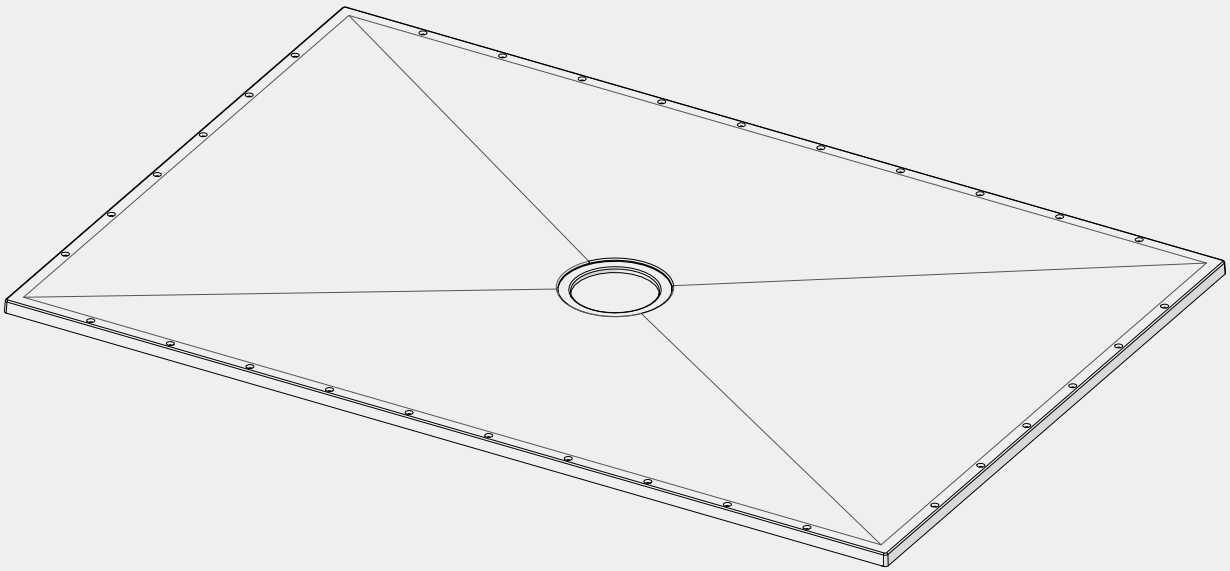
AKW® Resource Center

Tuff Form Shower Base

INSTALLATION INSTRUCTIONS



Please read all instructions before installation and leave this document with the end user for future reference as it contains important warranty information.

Important Information

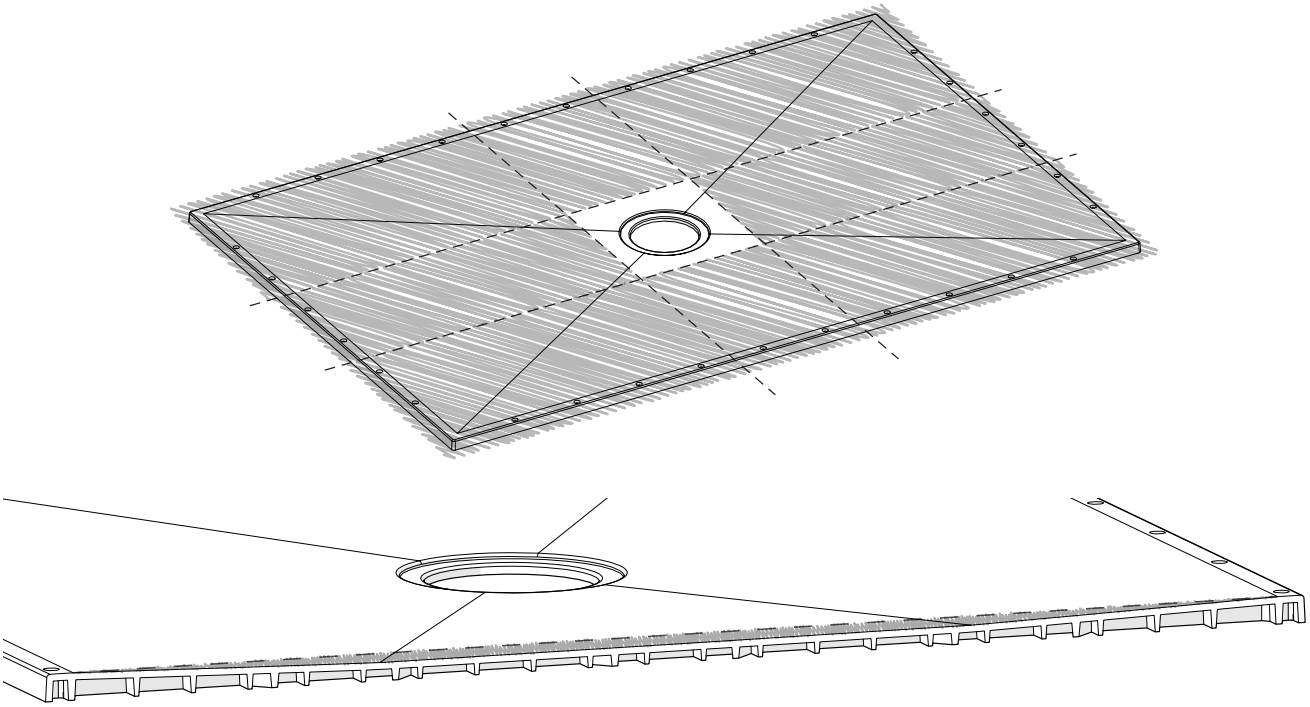
This product must be installed by a competent tradesman. By proceeding with installation, you are accepting that the product is in an acceptable condition. Claims of faulty/damaged product once installation has begun are void. The manufacturer is not responsible for any costs incurred through installation that is not in accordance with these instructions.

