HELIXBATH® FREESTANDING ACRYLIC TUB GENERAL INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS & CARE GUIDE

Before you begin installing your new Helixbath® freestanding tub we recommend that you thoroughly read the rough-in and installation instructions below. This is a project for 2 people minimum. These installation instructions focus on the elements involved in, lining up the drain from the tub to the house plumbing and placing the tub in the desired location. They also cover attaching the provided accordion style drain tube into the floor drain. These instructions do not cover elements related to the actual installation of the homes plumbing trap or pipes located under or inside of the floor. The homes plumbing is considered a professional plumbing task or highly advanced DIY element in which previous experience and training is recommended.

As the installing party, you are responsible to observe all local plumbing and building codes. This tub has successfully passed testing and inspection for leaks and scratches prior to shipment. Before regular use, test for leaks. During the installation process, to avoid scratches it is recommended that you leave the protective film on the tub and use blankets or rugs for additional protection when moving or tilting the tub on its side.

SCOPE OF INSTALLATION

Your Helixbath® Freestanding Tub itself is designed to be installation friendly. It will arrive with the adjustable feet, support bars and overflow connections all pre-installed. The overflow connection is pre plumbed within the tub to exit out the main tub drain. No additional floor drains are needed besides the single main drain to accommodate a Helixbath® freestanding tub with a factory installed overflow.

This manual covers the positioning and installation of the tub in the home. It does not cover installation of the homes plumbing. Knowledge of plumbing related topics and local codes are the responsibility of a professional plumber or experienced Do It Yourselfer.

Regardless of whether the tub is DIY or professionally installed Kardiel accepts no liability for personal injury nor any damage to the floor, walls or plumbing fixtures.

1. Moving the tub into the area of installation

Before moving the tub, measure all doorways and any entry points to ensure the tub will fit into the desired installation area. Appropriately cover the surfaces of the tub to protect against dings and scratching while moving it to the desired room.
2. Tool List

You will need some and may need all of the following tools and materials:

A. Pipe wrench  
B. Tape measure  
C. Level  
D. PVC saw  
E. PTFE pipe thread tape  
F. Straightedge  
G. Pencil  
H. PVC primer and glue  
I. Pliers  
J. Silicone adhesive  
K. Safety glasses  
L. Cleaning Rag

ROUGH-IN (determining the location):

Performing the rough-in procedures with tub on-site is the easier method for situating the tub in the room. This may not always be practical however. For this reason both methods with and without the tub being present will be covered.

4 STEPS TO ROUGH-IN WITHOUT THE TUB PRESENT

To determine the tub location in the room and roughing-in the drain location when tub is NOT present you will need to refer to the tub’s [PDF] specifications sheet. This sheet will provide you with the outside dimensions of the tub as well as the inside dimensions of the tub. The floor drain location is the key element which will be provided in the Specifications PDF. Helixbath® provides these numbers when measured from the inside of the tub. The specifications sheet can can be viewed or printed from the website.

1. Determine the desired location and orientation of tub. Consider both the practical accessibility of the plumbing and aesthetic visual that the tub will provide in the room. To get a better visual of the actual scale and size, use the outside dimensions provided on the specifications sheet. Regardless of the shape of the tub, using blue painters tape, create a rectangle on the floor that represent the overall length and width of the tub.

2. Once you are satisfied with the location of the tub within the room, you will need to determine where the plumbing exits the bottom of the tub. This location is where the hole will need to be created in the floor for the home plumbing to connect to the tub. This is not as complicated as it may seem. Using the blue painters tape, refer to the dimensions on the specification sheet and create a rectangle that represents the inside dimension the tub. The inside dimension will be somewhat smaller than the outside dimensions. Using the dimensions on the specifications PDF, center the “inside dimension” rectangle within the boundaries of the “outside dimension” rectangle that you created in step 1.
3. Again, refer to the PDF Specification sheet and locate the dimensions provided for the “centerline” of the drain. Helixbath® provides this information measured for both the length and width and taken from the inside dimensions. Using the centerline drain dimensions provided in the specifications pdf, measure in from the inside dimension rectangle and mark an X on the floor to indicate the location of the floor drain. It is good to keep in mind that the connecting hose provided by helixbath is an accordion style hose. It has flexibility to move up to 3” in all directions to reach the home plumbing in the event the drain hole does not line up exactly as planned.

4. Drill or create the hole in the flooring in the marked location from which the plumbing pipes will protrude.

5 STEPS TO ROUGH-IN AND TUB PLACEMENT WITH THE TUB PRESENT

1. If tub is on location, you will move and set it in desired location. Start by carefully unpacking the tub. Measure any doors and hallways to ensure that the tub will fit through these entries into the desired room before moving the tub. Helixbath recommends using blankets, rugs or towels for additional protection and leaving the protective plastic coating on the tub until it is in its final location and ready for use.

2. Determining the volume that the tub will take up is easy with the tub on location. Move the tub into the position that is most desired taking into consideration plumbing accessibility as well as overall design aesthetics.

3. Once the tub is in the desired permanent position, trace around the bottom of the tub using a pencil. If you are unable to mark the floor you may use blue painters tape placing sections end on end to trace out the shape on the floor.

4. There are two ways to mark the point on the floor where the tub will sit. Some helixbath models use a floor drain where the cap will unscrew. If this is the case, you can unscrew the cap and using a full length pencil, mark the floor beneath. A popular way to mark the drain position on the floor is to pour a quarter to a half teaspoon of cooking oil down the drain. This will mark the spot on the floor for you.

