

The story of my bathroom project in Burgundy

12...6→

- Posts

- 23rd June 2013 at 04:58#774313



chris-le-
bricoleur
Participant

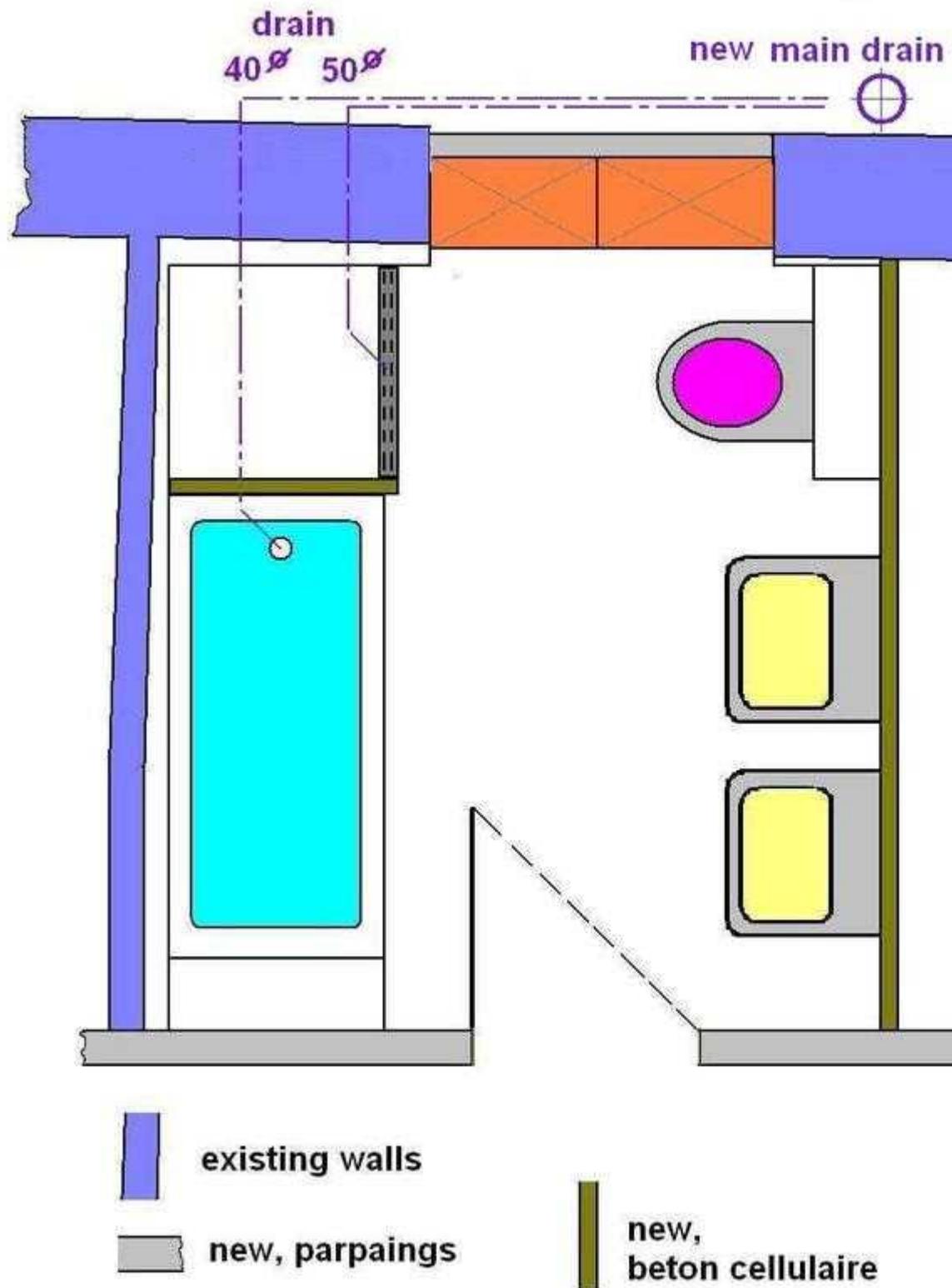
Joined: 03 Dec 2010
Location: NL and 52
Total posts: 1381

- The room was not really a room. It was part of an immense couloir, with an exit to the adjacent barn. The ceiling was not complete, there was an opening from a former staircase. I put in a beam to close the ceiling.





We made a plan.



This is the fifth drawing I made. We wanted a full size bathtub, a shower (douche à l'italienne), two sinks and a WC. The WC should, of course, be placed with the shortest possible connection to a new sewer which I had planned in the adjacent barn.

My first action was to remove the existing floorboards and to lay [Lewis boards](#) as a basis for a thin concrete floor.



I succeeded in making the floor not much higher than the original one. This was 32mm pine. The ondulated board is 17mm, plus 8mm concrete, plus 10mm tiles+glue -> 35mm.

Then I placed the metal stud system for the plasterboards.
I placed this ossature exactly square in a non-square room, see my drawing.



The drains:



I had already planned separate drains for the bathtub and the shower to avoid the effect of communicating vessels. On the other side of the bathroom I laid the drains for the WC and the two sinks, and also the connections for a visitors bathroom (shower cabin, you see its tray provisionally placed, toilet and sink) which was the next project.

With the floor laid I could install my plumbing. Here you see the connections for the bathtub (left) and the shower (right), all copper.



I tiled the floor with 33x33cm grey tiles, the walls with 20x20cm off-white tiles.



On the right side of the future shower you can see the white slab belonging to the line drain (this is placed under the tiles and up the wall) and the black sealing strip, also placed under the tiles; the portion you can see will then be placed between the green plasterboard and the wall tiling. Around the linear shower drain you'll notice a somewhat strange tiling pattern. This is because I placed uncut tiles behind the linear drain – the strange small fill-in pieces will be hidden by the shower separation wall planned at the left side of the drain. For shower floors an inclination of 0,5 -1% towards the drain is recommended, for my 90x100cm shower I've chosen 7mm, 0,7% thus. The next time I would opt for 1% . With the floor tiling completed I could start the wall tiling.





I left an area of 4 tiles wide and 4 tiles high untiled and placed the wood-and-plasterboard understructure for my recessed shelf, to comply exactly with the tile pattern.

Here the backside of the bathroom is almost completely tiled, with the exception of the former door niche (where I had placed a window):



And I've also tiled the opposite wall, the separation from the visitors shower, built with beton cellulaire, where toilet and sinks will be placed. The 3 tiles high and 8 tiles wide area which is left untiled is for a made-to-measure mirror glued to the cellbeton wall.



And now the shower separation! I built it from blocs de beton cellulaire, 25x60x7cm — other possibilities would have been glass bricks or a hardened glass screen. Every second layer of the blocks is connected to the rear wall by spring anchors.





I then tiled the wall on both sides, for the front side I took plastic edge profiles and cut-to-measure tiles.



This is how it looks now, with a simple plastic curtain on a telescopic rail which is replaced every two years:



On the opposite wall I could now place the toilet.





