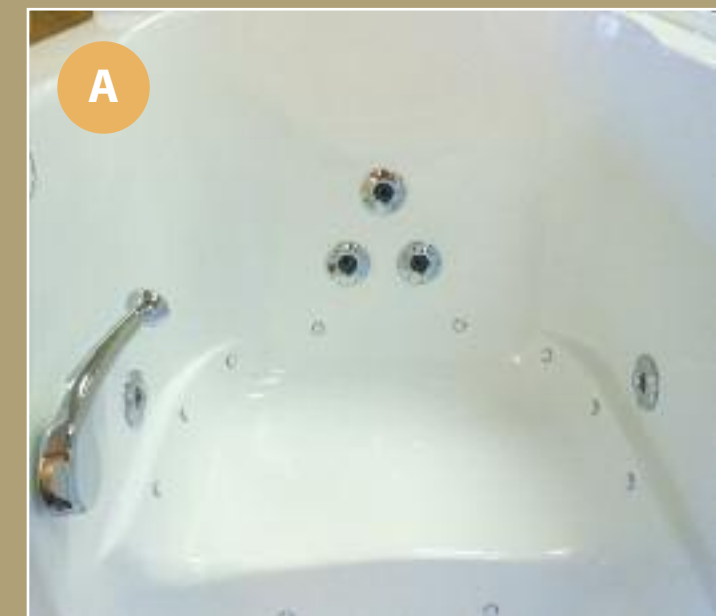
Air jets and their positioning relative to the bather are supremely important. Many tub manufacturers place only a few air jets pointing up from the seat itself. The problem with this configuration is pretty obvious: Sit on the seat, and the jets are covered up! Strategically placed air jets around the sides of the seat and walls will not only benefit the bather, they ensure the air system works as intended.

A. Hydro Dimensions walk-in tubs:

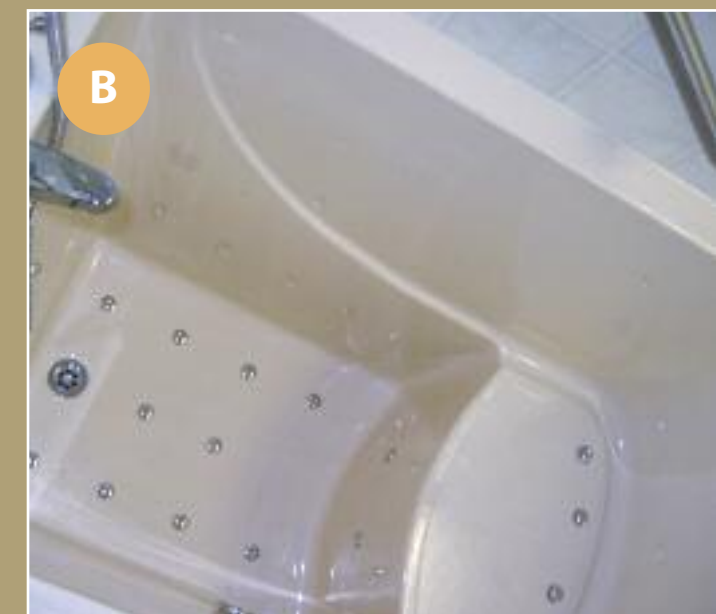
- Custom air & water jet placement
- Twenty (20) port air system
- Five plus (5 to 10) water jet system
- Water and air (dual) system

B. Competitive walk-in tubs:

- Up to fifteen (15) port air system
- Six (6) water jet system
- Water or air system, not both



A



B



A

BLOWERS & MOTORS

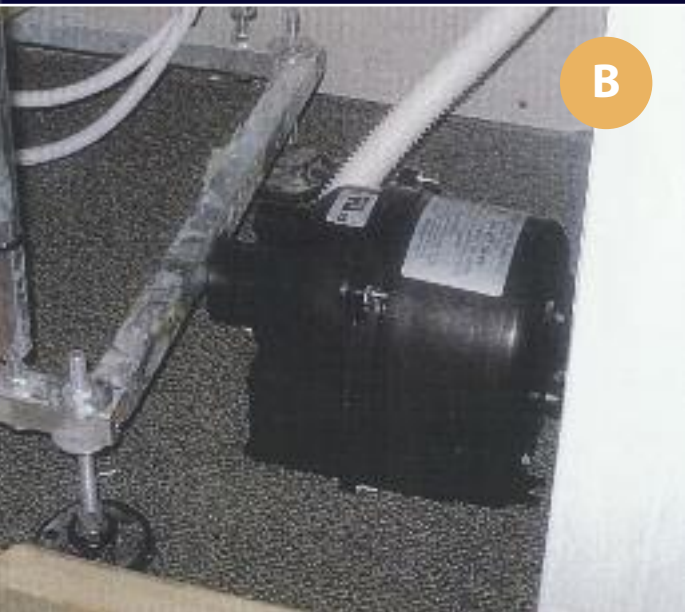
Walk-in tubs that have therapy options need motors to push air and/or water through their jets. If relaxation and therapy is the goal, the last thing anyone needs is a loud electric engine whining behind their head or scooting along the floor and vibrating against the side of the tub. If quite, vibration-free bathing is an important criteria for enjoying a therapeutic hydrotherapy session, the blower and motor must be quiet and as secure as possible.