These instructions advise the minimum standards of installation. Due to the variety of installation conditions, AKW Resource Center cannot account for all circumstances. The information in this manual is provided on the condition that the installer determine its suitability for each case.

Read these instructions in full before commencing any work. Refer to the drain's instructions as provisions for its installation may need to be made before and during the installation of this shower base. If other products such as joint tapes/waterproofing strips or membranes will be used, refer to their instructions to determine how their installation fits in with this base's installation.

Each side of the shower base can be cut down to 6" from the center of the drain hole. Hence, a custom size can be created by trimming any of the sides. Trimming a side of the shower base leaves an edge that follows the contour of the drainage plane. The discontinuity between this cut edge and the floor will need blending before installing the finished floor.

The base can be put in before or after the boards get put on the walls. If the base is placed right up against the wall studs, the showering area size will be reduced slightly by the thickness of the board and tile. If the boards go in between the shower base and wall studs, only the tiles will overlap the base.

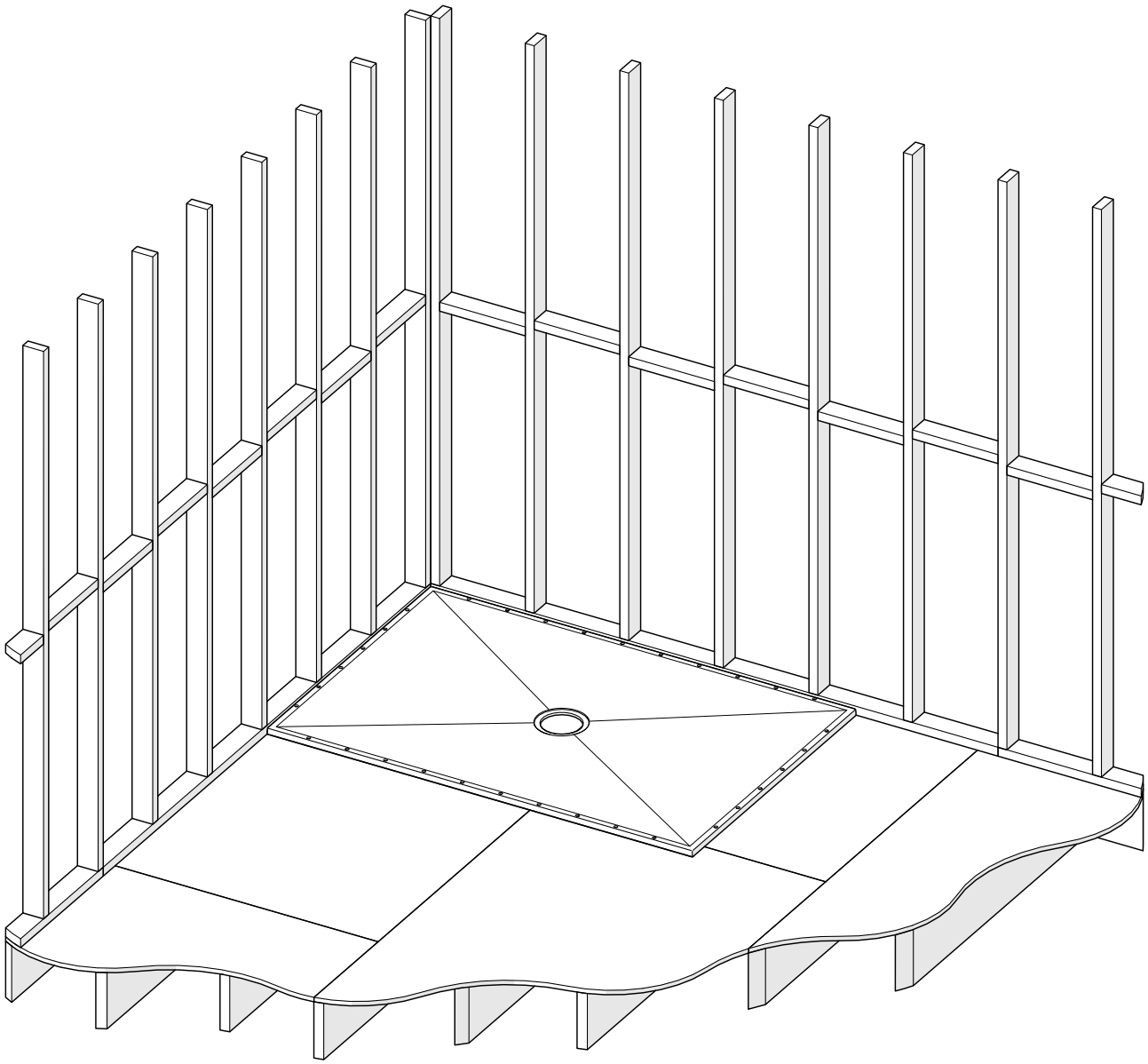


This shower base has a maximum load rating of 381 kg / 840 lb / 60 stone.
Do not exceed this rating.