I installed the mounting frame, anchored it to the wall, made the flush and drain connections, covered it with plasterboard and then tiled it; here I also used edge

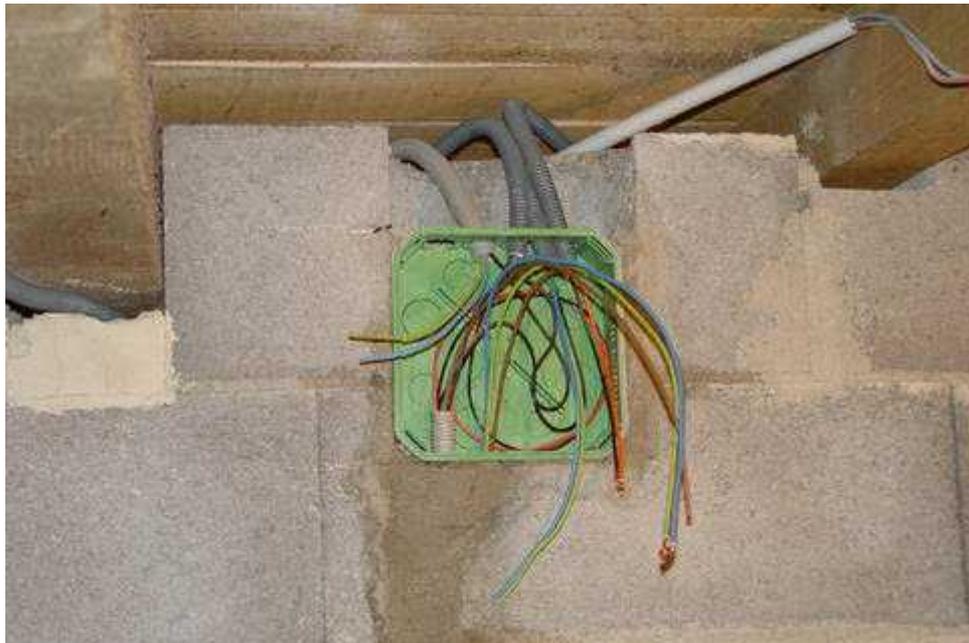
profiles. You get a big choice of profiles, plastic or metal, from [Schlüter Systems](#).





Electric instalation:





I've connected all electrics in an 175x175mm boîte de derivation which I placed outside the bathroom: ceiling spots, mirrorside lighting, extractor fan, sockets for razor and toothbrushes, the wall-mounted hairdryer.

I've placed a plastic bathtub. I built the surrounds from beton cellulaire on a recessed plinth, so you have some place for your feet when standing at the bathtub!





We're happy with the ensemble.







Comments and questions welcome!

Then I built the adjacent visitors bathroom.



Toilet and sink placed, and now also the shower cabin.



Extractor fan (hardly visible on the pics) in line with the ceiling spots, close to WC and shower, switched with the lights and equipped with a timer..

Christian - bricoleur par passion, pas par nécessité <http://www.klussen-in-frankrijk.eu/>

23rd June 2013 at 05:15#1169012

Addendum:

Some hints for tiling in an irregular room can be found [here](#).

Christian - bricoleur par passion, pas par nécessité <http://www.klussen-in-frankrijk.eu/>



chris-le-
bricoleur
Participant

Joined: 03 Dec 2010
Location: NL and 52
Total posts: 1381

23rd June 2013 at 05:35#1169013



10/10 from me. And that's just for your explanation and description. The actual project is even better.

#sexysocialism Never enter a battle of wits unarmed.

23rd June 2013 at 09:28#1169014

riquet
Participant

Hear hear ! Well done, a lovely piece of advanced DIY.

Joined: 14 Nov 2004
Location: 23 36 87
Total posts: 4587

Joined: 15 Sep 2010
Location: North Tyneside & East 82 (not there often enough)
Total posts: 2420

23rd June 2013 at 12:18#1169015

It looks fantastic! What an achievement!

Freelance journalist. Life's a pitch.



23rd June 2013 at 18:05#1169016

Thoughtful planning and attention to detail. I've done the shelf recess idea, set in timber stud walling, and found it fiddly tiling (angling the shelves slightly to shed water) and finishing but useful shelving. I particularly like your impressive drainage system, 'Lewis' floor idea, the plinth under the bath and the blocs de beton cellulaire shower separator.

Thanks for sharing. Anne-Marie

Joined: 04 Jul 2004
Location: Where Champagne spills into Burgundy
Total posts: 1026

Joined: 18 Feb 2008
Location: London/Champniers-Reilhac, Northern Dordogne
Total posts: 144

23rd June 2013 at 18:15#1169017

Participant

Sensational, well done. What is a couloir please and when is the bathroom warming party?

Sledge.

Remember, you can't stop the waves, but you can learn to surf.

Joined: 08 Oct 2012
Location: Dept 85, Vendée.
Total posts: 1295

23rd June 2013 at 18:20#1169018

It looks fantastic. Wish we could have found professionals here to come close to that sort of quality finish. Well done!

23rd June 2013 at 18:23#1169019

Chanceux
Participant

Very good, I like the idea of setting back the bath plinth and it matches well with the other plinths in the room.

Joined: 17 Mar 2010
Location: Picardie
Total posts: 13130

Never seen it done before but it looks so right, I wonder why I have never thought that

all the others look wrong as they now will!!

Joined: 09 Feb 2006
Location: 24 Dordogne
Total posts: 1997

23rd June 2013 at 19:28#1169020

@sledgehammer85 wrote:

Sensational, well done. What is a couloir please and when is the bathroom warming party?Sledge.



chris-le-bricoleur
Participant

Joined: 03 Dec 2010
Location: NL and 52
Total posts: 1381

A domestic **couloir** is a more or less square corridor, giving access to typically four or more rooms.

The bathroom warming party took place eight years ago, with champagne, Marc de Bourgogne and some virgins 😊

Christian - bricoleur par passion, pas par nécessité <http://www.klussen-in-frankrijk.eu/>

23rd June 2013 at 20:18#1169021

Grout or caulk?



chris-le-bricoleur
Participant

Joined: 03 Dec 2010
Location: NL and 52
Total posts: 1381

I was asked this in a PM, but it may be of general interest.

At places where walls and/or floor meet I prefer to seal tile joints elastically rather than with grout. This is particularly necessary where walls or floors made from different base materials meet each other. The materials have different expansion coefficients, they will therefore behave differently under temperature or moisture changes.

This is generally accepted **in the trade**.

Caulk is certainly prone to mould attack, but I find this a minor risk compared with the chance of moisture attack if a grout joint cracks.

In my bathroom I've used:



- 1 = white grout, 3mm joints
- 2 = grey grout, 5mm joints
- 3 = white silicone
- 4 = grey silicone

This photograph was taken to-day; the bathroom is 8 years old. No leaks, no mould.

