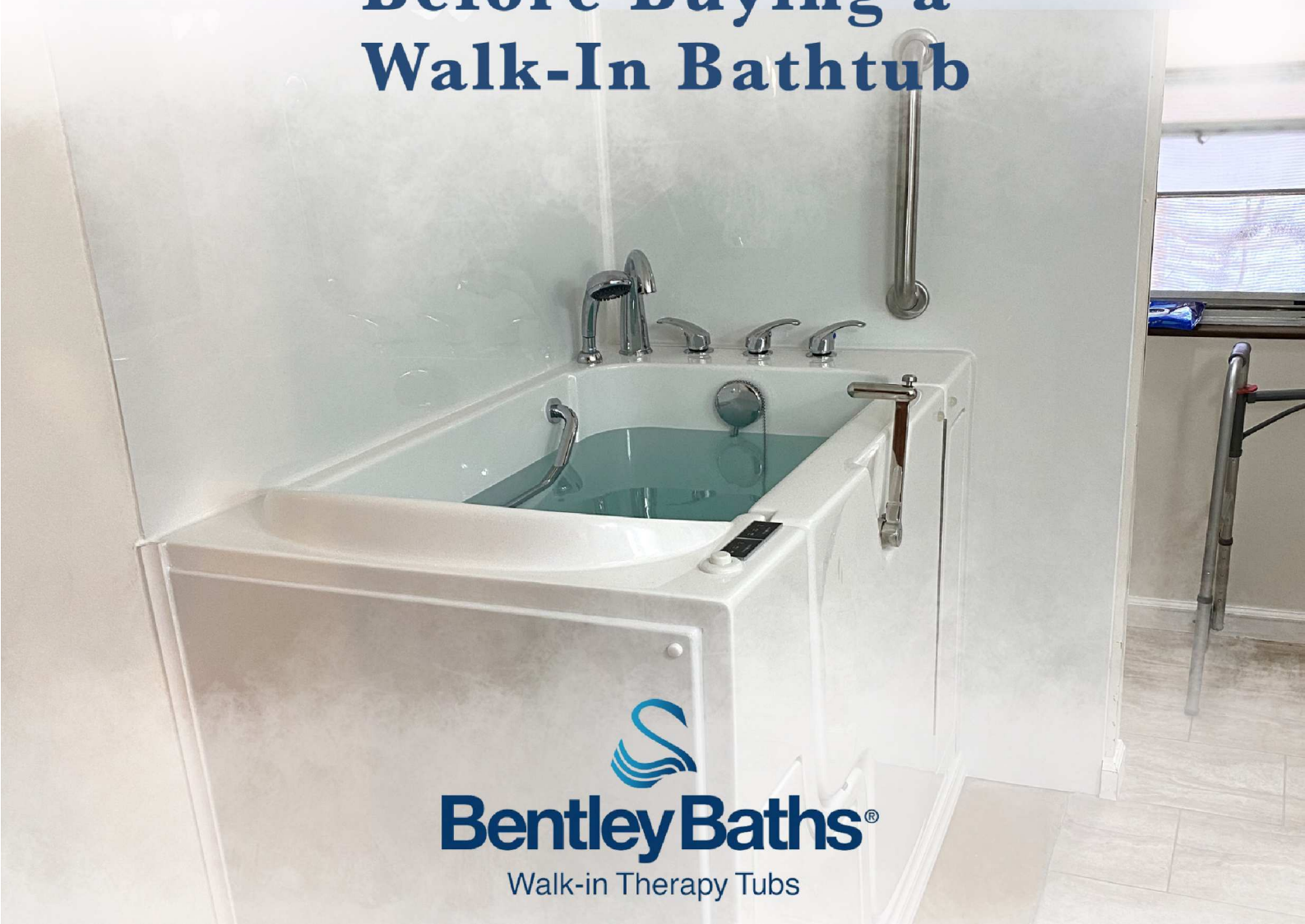
George E. Bentley, JD

5 Things You Should Know Before Buying a Walk-In Bathtub



Bentley Baths®

Walk-in Therapy Tubs

George Bentley's Exclusive

5 Things You Should Know Before Buying A Walk-in Bathtub

Bentley Baths®
Walk-in Therapy Tubs

The PERFECT FIT WALK-IN TUB

Safe Bathing Appliance Checklist

BY: GEORGE E. BENTLEY, JD

DISCOVER 5 CRITICAL THINGS GEORGE BELIEVES YOU NEED TO KNOW TO ENSURE YOU ARE PURCHASING THE PERFECT WALK-IN TUB OR EASY-ACCESS BATHTUB

INTRODUCTION

All walk-in bathtubs are NOT created equal! And not all walk-in tubs are sold ethically.