5. Once you have the spot marked, move the tub from its position and proceed to cut the hole in the floor from which the plumbing will protrude.

ATTACHING THE TUB TO THE HOMES PLUMBING AND POSITIONING IT PERMANENTLY

1. Leveling the tub. Once the floor drainpipe has been plumbed and is in place, set the tub back into its location temporarily. Helixbath® tubs come with adjustable feet allowing you to level the tub by adjusting feet either up or down. The tub feet and not the bottom of the actual tub are to hold the weight of the water and person(s) etc in the tub. Gently place a clean level on both front and back top rails and left and right side rails. Make a note of which direction the level indicates the adjustments are needed from front to back and side to side.
Ensure that the floor around the tub has been swept clean. Place a clean thick blanket or rug on to of the floor next to the tub. Gently tilt the tub onto its side on top of the floor or blanket. Adjust the feet turning them up or down accordingly. Set the tub back into position. Check the level again and repeat until the leveling process is complete. The goal is to keep the bottom of the tub as close to 1/8” as you can to the floor. In the event your floor is extremely uneven you will need to consider whether floor work is desired before proceeding.

2. Attaching the accordion drain hose to the homes plumbing.

Tip before starting: The accordion tube that screws on to the drain body of the tub is included with your helixbath tub. Your plumber will need to provide or you will need to purchase a 1 ¼” Extension Tube and a Trap Adapter screw on cap. Trap adapters come in various sizes to fit your current pipes but will need to accept the fit of the 1 ¼” Extension Tube. We recommend visiting an Ace hardware store as we have found their employees capable of answering the necessary questions related to the items you will need. To save you an extra trip, before visiting the hardware store, take a picture and measure the diameter of the homes plumbing pipe. Also be sure to bring the Helixbath® accordion tube to the hardware store. This will enable the employee to provide you with the proper size extension tube(s) to connect the tub to the homes plumbing.
HELPFUL DEFINITIONS

Drain body thread (provided with the tub) - The thread extending from the bottom of the tub drain. The accordion pipe provided by Helixbath® screws into this.

Accordion pipe (provided with the tub) - This tube expands and contracts for flexibility. This tube screws on to the tubs drain body and slides into the “extension tube nut” located on the top of the “extension tube” that you will purchase separately.

Extension tube (tail piece) - 1 ¼” diameter pvc tube that the 1 ¼” accordion pipe slides in to.

Trap adaptor - The trap adaptor is essentially a cap with threads and an opening in the top. The job of the trap adaptor is to screw as a cap over the plumbing pipe of the home and accept the 1 ¼” “Extension tube” through its opening. To determine the diameter size of the trap adaptor you will need, you have to measure the diameter of the homes pipe opening.

Start with the tub on its side. Ensure that the tub is positioned correctly so that when you tilt it back upright it sits in the desired location. Insert the 1 ¼” extension tube into the trap adaptor making sure trap adaptor is threaded to the main pipe. Check with your local hardware store about the appropriate use of thread sealant when connecting pvc pipes. Apply pipe thread tape to the threads of the tubs drain body located at the bottom of the tub (only use tape do not use liquid sealant). Begin to thread (screw) the accordion tube provided to the tubs drain body. You will now need to begin lower the tub toward its upright position leaving just enough room for your hands and arms to work with the tube. Now insert the end of the 1 ¼” diameter accordion tube into the 1 ¼ extension tube. Once the connections have been made lower the tub the last few inches so that it is in its full upright permanent position.

3. Test for leaks. Your Helixbath® tub has been tested for leaks prior to shipment. Check for leaks under the tub itself prior to affixing it to the floor is an extra preventative measure to ensure nothing has changed after shipping. This will mean tilting it far enough that you will need to gently remove the accordion pipe from the opening of the extension tube. In addition if you have crawlspace beneath the floor of the tub, it is wise to visually check the plumbing for leaks as well. Fill the tub with water, completely drain and towel dry any standing water left in the tub. Tilt the tub back toward its side and check for puddles of water. Then check the pipe connections beneath the floor for leaks. If there are no visible leaks proceed with adhering the tub to the floor.

4. Adhering the tub to the floor. This step helps keeps the tub from shifting from its permanently desired location. The tub should still be on its side in the exact location so that when you turn it right side up it will sit in its permanent location. Begin by applying a generous bead of silicon adhesive to the bottom of each of the adjustable floor legs. Then apply a conservative bead around the bottom edge of the tub, leaving just enough space adhesive free for re-inserting the 1 ¼” accordion tube into the 1 ¼” extension tube during lowering. You want to use enough Silicon adhesive around the bottom edge that it creates an adhesive contact with the floor but not so much that there would be excess squeezing out around the base once the tub is turned upright. Begin to lower the tub into its final position. Once again attach the accordion tube securely into the extension tube. Finally lower the tub down to its permanent position.
The bottom edge may or may not come in complete contact with the ground depending on how level your floor was. Do not be overly concerned with how much of the bottom edge contacts the floor you have securely adhered the leg adjusters underneath. Silicon adhesive has a curing time of 8 hours. Do not use the tub until the Silicon adhesive has had 8 hours minimum time to cure.

Cleaning and maintaining

1. Use a dampened soft cloth to regularly clean. Wash area with warm water and dishwashing liquid or general surface cleaners using a damp sponge, then rinse with warm water.

2. It is not recommended to use any type of abrasive cleaners or cleaning pads. Natural, environmentally friendly cleaners are recommended. Do not use harsh chemicals. Read labels on cleaners before using.

3. After cleaning, wipe off residue, rinse tub with hot water, then use a clean, soft cloth to dry the surface.