Bella CORE Poly Installation Process

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Tool Requirements-

- Circular Saw or Jigsaw
- Cutting Table (Centipede-www.centipedetool.com)
- Miter Saw
- Spacer Bars (www.harborfreight.com item # 66172)
- Core Bit
- Masking Tape
- Measuring Tape
- 100% Silicone
- Silicone Sealant
- Level

Let's Get Started-

Once your shower specification (pan or tub size) is finalized; select the proper Bella CORE Poly Kit that you will need for your shower walls and do the following measurements and cuts. Plus, verify what design best fits your surround vertical or horizontal.

- Finishing height of shower/tub surround
- Height of Design Strip if using horizontal design
- Back wall width
- Side wall widths
- Tub/pan leg specs
- Internal trims cut to size and notched
- External trims cut to size and mitered
- Design Strips cut to size for back & side walls making sure pattern matches up in corners

Before Getting Started

If you are going over an existant surface and there is any loose tile or water damage evident, these areas need to be repaired prior to installing the wall system. If loose tile is removed and the sheet rock or greenboard behind it is still in good condition, you may fill in the area with the flat tape or 100% silicone and proceed with installation.

It is extremely important that the tile wall is cleaned with 100% DNA prior to applying adhesives. Any soap scum left on the tile will prevent the TES from adhering. *Exception: If the tile is painted, it will smear the paint. Use only denatured alcohol (50% DNA and 50% water solution) on painted tile.

Plug the drain with a rag to prevent any debris from entering and remove any existing soap dishes. Determine the location for the new soap dish(s). It is a good idea to check with the homeowner and ask if they have a preference for the soap dish location. For a standard recessed soap dish, knock out a 14" W X 13" T hole in the tile wall where the new soap dish will be located. For any other size of recessed soap dish, knock out a hole in the wall approximately 1" bigger than necessary to allow the soap dish to be easily installed. Always remove any debris to prevent damage to the bathtub and floor. For corner and surface mounted soap dishes, it is not necessary to make an opening in the tile wall.

Hardware Removal-

If it is necessary to remove chrome fixtures from the plumbing wall prior to the panel installation, use the following steps as a guide:

1) Remove the tub spout by turning it counter clockwise or loosening the setscrew located on the bottom of the sprout near the wall. If the homeowner(s) desire to reuse the old trim, notify them that it may require force to remove old hardware and potentially cause damage.
2) Remove the small cover on the valve handle(s) to allow access to the screw that secures the handle to the stem. Remove the screw and slide the handle off of the valve stem. If the handle does not slide off easily, use a chrome puller to remove it. Otherwise, the valve stem will break.
3) Remove the showerhead using the same procedures for removing the tub spout (number 1).
4) Make sure that the pipe (nipple) that attaches to the tub spout protrudes out far enough to accommodate the additional ¼" that the wall panel will add to the tile wall. If the pipe does not protrude far enough, a licensed plumber will need to change or extend the nipple to accommodate for the wall panel. Always change or extend the nipple before installing the panels.

* There are two different trim options which will be used on the outside perimeter, **½ Bullnose** that will lay flat or flush on the wall and a **Full Bullnose** that has a 3/8" lip that will wrap around another surface or fill a gap like a tub flange or shower pan flange. Your Kit includes both so discard the unused option.
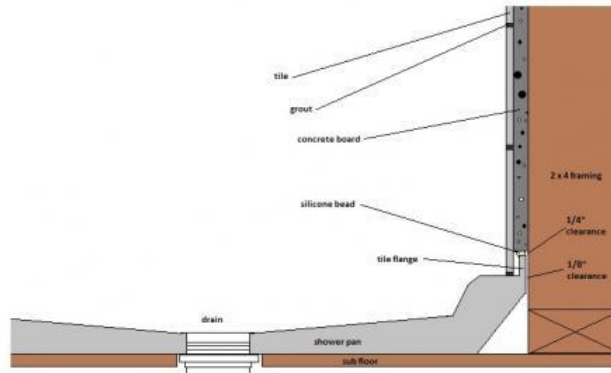

½ Bullnose   **Full Bullnose**

Recommended Installation Process of Tubs & Shower Pans

When installing a shower pan or tub, make sure that the flange is attached to the stub and the backer-board or drywall is setting ON TOP of the flange (see diagram below).

