



DIYmodify Factsheet

Electrical Zones in the Bathroom

CAUTION: All electrical work in Australia **MUST** be done by a licensed electrical contractor, who should properly test any electrical work and supply you with a safety certificate.

Exercise extreme caution when looking at replacing your existing shower head with a handheld shower. It is extremely important that the following is assessed before doing your handheld shower work. Check the location of any powerpoints or light switches and ensure that they are outside of the zones as shown below.

If you have a hand held shower in your bathroom that has a barrier (like a door or a shower curtain), a good tip to test electrical safety is to test the distance of the water spray when the barrier is in place. If it can reach a power outlet or a switch, then the switch or power outlet probably needs to be relocated.

DO NOT PROCEED if you do not understand the information in this Factsheet and are uncertain if your handheld shower will spray a socket or switch or not and whether the sockets in your house are in accord with the information in this factsheet. Seek assistance from a licensed electrical contractor.

A few extra safety tips are:

- Make sure there is a barrier such as a shower curtain or door around the shower and keep them closed as much as practicable while showering.
- Control the water spray by keeping the water pressure low.
- Be careful to direct spray away from switches/sockets/devices.
- Let a carer (or paramedical aide, care worker, OT, family member or friend) control the handheld shower hose if you are having difficulty holding it.
- Use exhaust fans, open windows or doors to minimise steam/condensation.

ELECTRICAL SAFETY ZONES

Where there is no barrier such as a shower screen door or wall, there must be NO sockets within Zone 0 (Look at Table 1) or Zone 1.

Where there is no barrier such as a shower screen door or wall, within Zone 2, sockets are permitted ONLY if they are incorporated into a shaver supply unit or are protected by a residual current detector with a fixed rating of not more than 30mA and in a cupboard such as a vanity cabinet that is closed and the socket outlet is closed off even when using it.

Where there is no barrier such as a shower screen door or wall, within Zone 3, that is at least 2.8M away from the shower, sockets are permitted if they are installed higher than 300mm above the bathroom floor and fitted with RCD protection.

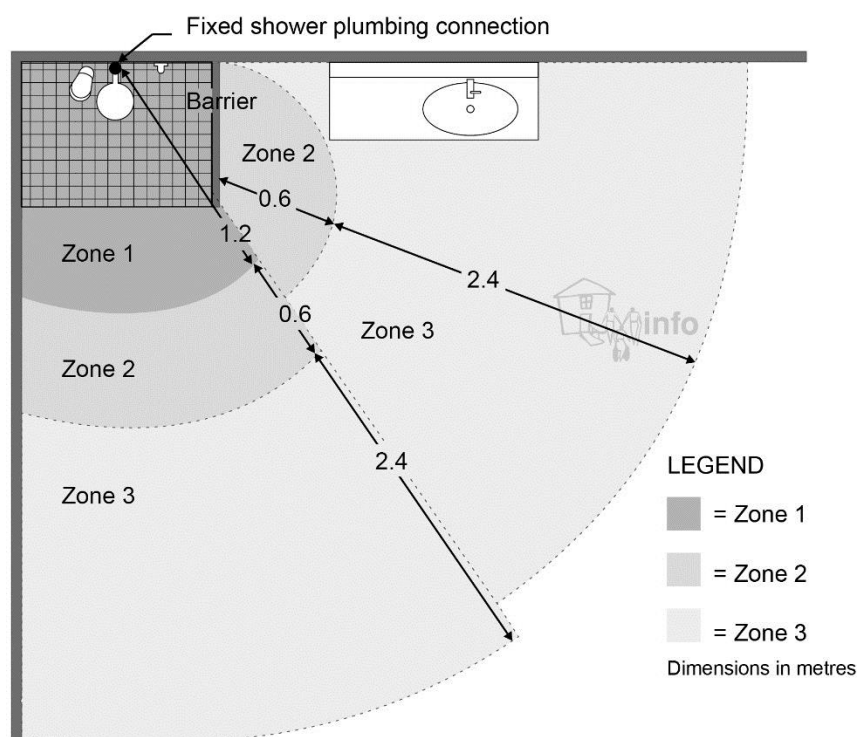


Figure 1 Bathroom Zones – Open Plan Shower: Effect of shower barrier on bathroom zones, plan view