What can happen if you don't observe these simple rules can be seen here:



The walls are bricks, a downpipe in the corner was covered with plaster board, and the whole tiled with grout joints. After three months the left joint cracked.

Christian - bricoleur par passion, pas par nécessité <http://www.klussen-in-frankrijk.eu/>

23rd June 2013 at 21:02#1169022



chris-le-bricoleur
Participant

Joined: 03 Dec 2010
Location: NL and 52
Total posts: 1381

@chancer wrote:

*I like the idea of setting back the bath plinth and it matches well with the other plinths in the room.
Never seen it done before but it looks so right!!*

Chancer,

I saw this 25 years ago in a chalet in Switzerland where we were skiing. It looked so simple, and was so practical, that I kept the idea in my mind until I had to build a bathroom myself.

Certain things are so simple.

Christian - bricoleur par passion, pas par nécessité <http://www.klussen-in-frankrijk.eu/>

23rd June 2013 at 22:22#1169023

□

Participant

Joined: 20 Jan 2006
Location: Roumazières, Charente
Total posts: 703

10 out of 10 looking at your work and your comments I will in future bow to your superior knowledge (unless its a fosse lol)

Anthony

“Never argue with an idiot. They will only bring you down to their level and beat you with experience.”

23rd June 2013 at 22:39#1169024

□

Looks good Chris and attention to detail is excellent. I have to admit you must be one of the tidiest workers I've ever seen – I wish I was as organised and tidy doing DIY.

Joined: 11 Feb 2012
Location: West Sussex and 17.
Total posts: 3561

Joined: 04 May 2008
Location: Central Brittany
Total posts: 3730

23rd June 2013 at 22:50#1169025

Thanks for the detailed photos and explanations of the job Chris.

Excellent work and heartening to know it is still all working fine some years later without any problems.

As I get closer to starting the downstairs installation and also the upstairs bathroom bit I will be asking various questions regarding the right French names for stuff.

I notice you have used copper piping, have you any aversion to the plastic (in gain stuff) or is it a case of using what you had and what you know? I ask as I am intending to run (already have in some areas) the plastic pipe in various sizes from my distribution manifold (by the thermal store) to sinks showers bath etc.

Only dead fish go with the flow

• Author

The story of my bathroom project in Burgundy

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• 24th June 2013 at 05:57#1169026



chris-le-bricoleur
Participant

Joined: 03 Dec 2010
Location: NL and 52
Total posts: 1381

• Bentley,

I don't have any aversions against plastic piping. But since all the other plumbing in house, which I had to repair/extend, was in copper, I had the tools for and the experience with this material.

If I would have to do a completely new water system in a house I would use plastic piping. You certainly know that plastic piping requires bigger bending radii (is this the correct plural of radius?) than copper, which can sometimes lead to difficulties.

Good luck with your water system; you start from scratch i.e. the distribution manifolds, les nourrices, I now have to replace my nourrices since I connected everything provisionally to the existing home-made distributors (soldered from T-pieces and short length of 14mm copper pipe), and with leaking spindle type valves.

Christian - bricoleur par passion, pas par nécessité <http://www.klussen-in-frankrijk.eu/>

24th June 2013 at 12:18#1169027

□

Sorry to be negative, you have fitted a "Suspend" toilet, to my eyes it look like a old boxed in cistern unit, why didn't you continue the back of the toilet to the ceiling, imho it looks better as a flush finish floor to ceiling than a box, also have you thought about any problems that may go wrong with it, you will have to pull the whole box to bits. I have just put one in our garage and have left the back accessible for future problems, the two that will be fitted in the house will also be accessible from the rear along with the two showers, as for tight bends in PER you

Joined: 21 Jul 2011
Location: 16
Total posts: 1844

put in a 90 degree elbow, same as in copper, a bit more expensive though. I will post some pics later this week. 8) Nos

24th June 2013 at 13:16#1169028



@nosnibora wrote:

have you thought about any problems that may go wrong with it, you will have to pull the whole box to bits. s

If you go back quite some, this comment came up with the consensus that everything 'could' be done through the small hole for the flush. In fact a lovely comment, I think from Chancer, that after a few problems are sorted, one becomes so adept that it is possible to 'wallpaper through a letter box...'

Agree with you that suspendu loos look better on a flat wall, top to bottom and side to side. However, where the room is small, a ledge above the cistern is useful for storage, especially where women, and modern man, are concerned with the copious amounts of bottled liquids that accompany them.

Kind regards Hal <http://www.domainedurenne.com>

Joined: 06 Jan 2011
Location: Limoux,
11300 Aude.
Total posts: 3793

24th June 2013 at 13:29#1169029

□

Participant

Joined: 21 Jul 2011
Location: 16
Total posts: 1844

While I assume the manufacturer of these type of loos will have taken everything into account and will be satisfied that the inside workings can be extracted through the "Letter box" helpful if you are gynaecologist, its the other bits that worry me, hence my idea to leave the rears of showers and toilet accessible just in case, over cautious, too long in medical profession I guess. 8) Nos

24th June 2013 at 13:55#1169030

It's a lovely bathroom Chris, I specially like the lighting.

Participant

Joined: 20 Jul 2003
Location: SW Gers
Total posts: 6477

As with Nos, sorry to be negative, but the only fault I would find is the ventilation – I know you've put in a ventilator but I like a window in a bathroom/toilet, for the condensation, and the smells.

Tricia

24th June 2013 at 14:17#1169031

□

Participant

Joined: 17 Mar 2010
Location: Picardie
Total posts: 13130

I like toilet suspendu's, I have 4 soon to be 5, like anything cheap and mass produced these days they have all had their share of problems.

For me it depends what type of person that you are, if you take back things that dont work or expect to be able to buy replacement parts in the future, then perhaps they are not for you, but that probably can be said of any new WC even a name brand one.

If you are prepared to take things to bits, modify and/or bricoler things to make them work then after some fettling they are probably as good as anything else, one I have only needed the float/seal attending to twice, the first time I wasnt 100% sucesfull, two others needed some surgery to even work from the get go without the faceplates falling apart everytime they were pressed, modified now but the true test will be when they have to suffer the abuses of paying guests, cant be any worse than having a large lever handle to magnify the force.

To date all the repairs have been affected through the letterbox, they all have an isolating valve inside and the mechanisms can be removed and replaced with some dexterity.

I too make a floor to ceiling enclosure with the top half being an armoire with shelves and usually louvre doors.

24th June 2013 at 20:25#1169032

□ Aye Aye Chris-I-b, Thanks for the clarification (he says letting out a sigh of relief) I am all geared up to go plastic although the feeds/takes from the wood burners will be copper (sheathed in plastic where they go under concrete) and the feed/take from the solar is some sort of special stainless flexi insulated stuff.

Joined: 04 May 2008

Location: Central Brittany

Total posts: 3730

The rest is all plastic and as I understand it I will need to buy a special crimper to do the ends where the connections to taps and toilets and manifolds or the u bends will go. I may just be a tad lazy and run all the pipes to where they have to go and get someone in with the gear and experience to connect up, which I admit isn't in the true spirit of DIY but may actually save some time, leaks, and therefore money.