This will allow the backer-board/drywall to be flush with the bathroom wall and the ½ Bullnose trim will set flat on the wall.

If the shower pan or tub is installed over the backer-board or drywall (pics 1.1 & 1.2), use the Full Bullnose trim. Please note, the wall panels will need to be built out with adhesives or furring strips making sure the pan or tub is flush with the wall.

Pic. 1.1   Pic 1.2

Backer board Installation-

- Cement backer board or green board is recommended to be installed in the wet area of your shower or tub surround.
- Cut the backer board so that there are no gapes over ½" and In addition to screwing the backer board to the wall studs, 100% silicone can be applied behind the backer board as an extra bond or to bring it out flush and with the tile, if necessary.
- If the wall system is to be extended above or outside the existing tile walls, the walls must be built out flush with the tile using backer board.

Templating & Measuring-

Templating-

- If the walls are out of level it is a good idea to make templates out of Plastic or Wood and assembled with either staples or hot glue.
- Draw a level line at the top of where the panels will stop and also where the outside edges will stop as those lines must be straight and level to start your templates from.
- Start by spot bonding to the wall by stapling or hot gluing to the wall and continue this process until a skeleton is made on the wall of the exact size.
- When using a Design Strip or Deco Band make sure to draw a level line on the wall for the bottom of the strip and start you template on this level line and build the template to the actual sizes from there as this line MUST be level as the bottom of the shower or tub will be scribed to the actual dimensions.
- Make sure to stop your top and exterior side wall templates 3/8" short of intended finishing line for the addition of the trim pieces.
- It is important to make notes, measurements, arrows and markings on the templates so that everything is identified when the template is placed on top of the Poly and transferred to the tape. This would include the veining in the materials if any.
- Adhere 2" masking tape onto the surface in approximate area in where the template will be positioned and clamp the template to the panel. Trace the template onto the tape using a fine pencil or pen and transfer all of your notes to the tape (T=Top, X=Trim Piece, I=Inside, B=Bottom etc…)

If using the Internal Trims please install those prior to making your templates

- You can also draw a line 3/8" in from inside corner and start the template at the line, then measure ½" from the corner and then draw a line and start your side wall templates from that line as the Internal corner channels set of the wall ½".

Measuring-

"Point to Point" measuring is a safe method in accounting for the walls being out of square or plumb. Bella Core has provided (3) Measurement Data Sheets (MDS) for easily acquiring these needed measurements (see attached) Insert Here

> ➢ **Vertical Tub or Shower**
> ➢ **Horizontal Tub or Shower**
> ➢ **Valve Wall**

- Start by making a series of marks on the walls of the heights and widths on the intended panels, especially if using a Design Strip or Deco Band. Draw a level line in the wall at the height of the bottom of the strip/band and continue to transfer this line around all of the walls as this line MUST be level as any scribing would be done at the bottom of the panels.
- Make sure to stop your top and exterior side wall measurements 3/8" short of intended finishing line for the addition of the trim pieces.

- Connect the points of the Crows Feet by using a level or a straight with a fine pencil or pen and then you are ready for cutting the panels.

Cutting of Panels & Components-

****ALWAYS USE EYE PROTECTION & Double check all your measurements prior to cutting****

A "Cut Sheet" is provided for each Bella CORE Kit as the general guideline but can be modified based on your actual measurements.

Place tape on the finished side of the panel (pic 2.1) and trace the templates or measurements to the tape (pic 2.2).

Pic. 2.1

Pic. 2.2

All tongue and groove edges that are not being used cut off with the circular saw, jig saw or table saw (pic. 2.3 & 2.4).

Pic. 2.4   **Pic. 2.5**

- If you are not comfortable cutting a straight line you can use a straight edge that is clamped down and ride the saw along the edge. (pic. 2.5)

  Remember the edges that are going into the trim channels do NOT have to be perfect cuts as you have 3/8" covered in where the panel slides into the channel.