Source: Adapted from AS/NZS 3000:2007, Figure 6.9

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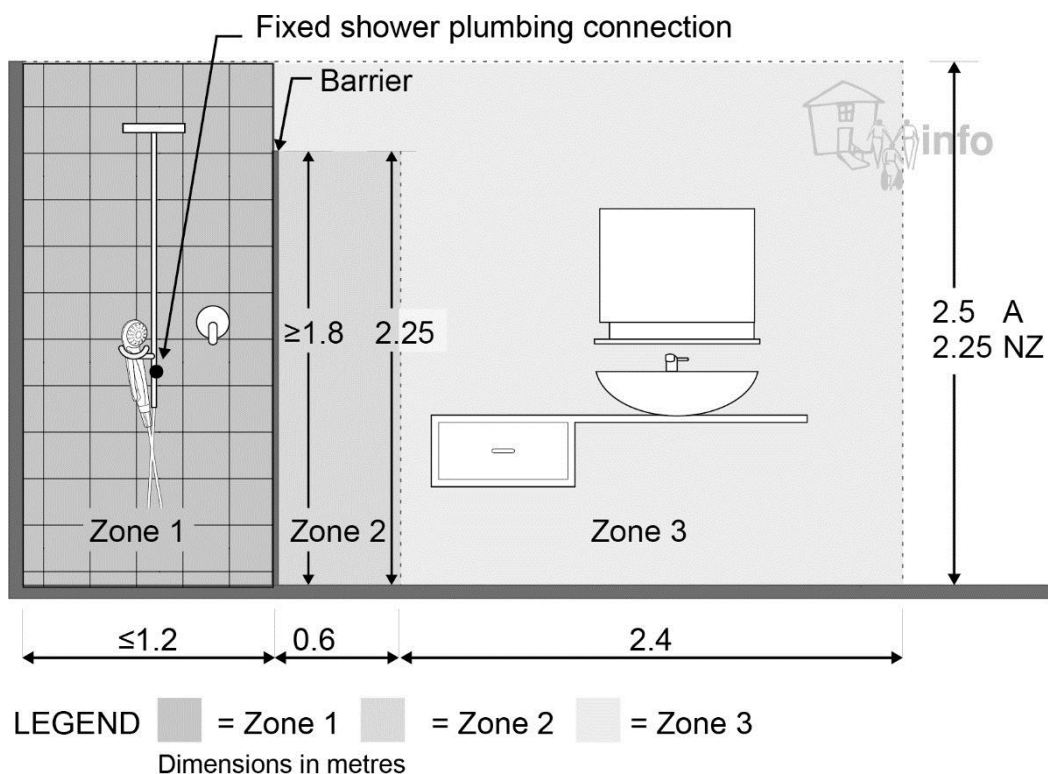


Figure 2 Bathroom Zones – Open Plan Shower: Effect of shower barrier on bathroom zones, elevation view

Source: Adapted from AS/NZS 3000:2007, Figure 6.8
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An open plan shower does not have a raised hob or a depression in floor, so Zone 1 is applicable to the entire open plan shower area.

Without a shower barrier, Zone 1 extends 1.2m from the fixed plumbing connection. A shower barrier allows Zone 1 to be reduced to the area enclosed by the shower barrier (Figure 2,).

Table 1 Bathroom Zone Specification

Bathroom Zones	
Zone 0:	the interior area of the base of a bath or shower, with the shower base “defined by either a raised hob or a depression in the floor”.
Zone 1:	a) for a bath, extends from the internal rim of the bath above zone 0 to the horizontal plane 2.5m (Aus) or 2.25m (NZ) above the floor. b) for a shower over a bath, zone 1 extends to the vertical plane 1.2m radius from the shower fixed plumbing connection. c) for a shower, includes the area from the vertical plane 1.2m radius from the shower fixed plumbing connection between floor and ceiling or a horizontal plane, 2.5m (Aus) or 2.25m (NZ) above the floor (whichever is lower).
Zone 2:	the area limited by the vertical plane external to zone 1 and the parallel vertical plane 0.6m external to zone 1, and between the floor and horizontal plane 2.25m above the floor.
Zone 3:	the area limited by the vertical plane external to zone 2 and the parallel vertical plane 2.4m external to zone 2, and between the floor and ceiling or the horizontal plane 2.5m (Aus) or 2.25m (NZ) above the floor (whichever is lower).

Source: Adapted from AS/NZS 3000:2007, cl 6.2.2.1
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***This information was correct at time of printing.*