I helped my father to make his home safe and accommodating after my mother died in a nursing home. This was the early 2000s.

I started Bentley Baths because I kept being asked by people to please tell them what I had learned and what they needed to know to make a wise walk-in tub purchase decision.

Sadly, often they were asking how to get rid of an expensive tub they were “sold” that was not what they wanted or needed.

So, starting a company that was committed to providing information and help without any pressure or manipulation was the obvious result.

You are receiving my exclusive buying guide because you are working with me personally.

This guide is the exact information I developed to vet, inspect, test, screen, and grill every walk-in tub manufacturer I could find so that I would know what was the PERFECT walk-in tub to get my father.

It is years in the making, and I doubt very seriously there is any other person who has done the depth of research into every manufacturer as I have.

Currently, there is virtually no walk-in tub in the market that I cannot get for you if you decide that is your perfect tub. You DO NOT need to forego a particular manufacturer that has a product you like or settle for less.

USING THE GUIDE

The assumption is that you are thinking about a walk-in tub. Maybe you have already called on an ad or clicked on an internet link.

You can use this guide to list every walk-in tub source you may be considering, and build a list of questions to get answered. Of course, if you are working with me personally, I will walk you through this.

If you do not know the answer to ANY of the questions, PLEASE CALL ME! You also need to know why this information is important. So, if you don't know why a question is on this list, please ask.

You have a friend in the walk-in bathtub business.
Please take into account all bathers, as well as current or future assisted bathers.

List the make, model, and features of EVERY walk-in bathtub you are considering purchasing. We are a dealer for virtually every walk-in tub manufacturer you will run across through mass media ads, internet marketers, or any business selling walk-in bathtubs. This means all your options remain open, and you can “buy” rather than being “sold”!

We will provide you with friendly, professional, objective feedback and help you discover what products will best suit your needs, regardless of the brand you may ultimately decide to choose.

NOTE: All information that MUST BE KNOWN BEFORE YOU CAN MAKE A BUYING DECISION is followed by the toll-free number (800-688-0055).

If you do not know this information, we recommend that you call and arrange for a FREE no-obligation consultation, and I can help you locate that information to proceed with your decision-making process.

Manufacturer:

_____

_____

Model:

_____

_____

Dealer:

_____

_____

Web Address:

_____

Provide the same information for all models, if considering more than one.

Why are you interested in purchasing a walk-in bathing appliance?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Be specific. Think about your issues entering and exiting your current bathing environment, as well as specifics regarding any health or mobility challenges you may be experiencing.

- Is it important for you to be able to live independently for as long as possible in your current home? YES / NO
- Do you want to avoid going into a nursing home or assisted living facility? YES / NO
- Do you require help to exit or enter the bathing environment? YES / NO

- Is bathing/soaking/showering regularly stressful or risky for you? YES / NO

- Would a major injury, hospital stay, or nursing home admission impact your financial stability? YES / NO

- What medical/mobility needs do you have

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

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- Do you currently use any assistance in your mobility? YES / NO

- If so, is it medical equipment or human assistance? Equipment / Human

- Which medical health challenges/conditions are you currently experiencing?

_____

_____

_____

_____

- Are they expected to worsen over time? YES / NO
- Are you currently taking medications? YES / NO
- How many separate prescriptions do you take? _____
- Has anyone told you Medical Hydrotherapy® would be beneficial for you? YES / NO

1. Tub Size and Configuration

We have 35 different shell sizes and configurations available, and access to virtually every tub sold on the market. Don't take the size of the bathing well inside your bathtub for granted. This is not a "one-size-fits-all" purchase. Making sure the appliance you are investing thousands of dollars to purchase will function comfortably for all bathers is important to your quality of life.

Knowing this information is what creates Your Perfect Solution®.

Answer the questions below for each walk-in bathtub model under consideration.

- Do you need a walk-in tub or an easy-access tub? YES / NO / IDK

- Do you need an inward swing door or an outward swing door?
  Inward _____ Outward _____

- Do you know the overall bathing well dimensions?
  YES / NO / IDK

(NOTE: Not outside tub dimensions, but the inside of the bathing well).

Dimensions: Height_____ in. x Width_____ in. x Length_____ in.

- Is this size sufficient for your body shape and size?
  YES / NO / IDK

(If you don't know, call us at 800-688-0055).