  When cutting Design Strips to size, make sure to match up the corners in where they will butt together (pic. 2.6).
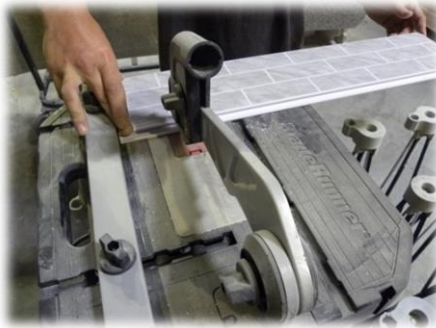
Pic. 2.6

Once the wall is cut to specification, remove the top section for handling purposes. Be sure to write "TB" on the backside for "Top Back", this will allow you to identify where this panel goes during install.

Coring Holes for Shower Head & Valves-

- Use the Bella Core **Valve Wall** "Measurement Data Sheet" (MDS) to acquire all of the important measurements needed and transfer those to tap on the surface of the panel(s).
Always double check the hardware prior to cutting any holes

- You can use a Jigsaw in cutting out the shower head, tub spout or shower valve holes, start by drilling a pilot hole with a drill bit inside the cutout area and then use the jigsaw to follow the cutout lines.

You can also use a core bit or a recessed hole saw that will attach to your drill, make sure to start on the line at a slight angle and then slowly level out the core bit to the face of the panel and plunge slowly (pic. 2.7). Most core bits are 1 3/8" in diameter and most escutcheon plates for the shower head & tub spouts are 2 ¼" in diameter so you have some play on the cutout and most shower valves have a 7 ¼" cover plate.

Pic. 2.7

Pic. 2.8

Installing the Panels & Components-

Remove the printed face of the internal trim from the internal base (Pic 3). Then dry fit both printed face and base to make sure the internal trims are **cut 3/8" lower than the top of the wall** allowing the (2) external trims to meet together on the inside corner.

Pic. 3

Apply the internal base into the corner using silicone & hot glue by starting at the bottom and moving upwards (pic. 3.1), The hot glue will hold the piece in place while the silicone sets up.
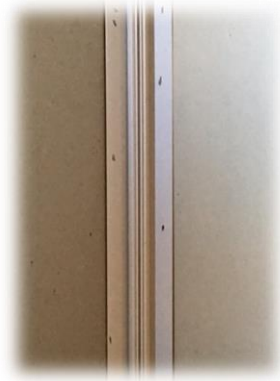
You can also use a staple gun (pic. 3.2) , just make sure all of the staples are flush with the plastic or they will interfere with the panel fitting inside the internal trim piece.

Pic. 3.1

Pic 3.2

In some cases, you will need to trim the edges of the internal base so that it sets on the shower pan flange (pic. 3.3) while allowing the track to come all the way down to the bottom of the panels so that when the internal face is installed it will align with the panels (pic. 3.4)

Pic. 3.3

Pic. 3.4

If you decide to Butt Joint the panels on the inside corners and eliminate the Internal trims then it is recommended that you use some type of waterproofing in those corners, one that is easy and cures fast is **Flex Seal**

Spray each corner and let it dry and then use a "Factory edge" on the inside corners as your cut edge will be covered by the external trims. Use the color coordinating silicone caulk at the finishing process to add additional protection.

Horizontal Kits-

After installing the internal trims, dry fit the ***Bottom Back Panel*** aligning to the top of the panel and to the bottom of Design Strip.

