



# *The Clawfoot Tub Experience*

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**Create your own private retreat  
for restoring your soul and energy.**

**Tub selection:** this may well be the most important Item you need to start that perfect bath resort that you are looking for. Once you get it in it will stay a long time. Some selections need to be made.

## **Style:**



Leg tub  
Traditional roll type  
Standard clawfoot tub



Dual style Claw foot tub



The Slipper claw foot tub

Traditional Roll Rim Clawfoot Tub or leg tub. Traditional roll top clawfoot tubs are rounded at one end and flat at the other. The faucet and drain are installed at the flat end of the tub. This is the most common of the claw foot tubs.

Double-Ended Clawfoot Tub. Double-ended (or dual) clawfoot tubs are rounded at both ends . The faucet and drain are installed in the center along one side of the tub.

Slipper Bathtub. Slipper style bathtubs have a high backrest that makes them well suited for soaking. The faucet and drain are installed at the low end of the tub unless they are dual slipper and have a high back at both ends then the drain is in the center of the tub and the faucet is on the middle or comes over the edge of the rim.

## **Color Suggestions:**

White is overall best, easiest to keep clean and the cheapest. Light colors are second best for not showing spots, maintenance and for resale value Consider that lighter colored fixtures because they generally provide better resale. We have found that more people prefer lighter colored fixtures. Black and dark colors generally show off the dirt a lot more than white or light colors. The darker the color the harder to match your color if you want to have a matching sink.

## **Size Suggestions:**

Decide if you would like a one or two-person tub. Two-person tubs generally take a lot more water and space and power to heat the water. . We like to talk most people out of pur-

chasing a two person tub. You might consider purchasing a hot tub if you think that you will use a two person tub a lot.

### **Water heater Suggestions:**

Verify that you have an adequate water heater to meet the water requirements of the tub. Generally one should figure that 65% of the tub's capacity will be hot water. If a tub has a capacity of 60 gallons then you will need at least 40 gallons of hot water. (at 140 degrees, water heaters are set at 120 degrees from the factory) Realize that it will then take time to reheat the heater for the rest of the house/family. If your water heater does not meet your needs then you should either consider a smaller tub or a larger water heater or consider adding an instant, tank less heater leading for just your clawfoot tub. The less amount of water your tub has, the lower the cost of usage. Also adding mood lights in and around your tub area can create the right atmosphere and effect.

### **Physical size Suggestions:**

Measure the available area to insure that the dimensions of the selected tub will fit in the house. It can ruin your whole day to have to take out a wall to get your tub into the house. Make sure the tub has an adequate depth for comfortable bathing and make sure that the tub you choose will fit into the available space, sitting in the garage isn't what your tub for. Remember To get extra help to get your tub where you want it. It always takes more man power to get it up the stairs than down.

### **Material:**

Next, you should consider the material from which the tub is constructed. In the past clawfoot tubs have been made of cast iron but several manufacturers now offer acrylic tubs that are reproductions of the Vintage cast iron tub. The new acrylic cost a little less but not much than the cast iron tubs .

#### **The Iron Tub**

For the true Vintage buyer there is but one choice; the cast iron to reproduce the original look and feel. The cast iron exterior can be painted (and repainted) to match the décor in your bathroom and will provide more choices for shower enclosures. The cast iron walls can support a shower enclosure mounted through faucet holes in the tub wall or tub rim. Shower enclosures sometimes not recommended for acrylic tubs with holes in the tub wall.

The cast iron with it's porcelain interior provides excellent abrasion, stain, and wear resistance, often better than metals and much better than acrylics. And if you smoke in your tub a cast iron is a must. The cast iron clawfoot tubs have a very long life you can refinish them several times if you wish .

#### **The Acrylic Tub**

The acrylic clawfoot tubs are much lighter than your cast iron tubs. So this makes them much easier to move, install, and are perfect for upper story baths or when you have to work around hallways and corners. The acrylic is naturally warmer to the touch and it is a good thermal insulator . The acrylic will break down if strong chemical cleaners, moreso if strong acetates, are used to clean it. See our tips on how to care for your clawfoot tubs.

The acrylic tub can be scratched, however, most scratches can be easily buffed out to restore

shine. And most part they resist chips.

**Installation Suggestion:**

If you're not a "plumber" your might think real hard about hiring one. This is not a easy job to get done quickly. The water lines need to come up though the floor ( could be in the wall if you're close to it.) and the drain line need to line up with your waste lines. All said and done it can be a rewarding experience if done right or a nightmare if done wrong.

Plan out which tub you will want The tubs we have today come in many styles and types. You can get your faucet on the wall of the tub, on the wall, on the deck of the tub or just hang over the edge. All have an advantages in one way or another .You will need to make the choice of what you want.