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- How many gallons of water does the tub hold? _____ gallons empty

- What size is your water heater? _____ gal

- Will the water heater provide sufficient hot water to fill the tub? YES / NO / IDK

- What is the depth of the tub at overflow? _____ in

Will the depth of the tub permit mid-chest or full-body soaking for all bathers? YES / NO / IDK

Is the seat height ADA-compliant and appropriate for your needs? YES / NO

What is the height of the seat from the floor of the tub? _____ in.

Is this the appropriate height for you? YES / NO / IDK

Is it ADA-compliant? YES / NO / IDK

(If you don't know, call us at 800-688-0055)

What are the outside dimensions of the tub?

(NOTE: These are the dimensions that most manufacturers use to sell their tubs)

Dimensions: Height _____in. Width_____in. Length_____in.

Are there any issues getting the tub into the desired bathing environment? YES / NO

How wide is your bathroom door? _____in.

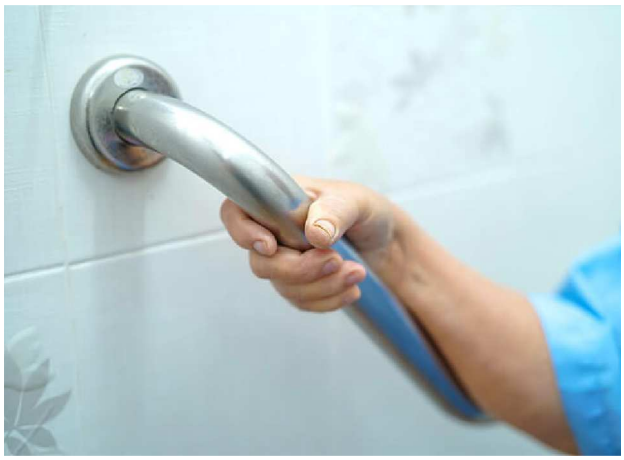
How wide is the tub at its widest point? _____in.

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- Are there any turns or hallways to pass through to get to the bathroom? YES / NO

2. Safety Devices and Grab Bars

Stabilization location is a very important aspect of making your bathing area safe. You cannot rely on walk-in bathtub manufacturers, dealers, and certainly not salespeople, to provide appropriate devices. If a manufacturer even thinks about stabilization, they tend to treat grab bars as features that are the same for everyone. Nothing could be farther from the truth!



- Does the tub have grab bars built into it? YES / NO
- Are they inside the bathing area? YES / NO
- Are they located in the correct position for your personal use? YES / NO / IDK
- Do they create hip bruising or other safety issues? YES / NO / IDK

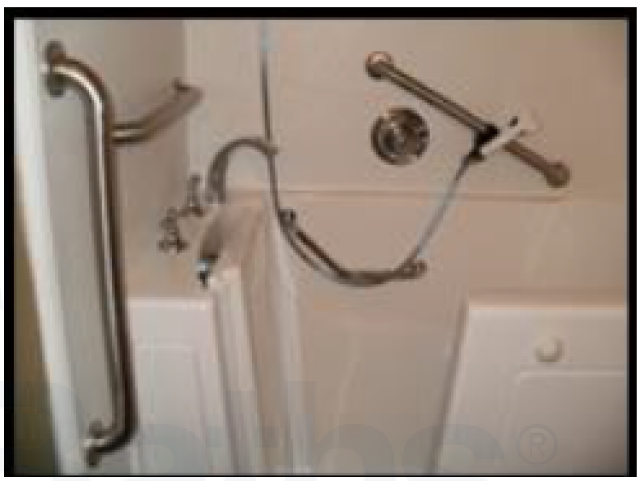
(If you don't know, call us at 800-688-0055)

- Are the grab bars and devices ADA compliant?
  YES / NO / IDK

- Will the bars provide appropriate stabilization for every bather throughout the entry and exit process? YES / NO / IDK

3. Filling and Draining Issues

Walk-in and slide-in bathing appliances create a different bathing experience from traditional tubs and showers. You will enter, sit, close the door and wait for the tub to fill. After the bath or hydrotherapy, the bather waits for it to drain before opening the door to exit. How fast the tub fills up and drains is a major quality-of-life issue for you, and something MOST manufacturers don't even think about.