Prior to installing the back panel, place a bead of Bella CORE Fast Adhesive inside the internal base channels of the internal trims (pic. 3.5). Then, using the Bella CORE, place circles on the backside of the panels about 4" in between each one (pic. 3.6), these circles will provide suction when pressed firmly to the wall. Be sure to leave 1½" from any side or top that will have a trim piece applied later to it as this will allow the backside of the trim piece to slide behind the panel with no blockage (pic. 3.7).

| Pic. 3.5 | Pic. 3.6 | Pic 3.7 |

If you have (2) internal trims you must cut the panels 1 ¼" shorter than the wall to wall measurements from left to right. You will then slide the panel all the way into the left channel (pic. 3.8) and then position the right side at the channel and slide it in about ½ way (pic. 3.9) keeping the left side in the channel as well (pic. 3.10).

| Pic 3.8 | Pic. 3.9 | Pic. 3.10 |

Dry fit the *Lower Level Valve Wall* to make sure it fits the top of the panel meeting the line on the wall of the Design Strip. Plus, the panel needs to align with the outside line of the wall. If using an outside tub leg, the piece needs to have a snug fit to the tub/pan. Make sure that the tub spout and valve holes align properly (pic. 3.11).

Pic. 3.11

Apply silicone to the Internal Trim channel as well as to valve wall. Do not apply silicone within 1½" of outside edge line leaving enough space for the external trims to be installed.

Install panel

Dry fit the *Lower(non-valve)* wall to make sure it fits the top of the panel meeting the line on the wall for the Design Strip as well as outside line on wall for the edge of the panel (pic. 3.12).

- o Apply silicone to the Internal Trim channel as well as to valve wall but make sure to hold the silicone 1 ½" short of outside edge line on wall for the trims to slot in later.

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o   Install panel and use the spacer bars to hold the panels tight until the fast adhesive tacks up (pic. 3.13), don't over tighten.

Pic. 3.12   **Pic. 3.13**

Design Strips-

Installing Design Strips

Dry fit the **Back Wall Design Strip (DS)** to make sure the top of the DS aligns to the top of the line drawn on the wall and to back corners. Apply Bella CORE fast adhesive to the back of the Design Strip and into the groove (female) of the panel (pic. 4.1). Install the tongue of Back Wall DS into the groove of panel

Pic. 4.1

Dry fit the **Valve Wall Design Strip (DS)** making sure the top of the DS aligns to the top of the line drawn on the wall and to the lines drawn on the outside edges.

o   Apply fast adhesive to the back of the DS and silicone groove of the back bottom panel
o   Install the tongue of DS into the groove of panel (pic. 4.2)

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Pic. 4.2

Dry fit the **Opposite Wall Design Strip (DS)** making sure the top of the DS aligns to the top of the line drawn on the wall and to the lines drawn on the outside edges.

- o Apply fast adhesive to the back of the DS and silicone groove of the back bottom panel
- o Install the tongue of DS into the groove of panel

Installing Top Panel Layer

Dry fit **Top Level Back Panel** aligning top of panel to line on the wall as well as the tongue (male) fitting into the groove (female) of DS.

- o Pull off and apply fast adhesive circles to the back of the panel, both of the Internal Trims and silicone the groove of the DS and Install panel

Dry fit the **Upper Level Valve Wall** to make sure it fits by the top of the panel meeting the line on the wall as well as outside line on wall for the edge of the panel and make sure tongue (male) slots into groove (female)of DS.

- o Make sure that the shower head hole lines up properly.
- o Apply silicone to the groove (female) of the DS and Internal Trim channel. Apply fast adhesive to the back of the panel but make sure to hold the fast adhesive 1 ½" short of the top & outside edge lines on wall for the trims to slot in later, Install panel.

Dry fit the **Upper Level Opposite Wall** to make sure it fits by the top of the panel meeting the line on the wall as well as outside line on wall for the edge of the panel and make sure the tongue (male) slots into groove (female) of DS.

Apply silicone to the groove (female) of the DS and Internal Trim channel. Apply fast adhesive to the back of the panel, leave 1 ½" clearance on all outer edges where the external trim will be installed later. (pic. 4.3).

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Pic. 4.3

Other Design Strips (Stone)-

- The first step is you must cut both the Tongue (male) & Groove (female) off of the panels and make sure that the top of all the panels are at the same height & level.

