Is a tub to shower conversion right for your Scottsville home?

If you live in Scottsville, Kentucky, and your bathroom still has a traditional tub, you have probably wondered whether a walk-in shower would serve you better. The short answer is that a tub to shower conversion can make a lot of sense, especially if you are planning to age in place, want a more accessible bathroom, or simply prefer the look and function of a shower. But the right choice depends on your home's layout, your daily habits, and your budget. Let's walk through what to consider before making the switch.

What a tub to shower conversion involves

A tub to shower conversion is exactly what it sounds like: removing an existing bathtub and replacing it with a walk-in shower. The process usually includes removing the tub, reworking the plumbing, installing a new shower pan or tiled floor, and adding walls and a door or curtain. The result is a shower that you can step into without climbing over a high tub wall. For many homeowners, this is the biggest advantage: no more lifting your leg over the tub edge, which becomes harder with age or after an injury.

In Allen County and the broader Scottsville area, homes often have bathrooms that were built decades ago. Those older tubs can be deep and narrow, making them awkward to use. A conversion can open up the space and make the bathroom feel larger. It also gives you a chance to update the look of the room with new tile, fixtures, and lighting.

Who benefits most from a conversion

A tub to shower conversion is not for everyone, but it is a strong option for several types of households.

If you plan to stay in your home for the long term, a walk-in shower can make daily life easier and safer. The lower step-in height reduces the risk of tripping. You can also add slip-resistant flooring and grab bars, which are small changes that make a big difference. For anyone with limited mobility, a built-in seat inside the shower is a practical feature that a tub simply cannot offer.

Families with young children might prefer a tub, but as kids grow, the need for a tub often fades. If your youngest child is already past bath age, a conversion can give you a more useful shower for the whole family. And if you have a second bathroom that still has a tub, you can keep one tub for resale value while converting the other to a shower.



Another group that benefits is anyone who simply does not use the tub. If your bathtub has become a storage shelf for shampoo bottles or a place where laundry piles up, you are paying for space you do not use. A shower that you actually enjoy stepping into every morning can improve your quality of life.

What to think about before you start

Before you decide, take a close look at your bathroom's size and layout. A standard tub is about 60 inches long and 30 inches wide. A shower of the same footprint can feel more spacious because you are not stepping over a wall. But if your bathroom is very small, you may lose the option of a tub for resale. Real estate agents often say that homes with at least one tub appeal to a wider pool of buyers. If you are planning to sell within a few years, think about whether removing the only tub in the house might limit your buyer pool.

You should also consider the plumbing. The drain location for a tub is usually different from what a shower needs. A contractor may need to move the drain, which adds to the job's complexity. If the existing plumbing is old or in poor condition, this is a good time to replace it. The same goes for the water supply lines: upgrading to modern fixtures can improve water pressure and temperature control.

Another factor is the shower door. A hinged door swings outward and needs clearance. A sliding door takes less space but can be harder to clean. A curtain is the simplest option, but it does not seal as well and can let water escape onto the floor. Think about what works best for your space and your cleaning habits.

The role of a local specialist

A tub to shower conversion is not a weekend DIY project for most people. It involves plumbing, tiling, waterproofing, and sometimes structural work. Getting a professional who knows the local building codes and common home layouts in Scottsville is wise. A good contractor will inspect the subfloor, check for rot or mold, and make sure the new shower is properly sloped for drainage. They will also handle the permitting and inspection steps so you do not have to worry.

For homeowners in Scottsville and Allen County, bathplanetbg.com is one resource worth knowing about. The team there focuses on converting old bathtubs into safe, modern walk-in showers. They can lower the step-in height and add slip-resistant floors, grab bars, and a seat. Many projects are completed in as little as one day, which matters if you only have one bathroom and cannot be without it for long. That kind of turnaround is possible because the work is done with prefabricated shower systems rather than custom tiling, though custom options are available if you prefer a tile look.

Of course, it is always a good idea to get multiple quotes and ask for references before hiring anyone. Check that the contractor is licensed and insured for work in Kentucky. Ask about the waterproofing system they use and how they handle unexpected problems like rotted subfloor or old cast-iron pipes. A thorough contractor will walk you through the whole process before you sign anything.

Alternatives to a full conversion

If you are not ready to remove the tub, there are other ways to make your bathroom safer and more accessible. A walk-in tub with a door lets you keep the bathing experience while lowering the step-in height. These are more expensive than a conversion and take up similar space, but they may appeal if you strongly prefer soaking.

You can also add grab bars around the existing tub, install a hand-held showerhead, and place a non-slip mat inside the tub. These changes are inexpensive and can be done in an afternoon. They do not solve the high step-in problem, but they do reduce the risk of slipping.

Another option is a tub cut-out, where a section of the tub wall is removed to create a lower entry point. This is less common and can be tricky to waterproof, but some homeowners find it a good compromise.



Making the decision

Start by asking yourself how you use the bathroom now. If you take a bath once a year but shower every day, the conversion makes practical sense. If someone in your household has trouble stepping into the tub, the conversion is a safety upgrade. If you plan to stay in the home for the next ten years or more, the investment can pay off in comfort and convenience every single day.

On the other hand, if you are selling soon or if you have young children who still need baths, keeping the tub may be the better move. You can always convert later when your needs change.

For a clearer picture, talk to a local contractor who has done this kind of work in Scottsville homes. They can look at your specific bathroom and give you a realistic sense of the cost, timeline, and what is possible. Many offer free estimates, so there is no harm in asking. And if you want to see examples of what a finished conversion looks like, bathplanetbg.com can show you photos of recent projects in the area.

Final thoughts

There is no single right answer for every home. A tub to shower conversion can make your bathroom safer, more accessible, and more pleasant to use. But it also means giving up the option of a bath, which matters to some households. The key is to weigh your current habits against your future needs, and to work with a professional who understands the local housing stock. If you decide to go ahead, you will likely wonder why you did not do it sooner.