A. Hydro Dimensions walk-in tubs:

- Silent water pump (the quietest pump available)
- CG Air blower (the quietest blower available)
- Bolted to tub platform
- Cushioned feet under pump & blower to muffle vibration and sound

B. Competitive walk-in tubs:

- Standard water pump
- Standard blower
- Sits on floor or wood platform
- Loud & loose



B

SYSTEM HOSES

Hoses are a critical part of every hydro massage and air massage system. Because of the depth of most walk-in bathtubs, it is very difficult to correctly balance water and air coming out of the jets. Hydro massage systems must use different sized hoses and reducers to achieve equal water pressure in each jet. Balancing the air pressure in air massage systems is much more difficult. The use of an air manifold with different pressure point outlets is needed. In addition, the number of air jets attached to each air line effects how air pressure is equalized.

A. Hydro Dimensions walk-in tubs:

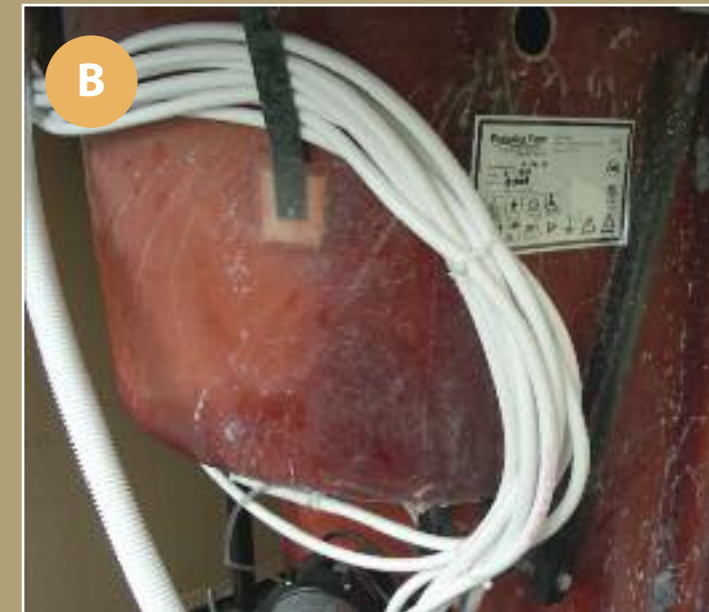
- Pressure distribution & balancing

B. Competitive walk-in tubs:

- No pressure distribution or balancing



A



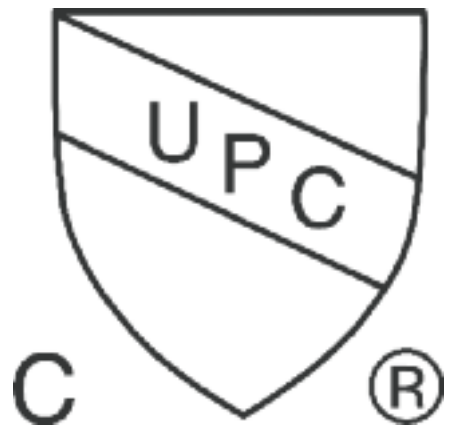
B



CERTIFICATIONS

Most walk-in bathtub companies are unaware of state requirements for safety and proper tub installations, so both the bathtub and installation may turn out to be illegal. If any mishap occurred that related in some way to the illegal tub or its installation, homeowner insurance policies would most likely void the incident and not cover any of the damages.

Hydro Dimensions provides tubs that are fully certified and meet state and local building codes. Choosing one of our bathtubs results in peace of mind: no voided homeowner insurance policies to worry about - ever!



GUARANTEE

Many companies offer a one year (or less) guarantee on their walk-in tubs and tell people to "return the tub" if they have an issue. Hydro Dimensions does not consider this good customer service. Instead Hydro Dimensions provides a LIFETIME guarantee on the tub body, door, frame and all seals and a TEN YEAR guarantee on system components, faucet and waste & overflow.

When a product is as good as ours, its easy to offer the best guarantees in the industry!





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www.HYDRODIMENSIONS.COM

Please visit our website if you have additional questions on any of our products, or call us toll free at 1 (888) 818-7111.