- Once you have the lower level of panels installed and level then you must cut some wood blocks (spacers)that are the same height as your DS along with the grout line you want on both sides. So if you have a 6" DS and want a 1/8" grout line on both sides then the wood spacers must be 6 ¼"
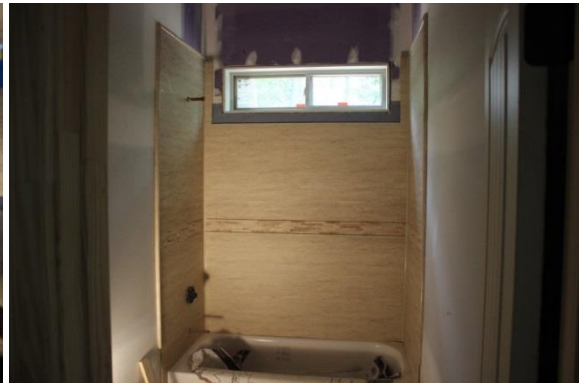

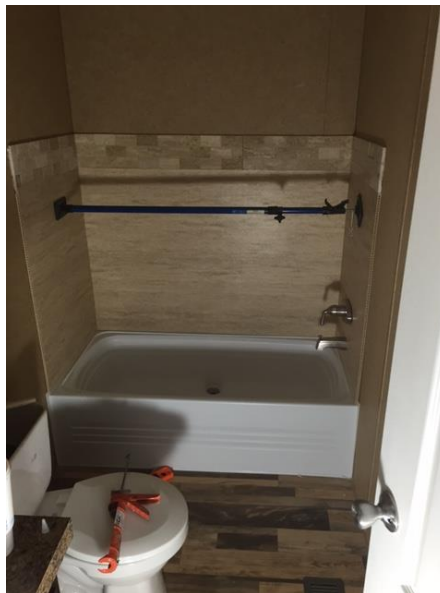- Cut the Tongue & Grooves off of the top panels and install on top of the spacer blocks.

- Remove the spacer blocks and install the DS with 1/8" spacers on the bottom & top of the DS that will be grouted later.
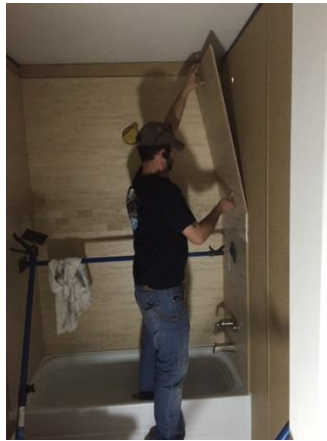

IF SPEED IS AN ISSUE……..

- After installing the lower level of panels, set the 1/8" spacers on top of the panels, cut the DS to size and then apply the DS with a quick set epoxy.

- Set the 1/8" spacers on top of the DS and install the upper level panels after removing both the Tongues (male) & Grooves (female)

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- Make sure that the DS & panels are flush on the same plane by adding more adhesive to one or the other.

Vertical Kits-

Dry fit **Back Panel** aligning top of panel to line on the wall for bottom of Design Strip.

- Prior to installing the back panel, place a bead of silicone inside the channels of the internal trims. Use 100% Bella CORE Fast adheisve circles on the backside of the panels about 4" in between each one (pic. 4.4). These circles will provide suction when pressed firmly to the wall. Leave 1 ½" from any side or top that will have a trim piece applied later to it, as this will allow the backside of the trim piece to slide behind the panel with no blockage.

Pic. 4.4   **Pic. 4.5**

When using two internal trims, you must cut the panels 1¼" shorter than the wall to wall measurements using left to right measurements. Slide the panel all the way into the left channel and then position the right side at the channel and slide it in about half-way in keeping the left side in the channel as well.

Dry fit the wall opposite valve wall to make sure it fits by the top of the panel meeting the line on the wall and the outside line on wall for the edge of the panel. Check the leg to make sure it has a snug fit to the Tub/Pan (if using a tub leg). Make sure that the tub spout hole and valve hole line up properly (pic. 4.5).

- o Apply silicone to the Internal Trim channel as well as to valve wall but make sure to hold the silicone 1½" short of outside edge line on wall for the trims to slot in later.
- o Install panel

Pic. 4.6

Dry fit the **_Valve Wall_** to make sure it fits the top of the panel meeting the line on the wall as well as outside line on wall for the edge of the panel (pic. 4.6).

