



Power Showers

Steam systems, body jets, and rainfall showerheads, oh my! Who needs the spa when your bathroom can have it all?

While I was proud of myself for swapping out the showerhead from my landlord for one with a water softener, more advanced fixtures require more

advanced interventions in both plumbing and electrical components. For a steam shower, this means making room for a generator the size of a briefcase, which boils the water away from your bathroom in a dry, heated location. The steam is then released through a steam head,

which can be operated through a control on the wall (or via an app, if that's what you're into).

To ensure that your steam shower is fully functional, you will need a standard household power system, as well as a water line to the generator, a steam line from the generator to the shower, and a drain line leading away from the shower. I know what you're thinking: It's easy, almost too easy. But, buyer, beware: To set it all up, you might have to think outside the cubicle.

Designer Analisse Taft-Gersten of ALT for Living knew she wanted a solid-marble bathroom with the iTempoPlus Steam Shower System from Mr. Steam for her Hamptons home. "This bathroom was extremely challenging to do because the flooring underneath was just floorboards, with no space in between," she says. "We had to get very creative to run lines and vents down to the basement."

"Baths have so many layers of complexity to meet both function and beauty," explains Elena Frampton of Frampton Co. "Floor pitch; drainage details; waterproofing; the right size, proportions, and layout; and, of course, heights for showerheads and body sprays."

Is it worth it in the end? Well, it might be. "Custom work always adds a level of personalization," Frampton notes. In a recent project, she balanced the renovations needed to add a set of body jets from THG Paris with the layout of the adjacent dining room and powder room, then thickened select walls to ensure that the plumbing fit comfortably. "A luxury shower wants an interesting shape and proportion," she says. "We created a tall curving space, an accessible but not visually prominent product storage, and gorgeous materials—here, stone floors and a handmade crackled glazed tile."