Although I think your toilets looks fine and dandy and there are merits to all the ideas mentioned, ie of a cupboard, or a shelf above, or just flush with the wall, I am not a fan of the suspended toilet as my mum used to work in A&E and they bought in a bloke where one had been faulty and broke when he sat on it. The injuries as described by her at breakfast put me off, not only breakfast but suspended bogs.

Only dead fish go with the flow

24th June 2013 at 20:38#1169033



chris-le-bricoleur
Participant

Joined: 03 Dec 2010

Location: NL and 52

Total posts: 1381

Nos,
in my opinion you're not negative, just critical!
I've also thought of the 'box up to heaven', but my wife and the daughters wanted the maximm storage space for their beauty utensils (why do women need 33 bottles each of make-up and de-makeup?). Another thought was to extend the 'box' over the whole width of the room, i.e. hanging the sinks onto this box. Rejected because this would limit the space between the sinks and the bathtub. You see, it's always a compromise. Other people opt for other compromises.
Accessibility of the cistern components:
There is really a big difference between the cheapo's and the better toilets. I have chosen the relatively expensive brand 'Geberit' and have tested the accessibility of components in their showroom. Remove the operating panel (not just a letterbox) and you have free access to the inlet valve and the flushing mechanism; both can easily be exchanged. According to them the biggest problem is in secondary homes where all water is drained in winter to prevent frost damage: the seal of the flushing pipe can dry out and become porous. But again, this is easily exchanged, just remove the toilet bowl and replace the seal.
So, you'll understand, I don't see any problems (and did not have any in the last eight years).

Christian - bricoleur par passion, pas par nécessité <http://www.klussen-in-frankrijk.eu/>

24th June 2013 at 20:51#1169034



chris-le-bricoleur
Participant

Joined: 03 Dec 2010

Location: NL and 52

Total posts: 1381

Bentley,

<>

Nobody in our family is heavier than 75kg (can't translate that into stones). 😊

Calling in someone with the proper crimping tools is a good idea. DIY does not mean that you do everything yourselves, sometimes it's organizing things yourself. As long as you are the boss who makes the plans! Have done the same with my walk-in shower in the Netherlands; called in a friend who had the necessary tools and experience with composite tubing.

Christian - bricoleur par passion, pas par nécessité <http://www.klussen-in-frankrijk.eu/>

24th June 2013 at 21:01#1169035



chris-le-bricoleur
Participant

Joined: 03 Dec 2010
Location: NL and 52
Total posts: 1381

@tricia wrote:

... the only fault I would find is the ventilation – I know you've put in a ventilator but I like a window in a bathroom/toilet, for the condensation, and the smells.

Tricia,

I do agree. Therefore I have installed an extractor fan and a window! Look at my pics. The window goes to a barn which is very drafty. Be sure, we regularly open this window!

By the way, when a bathroom is placed somewhere inside a building with no possibility for a window, then the architect is forced to think about ventilation, since he has no window as excuse. And remember: for good ventilation you always need two openings, air entry and air outlet!

Christian - bricoleur par passion, pas par nécessité <http://www.klussen-in-frankrijk.eu/>

24th June 2013 at 22:28#1169036



Joined: 15 Sep 2010
Location: North Tyneside & East 82 (not there often enough)
Total posts: 2420

@bentley wrote:

*...I will be asking various questions regarding the right French names for stuff. **Glad to help anytime***

I ask as I am intending to run (already have in some areas) the plastic pipe in various sizes from my distribution manifold (by the thermal store) to sinks showers bath etc.

Bentley, will it be "Multi-couche" for which you need a crimping tool or "PER" for which you need a sliding tool (to slide the retaining ring over the joint to seal it). The latter tool is much cheaper to buy.

24th June 2013 at 23:17#1169037



Joined: 04 May 2008
Location: Central Brittany
Total posts: 3730

Aha Riquet, there is a question to which I have no answer until I get back home. I have various sized red and blue) plastic pipe in gain 12, 16 and 20mm. That's all I know but I am hazarding a guess and saying its PER as I remember hearing or reading that somewhere during the process so far.

Once I can remember what I need I will be back on to ask for the proper names of the more technical (and basic stuff)

Only dead fish go with the flow

25th June 2013 at 08:46#1169038



Joined: 20 Jul 2003
Location: SW Gers
Total posts: 6477

re window – I see it now, with a curtain, near the toilet.

Tricia

25th June 2013 at 09:06#1169039



Joined: 11 Feb 2012
Location: West Sussex and 17.
Total posts: 3561

@chris-le-bricoleur wrote:

.....I've also thought of the 'box up to heaven', but my wife and the daughters wanted the maxim storage space for their beauty utensils (why do women need 33 bottles each of make-up and de-makeup?).....

+1 😊it's exactly the same here and in the UK.....what the hell do they do with all that 'stuff' they always look the same afterwards anyway.....waste of time and money..... 😞😞

25th June 2013 at 09:10#1169040



@bentley wrote:

Aha Riquet, there is a question to whihc I have no answer until I get back home. I have various sized red and blue) plastic pipe in gain 12, 16 and 20mm. That's all I know but I am hazarding a guess and saying its PER as I remember hearing or reading that somewhere during the process so far.

Once I can remember what I need I will be back on to ask for the proper names of the more technical (and basic stuff)

Joined: 16 Nov 2009
Location: La Souterraine-23 Depuis sept 2005
Total posts: 1230

Bentley, if it is Red & Blue pipe then it is indeed PER, if it is White then it is Multicouche. 'Crimpers' are available for both types of tube, or indeed a dual crimper is available which will cover both types for about 130€. That said 'auto' toolless fittings are also available.

Le-Dolly (.) (.) <http://www.pink-electrique.fr>

The story of my bathroom project in Burgundy

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• Posts

• 27th June 2013 at 08:17#1169041



chris-le-bricoleur
Participant

Joined: 03 Dec 2010
Location: NL and 52
Total posts: 1381

• And now the ceiling of my bathroom

Knowing about the difficulties of different materials touching each other (differences in coefficient of expansion due to temperature and moisture) I decided that my ceiling should not touch the tiled walls of the new bathroom. I applied what is called in other languages a 'shadow seam'. Haven't found the equivalent expression in British or US-American literature. See here what it looks like:

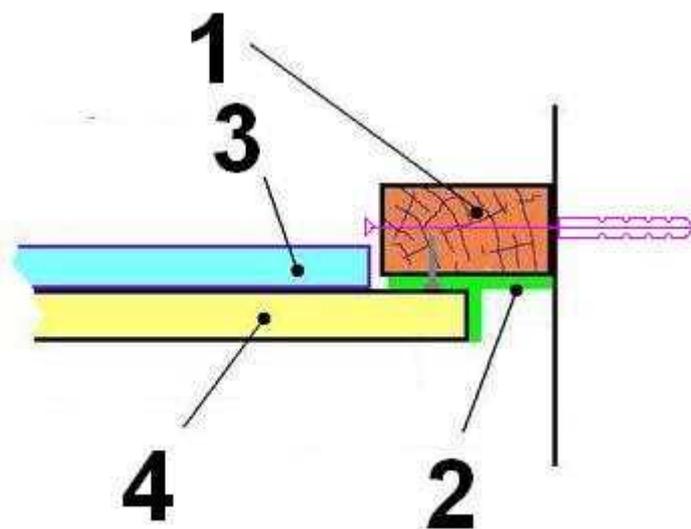


I installed the typical hangers-and-rail construction described a.o. [here](#): see pics 6 – 9.