- o Apply silicone to the Internal Trim channel as well as to valve wall but make sure to hold the silicone 1½" short of outside edge line on wall for the trims to slot in later.

  o Install panel & use the spacer bars to hold the panels tight until the fast adhesive tacks up (pic. 4.7)

Pic. 4.7

Seaming Panels (Tongue & Groove)-

With the tongue & groove panels the seam will almost disappear if installed properly. Install the groove panel first, place tape on the edge (pic. 4.8) and apply the color matched silicone inside the groove (pic. 4.9). Apply tape to the edge of both panels as well as a small bead of the color matched silicone on the tongue and then the 100% Bella CORE fast adhesive circles on the back of the panel.

Pic. 4.8   **Pic. 4.9**   **Pic. 4.10**

Then at a 45-degree angle insert the tongue into the groove (pic. 4.10). Then press the panel to the wall and pull the seam tight. If this panel is not trapped inside 2 walls you can take a piece of wood and tap on the edge to make the seam as tight as possible.

Remove the tape from each side and wipe off any excess colored silicone.

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Horizontal Seam

Fill the female groove with silicone (pic. 4.11) and then install the panel at a 45-degree angle (pic. 4.12). Then engage the male (tongue) and pull tight (pic. 4.13). Wipe any excess silicone from the panels.

Pic. 4.11   **Pic. 4.12**   **Pic. 4.13**

Cutting & Installing the Trim Pieces-

- Measure the trim pieces using the "point to point" Measurement Data Sheets (MDS), accounting for all miters.
- Cut ALL the trim pieces to size after the installation of panels prior to installing using a Tile Saw or Miter Saw

Pic. 5.1   **Pic 5.2**

When cutting the miters on the external trims, Cut the miter first and leave the trim long so that the piece can be cut to size after the (2) mitered pieces meet smoothly (pic. 5.1). Cut the Internal trims 3/8" short from the top of the panel so that the (2) external trims will come together on the inside corner (miter). It will be necessary to notch the back of the external trims so that they align properly on the inside corner without hitting the back of the Internal Trim piece (pic. 5.2).

Once all pieces are cut-to-size and ready to install, prior to applying silicone, Start by running a 4" scrap piece of the trim behind the top and exterior edges in where the trims will be adhered to make sure there are no blockages (pic. 5.3).

Pic 5.3

Dry fit all *Exterior Trim Pieces* to make sure all miters line up together and that they slide in behind the panels with no issues and then cut to size, make sure to install any mitered pieces together so that they can be adjusted for the best fit. Remember, the panels are inserted into a 3/8" channel on the trim pieces…there is room for adjustments to accommodate a plumb & level finish (pic. 5.4).

Pic. 5.4

Pic. 5.5

- o Start with top of *Upper Back Panel* and apply a bead of silicone into slot on trim piece and Install trim (pic. 5.5).
- o Take the *Upper Level Trim Piece* and apply a bead of silicone and into slot on trim piece. Install trim piece making sure the inside miter is tight to upper back trim inside miter
- o Take the *Opposite Upper Level Trim Piece* and apply a bead of silicone into slot on trim piece. Install trim piece making sure the inside miter is tight to upper back trim inside miter
- o Take the *Outside Edge Trim* and apply a bead of silicone behind into the slot on the trim piece. Install trim piece making sure the outside miter is tight to upper side wall outside miter.
- o Take the *Opposite Outside Edge Trim* and apply a bead of silicone into the slot on the trim piece. Install trim piece making sure the outside miter is tight to upper side wall outside miter

<u>Corner Shelves-</u>

1. Measure and mark the desired height and placement of the Poly Corner Shelf
2. Use a corner level for proper placement
3. Apply Bella CORE Fast Adhesive to the back of the installation components prior to placement and fastening
4. Screw installation components approximately ¼" from each end
5. Wipe away access adhesive
6. Apply Bella CORE Fast Adhesive to the top of the installation components
7. Place Poly Corner Shelf on the installation component and press gently
8. Seal edges with Bella CORE Silicone

Dry fit the dish, pull out, fill the slots on the panels with the color coordinating silicone and then insert dish at the back end of the slot and slide forward until it stops at front end of slot (pic. 6.5).