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What kind of filler valve (faucet) does the tub have? _____

_____

(If you don't know, call us at 800-688-0055)

Is the filler valve (faucet) independent of the tub, or fabricated into the design of the tub shell? YES / NO / IDK

- What size is the filler (faucet)? ½" ¾"

- Does the tub come with a handheld shower? YES / NO

- How is the shower valve operated?
  Diverter _____ Separately Plumbed _____

- If separately plumbed, is the shower thermostatically controlled? YES / NO

- Is the shower location ADA compliant? YES / NO / IDK

- Does the tub come with a handheld located in the wall or on the deck?
  Deck _____ Wall_____

- If on the deck, is it located in the inside corner of the tub? YES / NO / IDK

- Is the handheld shower ADA compliant? YES / NO / IDK

(If you don't know, call us at 800-688-0055)

What is the draining mechanism used?
Single Stopper_____ Dual Stopper _____

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Single 2” Cable _____ Dual 1.5” Cable _____

Mechanical Pump Drain _____

(If you don’t know, call us at 800-688-0055)

- Is it a sanitary drain? YES / NO
- Cable-operated drain? YES / NO

Assuming a standard 1½” waste line, do you know how fast the unit will drain? _____minutes

Does the manufacturer provide thermostatic protection

YES / NO / IDK

What is the flow rate? _____ GPM

- What kind of thermostatic valve is it?

  Type “P” Pressure Balance _____

  Manual Blend Valve (hot/cold) _____

  Type “T” Hydronic Valve _____

(If you don’t know, call us at 800-688-0055)

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4. Tub Construction - Method and Material

There is much confusion in the marketplace as manufacturers tout the benefits of their approach to fabricating walk-in tubs. I do not intend to attempt to go over all aspects of the various construction approaches here.

There are only a few bits of information you need to know when it comes to construction-related issues.

Remember, a walk-in tub is a “deep bathing well” appliance, and cannot be manufactured as simply or as inexpensively as traditional shallow bathtubs or shower pans.

So, how the tub is fabricated is important to long-term satisfaction and performance.

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- What is the material used in the construction of the outer skin?
  - Fiberglass? _____
  - Acrylic? _____
  - ABS Acrylic? _____
  - Both? _____

Is the outer surface material non-porous?

Is the manufacturer promoting the use of “leveling legs?”

YES / NO

- Does the manufacturer guarantee the total ***shell*** of the tub?
  YES / NO / IDK

- If so, how long? _____ years

- Does the manufacturer guarantee the ***door seal*** from leaking?
  YES / NO / IDK

- If so, for how long?_____ years

5. Therapies

Medical Hydrotherapy®. Without a doubt, one of the most compelling reasons to invest in a walk-in bathtub is the option to add potentially life-altering therapies.

We have developed a complete system for the unique healing technology that establishes a proprietary process we call Medical Hydrotherapy®.

The bigger issue is that any other companies pre-package their tubs with numerous therapies (or alleged therapies), many of which have little or no medical-based evidence to support their efficacy.

We, of course, have no issue with you purchasing whatever systems you want to purchase, but the truth is you may be forced to buy systems that are not only ineffective but unhealthy.

However, there are several factors you need to know before deciding what approach is right for you.

- Do you understand the medical differences between the various therapies? YES / NO / IDK

(If you want more information, watch this video: https://youtu.be/umzpbX-2YvU)

Does the tub have water jets? YES / NO / IDK

Do you know the health and maintenance issues with water jetted tubs? YES / NO

Is this therapy medically appropriate for you? YES / NO / IDK

Is there a mechanical heater? YES / NO / IDK

Will the water jets be too aggressive for you? YES / NO / IDK

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- Does the tub have air jets? YES / NO / IDK
- Do they qualify as Medical Hydrotherapy? YES / NO / IDK
- Is the system designed to provide temperature-appropriate, sanitary, non-aggressive, whole-body massage? YES / NO / IDK

(If you don't know, call us at 800-688-0055)

Does the manufacturer promote:

- Water jetted hydrotherapy? YES / NO
- Air jetted hydrotherapy? YES / NO
- Both? YES / NO
- Microbubbles? YES / NO
- Chromatherapy? YES / NO
- Aromatherapy? YES / NO
- Vibration Therapy? YES / NO

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Which therapy system is medically appropriate for you, and which is NOT?

Why?

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(If you don't know, call us at 800-688-0055)

Is the unit self-cleaning? YES / NO / IDK

Are the jets located appropriately for your use?
YES / NO / IDK

(If you don't know, call us at 800-688-0055)

Now that you have your answers, or maybe even more questions, get together with anyone you want to be involved in the process of deciding, and CALL US at **800-688-0055**, or go to the website and arrange a FREE consultation.

We encourage you to have your grown children, spouse, friends, or any other trusted advisers involved in this process with you.

Our courteous professionals will walk you and your loved ones through the evaluation of any tub that you have under consideration. We will do the work for you, and help you with the information.

Again, our passion is to help you find the PERFECT Walk-in Tub for you, whatever you decide. Either way, our commitment is to help you in any way that we can.

We look forward to your call at **(800) 688-0055** or e-mail at: **Info@BentleyBaths.com.**

I am here to help.
Live Long and Prosper,