Above the rails, between the joists, there's enough space for cables and other installations (water, central heating, ventilation ducts). In my project I used this space for electricity only, the exhaust tube of the fan goes directly through the ceiling into the loft.

Since this was the first time I applied the technique of a hanging ceiling not touching the walls I did it in an unnecessarily complicated way. Here I describe how I would do it now, with the lessons learnt. A friend of mine did it this way and it worked perfectly.



Screw (or nail) a batten (1) of typically 30x40mm against the wall, around the total perimeter of the room. Screw an Aluminium T-profile (2) of typically 15x15mm against this batten. Lay the rails of the ceiling system (3) at exactly the height of the T profile. Screw the plasterboard against this profile, using the well-known techniques, as shown [here](#), pictures 10 – 15.

In my bathroom I only installed lightweight spots, see pic 19. For heavier lamps I would always use a DCL with the proper tige filetée taking the weight, pic 21 and 22.

If you have beams you want to keep in sight you can use one of the [solutions](#) I have applied in the other rooms of our house.

Again, the text is Dutch/Flemish, but the language of the pictures is international.

Christian - bricoleur par passion, pas par nécessité <http://www.klussen-in-frankrijk.eu/>

27th June 2013 at 09:38#1169042



chris-le-bricoleur
Participant

Joined: 03 Dec 2010
Location: NL and 52
Total posts: 1381

In my last post the last-but-one alinea should have read:

In my bathroom I only installed lightweight spots, **see here pic 19**. For heavier lamps I would always use a DCL with the proper tige filetée taking the weight, pic 21 and 22.

Had forgotten the link. Excuses.

Christian - bricoleur par passion, pas par nécessité <http://www.klussen-in-frankrijk.eu/>

27th June 2013 at 17:55#1169043



Joined: 21 Jun 2011
Location: Dordogne
sometimes and Kent
the rest
Total posts: 5287

Chris

In UK Architectural terms it is know as a "Shadow Gap" detail.

Mike

WFIPFLL

12th March 2014 at 00:03#1169011



Joined: 29 Oct 2008
Location: 58 La Nièvre
Total posts: 4459

😊 What a wonderful thread for someone like me who is just about to start to renovate a bathroom. Thank you Chris and hearty congratulations. Particularly like your shadow gap ceiling and also the red 'listel' placed unusually high. White tiles are great but they can look a bit clinical. The high red listel discretely solves this and doesn't get broken by having to avoid doors, windows, fixtures etc. A great job.

Tom

Tom

12th March 2014 at 07:11#1169010



chris-le-bricoleur
Participant

Joined: 03 Dec 2010
Location: NL and 52
Total posts: 1381

Tom,

about the white base colour.

My (and my wife's) principle is:

Keep everything that cannot be changed easily a bit neutral. Variation comes through accessories (towels, curtains, and all the other stuff you expose in a bathroom.

But that is **our** choice. If you like decorated tiles, or tiles in vivid colours – go ahead, it's **your** choice and **your** bathroom!

Christian - bricoleur par passion, pas par nécessité <http://www.klussen-in-frankrijk.eu/>

12th March 2014 at 08:17#1169009



If you like decorated tiles, or tiles in vivid colours – go ahead, it's your choice and your bathroom!

😊 Not at all Chris! Sometimes I feel the taste in our house is a bit too neutral. That's why I particularly liked your red listel.

Tom

Tom

Joined: 29 Oct 2008
Location: 58 La Nièvre
Total posts: 4459

12th March 2014 at 09:20#1169007



chris-le-bricoleur
Participant

Joined: 03 Dec 2010
Location: NL and 52
Total posts: 1381

😊 Two persons, one opinion. =D>

Christian - bricoleur par passion, pas par nécessité <http://www.klussen-in-frankrijk.eu/>

12th March 2014 at 09:24#1169008

alittlebitfren
h
Blocked

Joined: 06 Aug 2013
Location: France
Total posts: 2468

Chris.

Why did you secure the beton cellulaire (i love beton cellulaire) with a braket to the wall ?

I have seen it done with carreaux de platre but not BC.

12th March 2014 at 10:44#1169006



chris-le-bricoleur
Participant

Joined: 03 Dec 2010
Location: NL and 52
Total posts: 1381

ALBF,

just to be sure that the joint is solid I placed brackets at every second layer. The wall (left in my picture) to which I anchored the shower separation wall (beton cellulaire) was a metal stud wal covered with hydro-plasterboard and tiled. This material and BetCell have different coëfficients of expansion; therefore I wanted a solid joint. Furthermore: how strong is the adhesion of colle pour béton cellulaire on tiles?



I've seen too many combinations of different materials which failed after some months or years, like this one:



Christian - bricoleur par passion, pas par nécessité <http://www.klussen-in-frankrijk.eu/>

12th March 2014 at 11:06#1169005

□

I missed that in the photo , i.e, that is was being glued to the carrelage.

I have built walls 'on' carrelage (using the colle BC) and never had any problems. But I think you were right and very clever to do that.

Joined: 06 Aug 2013
Location: France
Total posts: 2468

A trick I have learnt with BC. Most times after building a wall or whatever, I enduit BC, then paint ect. But building and keeping a wall straight in BC is really hard. One side tends to give.

Now I just build a wall in 5cm BC, and mortar plasterboard to it. That allows me to straighten it and provides later a good surface to screw thing into it. It also sound like a proper wall and not like a stud partion.

12th March 2014 at 11:20#1169004

□

Just to say – I've made this a sticky to make it easier for people to find. 😊

Joined: 07 Feb 2009
Location: 23. Creuse.
Limousin.
Total posts: 5368

12th March 2014 at 11:34#1169003



chris-le-
bricoleur
Participant

Good trick, ALBF, your method of building with BC.

See [here](#) my hints for BetCell. Please also take a look in the links mentioned there.

@char: Thanks for the honour.

Christian - bricoleur par passion, pas par nécessité <http://www.klussen-in-frankrijk.eu/>

23rd March 2014 at 17:15#1169002

□

Joined: 03 Dec 2010
Location: NL and 52
Total posts: 1381

Aye Aye Chris fine looking job as I have already said, can I ask, what for some may

be an obvious question, but why have you started the tiles one or two courses up from the floor?

