

Lengthwise



Scribing your Tub Rails to a Sloped Floor

Many of our Ofuro soaking tubs are installed on a 'wet floor', a sloping tiled floor with a floor drain at the lowest point. In a traditional Japanese bathroom, the shower and soaking tub are located together in their own separate bathing room.

To ensure proper drainage, the floor must be sloped toward the drain. In most areas, this slope must be between 1/4" per foot and 1/2" per foot to satisfy building code.

In order to keep the water level parallel with the rim of the tub, it is necessary to cut the support rails of your ofuro to the corresponding slope.

This page shows two different installation orientations on a typical wet floor. This floor has an even slope toward a linear trench drain. The side profile shows how the tub rails are angled to match the drain slope.

Transverse



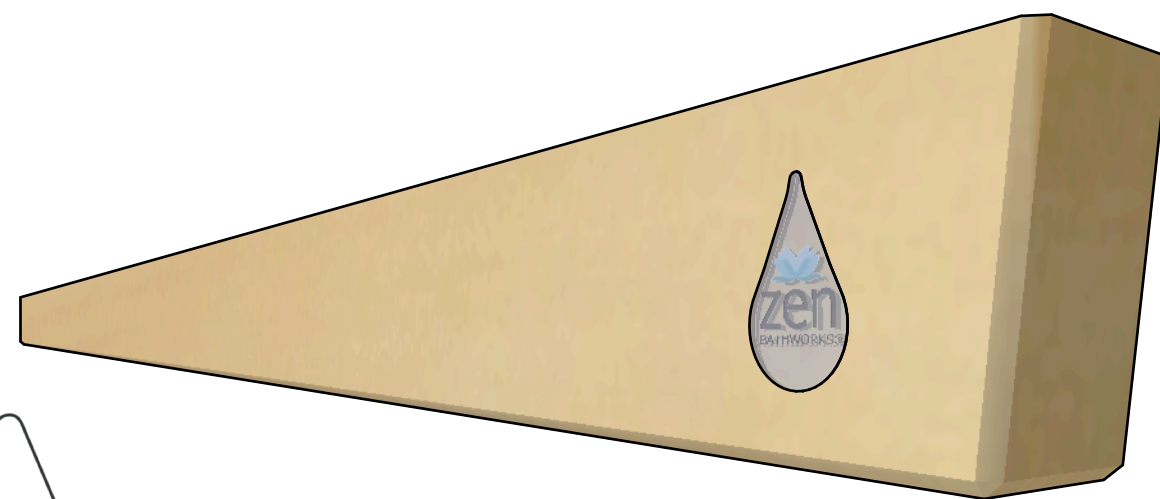
The support rails should always run parallel to the slope of the floor, so that water flows freely along the rails to the drain instead of becoming trapped at any point. As shown at left, our Transverse Rail option may be necessary for some installations.

If the slope is consistent and known, the rails can simply be cut to the matching angle. We can provide this service at the time of manufacture.

If the slope is not known, rails can be scribed on site. With the tub placed in its desired location, use shims under the rails to level the tub. Then, cut a block to the width of the widest gap between the rails and the floor. Use this block to transfer the slope of the floor along each rail. It may be possible to trim the rails while they are still installed; in most cases it is best to remove the rails for trimming.

Be sure to protect your tub with moving blankets or other soft padding if you turn it over for better access.





We recommend between 3/4" - 1-1/8" of screw penetration through the rails EXCEPT on center rails - these must have 3/4" or less avoid puncturing through the floor. Floors are 1.1" thick. Choose an appropriate combination of screw length and countersink depth to achieve correct screw penetration.

****If the inside floor surface is punctured, the tub floor WILL LEAK****

We mill a 1/8" bevel onto the edges of our rails to create a more finished appearance. This optional step can be done with an orbital sander, or a trim router with a chamfering bit. The long edges can be beveled on a jointer.

All unfinished edges of the rail should be sealed to prevent water staining and eventual decay. We use Daly's Seafin Teak Oil, which we recommend for any application in which the sheen and color need to match the rest of the tub.

However, there are a number of other commonly available wood finishing products that will give acceptable results on hidden faces, including Watco Danish Oil, most brands of Teak Oil, and most brands of Tung Oil Finish.