Clean up both sides of dish and then reapply the silicone on the top and bottom of the dish (pic. 6.6).

Pic. 6.6

Recessed Dish-

The Bella Core Recessed Dish is designed to be installed in between the studs on the wall, it is recommended to make the decision on where it is going prior to the backer board being installed on the wall so that the backer board can be cut out as well.

The Recessed Dish requires a cutout of AT LEAST 12 ½" x 13 ½" but does not have to be perfect as there is a 2" lip around all (4) sides. Depending on the veining of the shower panels will determine which way the recessed dish should be installed so that the veining is moving in the same direction (pic. 7.1).

Pic 7.1   **Pic. 7.2**

- o Dry fit the dish into the hole to make sure it fits properly and that it sets level and then remove and apply fast adhesive around all (4) lips and insert into the hole and press. Clean off any excess and then apply a bead of the color coordinating caulk around all (4) edges (pic. 7.2)

Tub Decks-

When using the Bella Core Poly for a tub skirt then mitering the panels may be required for any angled pieces (pic. 8.1).


Pic. 8.1

After cutting and mitering, dry fit the panels to make sure there is a tight fit. Then place a bead of the color coordinating silicone between the joint as well as Bella CORE Fast Adhesive on the back. Now, install both pieces together so that they can be pulled tight and then use tape to hold them together until the adhesive sets up (pic. 8.2).

If using the Poly as a tub deck you will need to use the Full Bullnose Trims so that the tub deck panel can be inserted into 1 channel and the tub skirt panel can be inserted into the other (pic. 8.3).
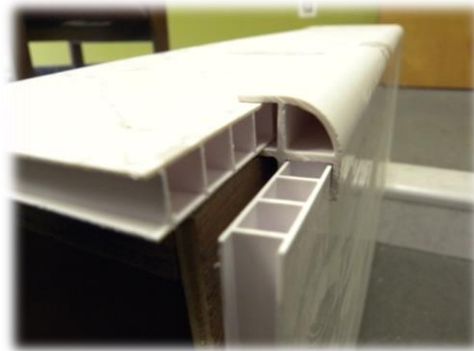
Pic. 8.2   **Pic. 8.3**

Finishing-

Use the Bella CORE color coordinating silicone in all joints and seams and wipe clean (pics.
9.1 & 9.2 & 9.3).

Pic. 9.1

Pic. 9.2

Pic. 9.3

Once everything has been adhered and cured clean off any excess silicone or debris using denatured alcohol and cheese cloth for agitation.

Care & Maintenance-

BellaCore Poly is manufactured from the finest impact-resistant PVC on the market. The Poly is a durable, non-porous surface that is designed to provide years of and enjoyment.

With reasonable care and maintenance, under normal use, Bella CORE Poly System will retain its beautiful finish with minimal care.

Simple Green All-Purpose Cleaner and *Scrubbing Bubbles Bathroom Cleaner* are recommended

Normal cleaning is easy by following these instructions:

- A mixture of warm water, mild liquid detergent or non-abrasive cleaner such as the Simple Green or Scrubbing Bubbles, and a soft sponge is adequate for most cleaning.

- Dust and dirt may be removed with a soft, damp cloth or cheese cloth.

- Grease, oil, paint, or ink stains may be removed with Mineral Spirits.

- **Never use abrasive cleaners, razor blades, or other sharp instruments that may scratch the surface of your BellaCore products.**

- Avoid exposing your BellaCore products to harsh chemicals such as acetone (nail polish remover), nail polish, dry cleaning solution, paint removers and thinners, drain and bowl cleaners, gasoline and pine oil. Strong detergents formulated for use on tile or porcelain enamel surfaces should be avoided.

BellaCore products are designed to provide years of enjoyment. It is extremely durable but can be damaged if abused, mistreated, or exposed to unapproved cleaners. To avoid this, please follow these Care and Maintenance instructions carefully.