Joined: 04 May 2008
Location: Central
Brittany
Total posts: 3730

I am just getting ready to tile bathroom floor (floor first) and then the shower room and bathroom walls, so wondered if there were any special tips and why the gap at the start of the process to the floor.

Cheers
Bentley

Only dead fish go with the flow

23rd March 2014 at 18:10#1169000

□

Isn't it where his bath is going ??

Participant

Joined: 15 Sep 2010
Location: North
Tyneside & East 82
(not there often
enough)
Total posts: 2420

23rd March 2014 at 18:17#1169001



chris-le-
bricoleur

Participant

Joined: 03 Dec 2010
Location: NL and 52
Total posts: 1381

Bentley,

This is something I have learnt from a professional tiler (or how do you call a professional who places tiles??).

The first course always has an uneven gap to the floor if this has a certain inclination gradient, and this gap has to be filled with caulk rather than grout. How do you achieve a completely horizontal first course on a floor which is not perfectly level, even if you use tiling crosses or plastic wedges? You would

be obliged to correctly align the upper edge of these tiles.



It is therefore easier to start with the second course. I place this on a ceiling profile which I screw completely level to the plasterboard. Any other profile or a batten would also be OK, as long as you can adjust it when screwing. From there on I can place my tiles with constant gaps using long leg tiling crosses. <http://www.protilertools.co.uk/tiler-tool/30/tiling-spacers> Then I remove the rail and place the first course. I push the tiles up against the correctly laid second course, using tiler's crosses for the upper gap and wedges on the lower side.

In one case I've started two courses from the floor; that was on the frontside of the WC-box. I did this because this was the first 'complete' course, I had to cut big

holes in the lower ones around the piping connections.







When the floor has an extreme gradient, e.g. in a douche à l'italienne, then it may be necessary to cut the lowest tile course accordingly in order to avoid a caulked joint which runs from nothing to 5mm. But that's a terrible job.

Bentley, success with your bathroom and shower!

The ceiling profile I use can be seen [here](#) on pic.35 (the one along the beam).

Christian - bricoleur par passion, pas par nécessité <http://www.klussen-in-frankrijk.eu/>

- Author

The story of my bathroom project in Burgundy

Viewing 15 Author gh 60 (of 78 total)

←1...3456→

- Posts

- 23rd March 2014 at 19:09#1168999

□

- That is the top tip of the day, week, and month.

I like your tiles too. Plain white is beautiful.

Joined: 06 Aug 2013
Location: France
Total posts: 246



chris-le-
bricoleur
Participant

Joined: 03 Dec 2010
Location: NL and 52
Total posts: 1381

23rd March 2014 at 19:39#1168998

@alittlebitfrench wrote:

That is the top tip of the day, week, and month.

... of the year, the decade, the century? 😊

I'm just a simple DIY guy, but a retired engineer who's accustomed to think before he works, and who analyses the techniques used by others.

And now, seriously:

You like the off-white tiles?

I repeat what I said two week ago:

My (and my wife's) principle is:

Keep everything that cannot be changed easily a bit neutral. Variation comes through accessories: towels, curtains, and all the other stuff you expose in a bathroom.

Christian - bricoleur par passion, pas par nécessité <http://www.klussen-in-frankrijk.eu/>

23rd March 2014 at 20:21#1168997

□

@chris-le-bricoleur wrote:

@alittlebitfrench wrote:

That is the top tip of the day, week, and month.

... of the year, the decade, the century? 😊

I'm just a simple DIY guy, but a retired engineer who's accustomed to think before he works, and who analyses the techniques used by others.

And now, seriously:

You like the off-white tiles?

I repeat what I said two week ago:

My (and my wife's) principle is:

Keep everything that cannot be changed easily a bit neutral.

Variation comes through accessories: towels, curtains, and all the other stuff you expose in a bathroom.

I totally agree.

Joined: 06 Aug 2013
Location: France
Total posts: 2468

24th March 2014 at 07:31#1168996

□

Cheers for that explanation Chris.

I am putting the floor tiles in first and then the wall tiles. I am laying the floor tiles onto a twin bed of 18mm marine ply (so total thickness of 36mm) this is on joists at about 25mm centers so should be solid and the two biots oif ply have waterproof coating between the levels, silicon bonded joints, screwed at 80mm centers and an acrylic sealer on the top to help the tile glue bond.

I dont have any special joints at the bottom joint, just a recommended flexible tile grout.

One part of the wall tiles (in the shower room) is joining to a bespoke made quartz stone shower tray, (1800 x 1100 x 50) and the rest are to the floor tiles.

You have said to use caulk for the lower joint and not grout?? have I understood this correctly? wont it go mouldy? I was intending to use a top of the range silicon for the bottom most joint.

Cheers
Bentley

Joined: 04 May 2008
Location: Central
Brittany
Total posts: 3730

Only dead fish go with the flow

24th March 2014 at 08:51#1168995

□ I would use a flexible grout for the bottom joint and then put a clear/translucide silicone joint over the grout.

Joined: 06 Aug 2013
Location: France
Total posts: 2468

24th March 2014 at 09:20#1168994



chris-le-bricoleur
Participant

Joined: 03 Dec 2010
Location: NL and 52
Total posts: 1381

Bentley,
I've said this previously: [@chris-le-bricoleur](#) wrote:

Grout or caulk?

At places where walls and/or floor meet I prefer to seal tile joints elastically rather than with grout. This is particularly necessary where walls or floors made from different base materials meet each other. The materials have different

expansion coefficients, they will therefore behave differently under temperature or moisture changes.

This is generally accepted [in the trade](#).

Caulk is certainly prone to mould attack, but I find this a minor risk compared with the chance of moisture attack if a grout joint cracks. In my bathroom I've used:



1 = white grout, 3mm joints
2 = grey grout, 5mm joints
3 = white silicone

4 = grey silicone

This photograph was taken to-day; the bathroom is 8 years old. No leaks, no mould.

ALBF, sounds good, but I have not yet heard of flexible grout. Can you name a brand or give a website?

Christian - bricoleur par passion, pas par nécessité <http://www.klussen-in-frankrijk.eu/>

24th March 2014 at 09:41#1168993

<http://www.weber.fr/pose-du-carrelage/gammes-produits/les-joints-de-carrelage/weberjoint-flex.html>

I think its that ?

You are right though it will probably crack. I would just fill the void with grout then apply the silicone. The only reason I would do that is that it will make applying the silicone easier and neater. Even if it does crack you will not see it. Its just a double layer of protection.

Interesting point, if you have built your shower in BC, water will never penetrate it anyway. I doubt very much it will upset the glue either.

Joined: 06 Aug 2013
Location: France
Total posts: 2468

24th March 2014 at 12:12#1168992



chris-le-bricoleur
Participant

Joined: 03 Dec 2010
Location: NL and 52
Total posts: 1381

Something just came up in my mind.

I had seen a joint between wall and floor filled with 'flexible' grout. When it cacked it was covered with a layer of transparent silicone. The cracks were still visible. Not very esthetic.

And my wife just asked me: Didn't you put a base layer of grout into the joint before you applied the silicone? And yes I did. Tile cement just from the plasterboard base to the backside of the tiles, i.e. the thickness of the colle layer, then silicone over the thickness of the tiles.

Christian - bricoleur par passion, pas par nécessité <http://www.klussen-in-frankrijk.eu/>

24th March 2014 at 12:28#1168991



chris-le-bricoleur
Participant

Joined: 03 Dec 2010
Location: NL and 52
Total posts: 1381

@bentley wrote:

... I am laying the floor tiles onto a twin bed of 18mm marine ply (so total thickness of 36mm) this is on joists at about 25mm centers so should be solid and the two biots of ply have waterproof coating between the levels, silicon bonded joints, screwed at 80mm centers ...

That's exactly what I did in my former house in the seventies. The walls were in brick. That was the occasion when I discussed the story of different expansion coefficients of the two types of material with the tiler – and we decided to apply a silicone gap filler between wall and floor tiling.

The renovation method I used for that floor can be seen [here](#), pic.1+2.

By the way, at that occasion I had the tile layout scheme done by a colleague using a computerized drawing program, quite new at that time, look for that approach at [this menu point](#).

Christian - bricoleur par passion, pas par nécessité <http://www.klussen-in-frankrijk.eu/>

24th March 2014 at 13:53#1168990



Your tiling is exceptional but you will get fed up hearing that 😊 the flushing system that chris has fitted, what happens when or if it goes faulty. In a bog standard bog you have easy access, how do you get in if it stops working? #-o

24th March 2014 at 14:38#1168989

@mysty2 wrote:

Your tiling is exceptional but you will get fed up hearing that 😊 the flushing system that chris has fitted, what happens when or if it goes

alittlebitfrenc
h
Blocked

Joined: 06 Aug 2013
Location: France
Total posts: 2468

Joined: 29 Jul 2012
Location: N/A
Total posts: 9603

faulty. In a bog standard bog you have easy access, how do you get in if it stops working? #-o

The button that flushes the loo is also a trap 🤪

Use your Brain Mysty

24th March 2014 at 14:54#1168988

According to the blurb on most of these cantilever loos, all maintenance can be carried out through the push button access plate hole.

Mike

WFIPFL

Joined: 21 Jun 2011
Location: Dordogne
sometimes and Kent
the rest
Total posts: 5287

24th March 2014 at 16:51#1168987



chris-le-bricoleur
Participant

Joined: 03 Dec 2010
Location: NL and 52
Total posts: 1381

mysty2,

I've answered this in an earlier post @chris-le-bricoleur wrote:

Accessibility of the cistern components:

There is really a big difference between the cheapo's and the better toilets. I have chosen the relatively expensive brand 'Geberit' and have tested the accessibility of components in their showroom. Remove the operating panel (not just a letterbox) and you have free access to the inlet valve and the flushing mechanism; both can easily be exchanged.

Thus no problem for me.

Christian - bricoleur par passion, pas par nécessité <http://www.klussen-in-frankrijk.eu/>

25th March 2014 at 07:19#1168986

Cheers for that Chris, I do like the belt and braces approach and I have an aversion top potential leaks. It must be the sailor in me 🤪 (oh hang on! that sounds a bit iffy 😊)

Joined: 04 May 2008
Location: Central
Brittany
Total posts: 3730

Only dead fish go with the flow

25th March 2014 at 08:52#1168985

@alittlebitfrench wrote:

Use your Brain Mysty

Got to find it first 🤪

Joined: 29 Jul 2012
Location: N/A
Total posts: 4332

Participant

The story of my bathroom project in Burgundy

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• 25th March 2014 at 10:25#1168984

- I have 4 toilettes suspendus and am installing more.

Yes with some gynaecological moves you can remove everything from the inside of them to fix any faults, I wont say service them because that involves replacing parts before they fail and that is indeed the failing of all these suspended toilets.

The mechanisms arent standardised, you cannot go and buy universal flush mechanism to replace the one you have, a good expensive make may stock and sell spares but as they change models every year and buy it all in from the same toilet towns in China as the budget ones then dont hold out your hopes.

Joined: 17 Mar 2010
Location: Picardie
Total posts: 13130

I have 2 observations to make regarding their reliability, first is that any failure usually happens very quickly, its usually down to how the faceplates and push flaps, connecting rods etc interact (usually poorly) a bit of fettling and adaption is often needed, some of them will still need redoing when someone heavy handed uses them but that was always the case with flush mechanisms.

Other than that they do fail with calc build up and if you are observant or houseproud you will see water constantly running down the sides of the bowl if not your water bill will go up as they continue to flush correctly. If you can work out how to get the mechanism out and apart (practice!!!) and you dont break it through your heav handedness the offending calc can be removed and it will function again for a good few years.

I dont recommend them in rental properties especially if you rely on tradesmen to put right small problems like a non flushing toilet, they are just as likely to break it then tell you that you need a whole new unit which by that time is true then smash and destroy all your tiling to replace it.

You did buy enough spare tiles for this eventuality didnt you?

25th March 2014 at 10:54#1168983



chris-le-bricoleur

Chanceux
Participant

Joined: 17 Mar 2010
Location: Picardie
Total posts: 13130

Chancer, I have spares of all roofing-, floor- and wall tiles.
When in France I'll take a photograph of my spares magazine in one corner of the barn. Also beton cellulaire.

Christian - bricoleur par passion, pas par nécessité <http://www.klussen-in-frankrijk.eu/>

25th March 2014 at 11:02#1168982

Probably on this forum that I read a great tip of where to store all those spare wall and floor tiles where they cannot get damaged and will be to hand when needed, I would never have thought of it myself.

For kitchen floor and wall tiles store them under the kitchen units behind a removable plinth, for bathrooms under the bath behind the bath panel.

If you have a roll top bath and those daft kitchen units with exposed metal legs like they sell in Ikea then your tiles will have to gather dust in a shed or barn!!

25th March 2014 at 11:43#1168981



chris-le-bricoleur
Participant

Joined: 03 Dec 2010
Location: NL and 52
Total posts: 1381

Anyone more storage suggestions?
Mine are packed in boxes and/or plastic sheeting.

Christian - bricoleur par passion, pas par nécessité <http://www.klussen-in-frankrijk.eu/>

15th September 2014 at 20:05#1537982



chris-le-
bricoleur
Participant

Joined: 03 Dec 2010
Location: NL and 52
Total posts: 1381

Here the promised photographs of my stock in a corner of the barn:



Detail: the floor and wall tiles.



Christian - bricoleur par passion, pas par nécessité <http://www.klussen-in-frankrijk.eu/>

24th November 2014 at 19:36#1577175



chris-le-bricoleur
Participant

Since some pictures were missing in my previous post, and some were misplaced, I repeat it.

Moderator, please remove the previous post!

Some weeks ago a friend asked me for advice for his new bathroom. His question was:

What would I do differently if I had to redo my bathroom?

What he liked particularly is the recessed plinth under my bathtub. I explained to him how I had built it from blocs en beton cellulaire, picture 1 and 2. The only thing

Joined: 03 Dec 2010
Location: NL and 52
Total posts: 1381

he would do differently was the tiling pattern, green in pic.3.





[3]

I had started with the white tiles some 8 or 12 mm above the floor (red arrow) and had covered this with pieces of floor tiles which I had cut to 100mm strokes. By the way, the pale pic. 1 was taken with flashlight only, the warmer nos. 2 and 3 with a

But what would I do differently?

1. First of all, I would not install 32mm drain pipes for washbasins as I have done in this project (pic.4). Now I would install 50mm pipes ending flush with the wall. The 32mm pipes of the siphon are then placed in these with rubber seal rings, pic. 5. These are available in 50/40, 50/32 and 40/32 (outer/inner diameter). These adaptor sleeves being glueless allow you to remove the siphon outlet pipe from the wall in case you have to clean/debug siphon or drain.

Pictures 4 and 5:



[4]



[5]

2. Then, I'm not content with the inclination of my shower floor. An inclination of 0.5 – 1.0% is generally recommended. I aimed at 1%, but now I do not find this enough. A precise measurement came out at 0.5% on one side and 0.7% at the other side, so some tolerances must have added up. The next time I would make sure I have definitely 1%.

Picture 6:



[6]

3. The next time I would buy all components before starting to build. We had opted for wash basins of 52×40 (width x depth) and I placed the tap and drain connections for these; but then my wife found a model with incorporated planchet (shelf) which she liked particularly, but this had the dimensions 60x45cm. Placing them at the originally planned places would have reduced the room for the towel holder between them. So I decided to place the left washbasin 4.5cm more to the left and the other one 4.5cm more to the right. This meant that I had to place a 45° bend in each drain. Luckily, from a normal viewing angle nobody can see this, and it still looks tidy compared with other washbasin connections I've seen. But the

next time ...

Pictures 7 and 8:[7]



[8]

But in general I must say:
We are still, after almost nine years, content with our bathroom.

Christian - bricoleur par passion, pas par nécessité <http://www.klussen-in-frankrijk.eu/>

25th November 2014 at 14:18#1577331

□

Thank you Chris. Some good details being shown. Pictures speak better than words

Participant

Joined: 15 Sep 2010
Location: North
Tyneside & East 82
(not there often
enough)
Total posts: 2420

Question: How do you maintain a 1.2% slope in a shower unit ? More adhesive at one end? Thanks.

25th November 2014 at 18:05#1577378

riquet wrote:

... How do you maintain a 1.2% slope in a shower unit ? More adhesive at one end? Thanks.



**chris-le-
bricoleur**
Participant

Joined: 03 Dec 2010
Location: NL and 52
Total posts: 1381

riquet,
that's what I did, just two crossed layers of tile adhesive: the lower one thinner at one end, really ending with nothing on the concrete floor. Then the second layer perpendicular on that. But that went wrong, as I wrote above.
Later I've seen a professional in the Netherlands doing the same job. He put concrete with a 1.0% slope on the floor, then tiles with just an ordinary single layer of adhesive.

Christian - bricoleur par passion, pas par nécessité <http://www.klussen-in-frankrijk.eu/>

26th November 2014 at 09:34#1577467

□

A steady hand is needed !! Thanks.

Joined: 15 Sep 2010
Location: North



**chris-le-
bricoleur**
Participant

Joined: 03 Dec 2010
Location: NL and 52
Total posts: 1381

5th December 2014 at 08:47#1579277

Another idea for improvement:

I'm thinking about the installation of a down lighting LED strip in the recessed plinth under our bathtub, operated by a motion sensor, something like this:



It will be a challenge to install it in our bathroom after all the tiling has been done, but my friend will certainly do it when building his bathroom.

I don't want it as [advanced as this one](#), just a simple warm-white led strip + transformer + motion sensor.

With this gimmick it won't be necessary to switch on the light for a night's visit of the toilet.

Christian - bricoleur par passion, pas par nécessité <http://www.klussen-in-frankrijk.eu/>

- This reply was modified 05 Dec 2014 08:48 by [chris-le-bricoleur](#).

15th May 2016 at 11:48#171804

□

Are there any rules in France regarding protection behind the tiles? For example Weber has both "membrane de protection" (plastic sheet) and "étanchéité liquide" (more like a paint). In Sweden you are required to use the plastic sheets behind the tiles in a bathroom.

Joined: 03 Apr 2010
Location: 17
Charente-Maritime
Total posts: 39

15th May 2016 at 21:28#1718096

Arc,



chris-le-bricoleur
Participant

I don't know any rules, never heard about their existence. But I think it's wise to use a membrane behind the seam where horizontal and vertical tiling meet each other. See e.g. [picture 16.4-8 on my website](#).

Christian - bricoleur par passion, pas par nécessité <http://www.klussen-in-frankrijk.eu/>

Joined: 03 Dec 2010
Location: NL and 52
Total posts: 1381

15th May 2016 at 23:12#1718110

Where do those rubber adaptors come from robert and what are they called in french please?

Participant

Joined: 17 Mar 2010
Location: Picardie
Total posts: 13130

I have been doing a similar thing but using manchons de dilatation which cost a fair bit and are not as neat although all mine are hidden

16th May 2016 at 09:14#1718125

Chancer,



chris-le-bricoleur

in french -> **bande d'étanchéité**, or ask for bande d'étanchéité pour carrelage, [look here](#).

Christian - bricoleur par passion, pas par nécessité <http://www.klussen-in-frankrijk.eu/>

16th May 2016 at 13:08#1718157

Not those Chris but the rubber grommet adaptors that you linked to that will reduce a 50mm pipe to 32mm etc.

x10
52 Location: NL and 52

Author

• Posts

Location: Picardie
Total posts: 13130

The story of my bathroom project in

Burgundy

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• Posts

• 16th May 2016 at 14:35#1718168

• Chancer,



chris-le-bricoleur
Participant

I understand that I've misunderstood the question. Perhaps these: <http://www.cdiseout.com/maison/sanitaire/50-40-mm-reducteur-en-caoutchouc/f-1174510-inv5907674392309.html>

Christian - bricoleur par passion, pas par nécessité <http://www.klussen-in-frankrijk.eu/>

Joined: 03 Dec 2010
Location: NL and 52
Total posts: 1381

16th May 2016 at 23:15#1718261

□

And I thought my manchons de dilatation were expensive 😬



You just have to laugh at french prices dont you 😄😄

Joined: 17 Mar 2010

Location: Picardie

Total posts: 13130

17th May 2016 at 20:09#1718452

Chancer,

I agree. I've bought 50/40 ones for €2.15 and 50/32 ones for €2.35 – in a country in the northwest of Europe.



chris-le-
bricoleur

Participant

Christian - bricoleur par passion, pas par nécessité <http://www.klussen-in-frankrijk.eu/>

Joined: 03 Dec 2010

Location: NL and 52

Total posts: 1381