Wood Floor Installation

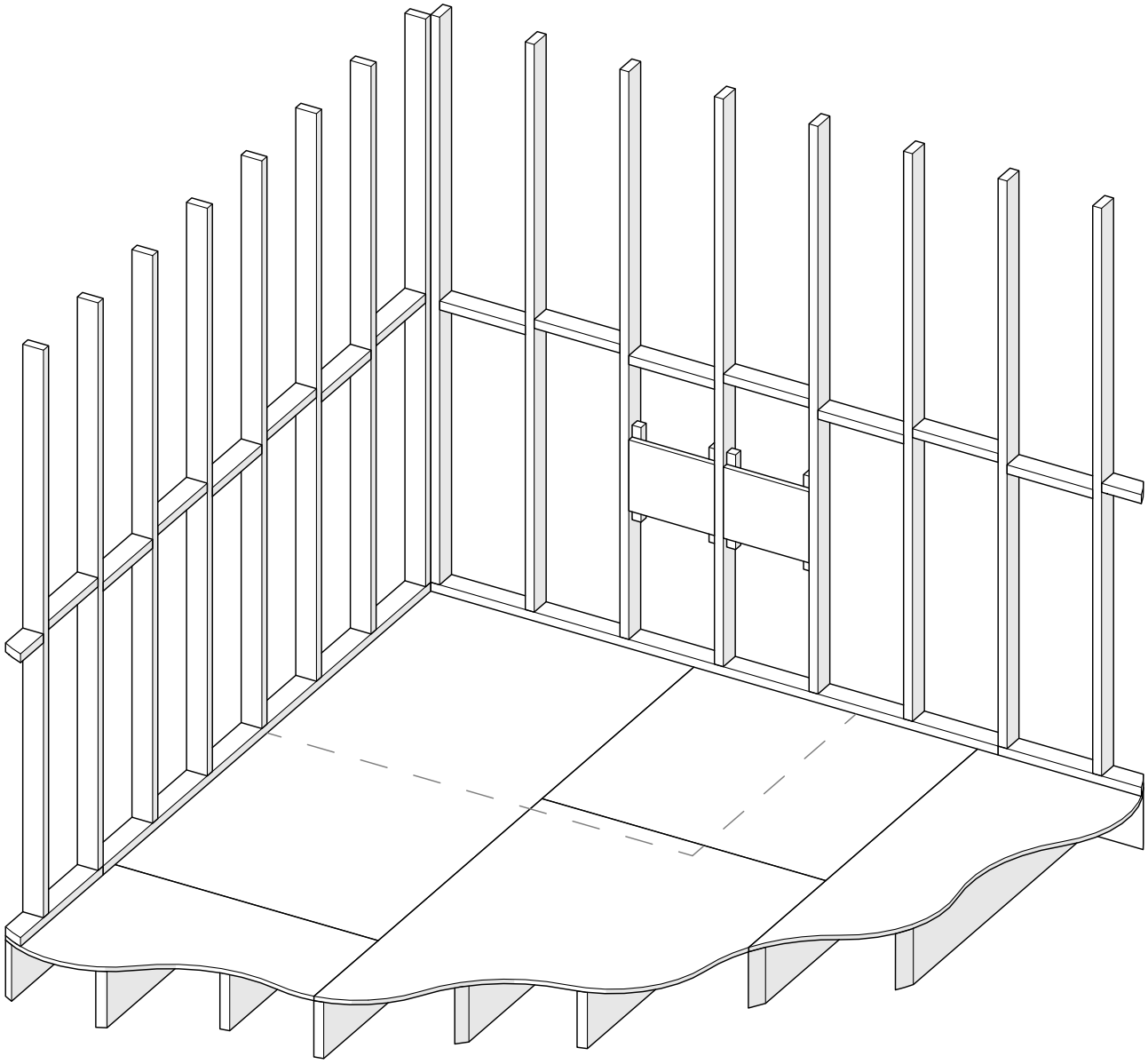
Step 1

Cut the base down to a custom size if desired. Place the shower base on the subfloor and position it so that the center of the drain hole is at least 5″ from any joist. This position means that the reinforcement ring hangs freely. It is okay to pull the base away from the wall(s) to avoid a joist or enlarge the showering area. Flat areas between the wall and shower base will need a slope adding to them once the base is put down in order to prevent water from sitting on them. Mark around the edge of the shower base, then remove it.



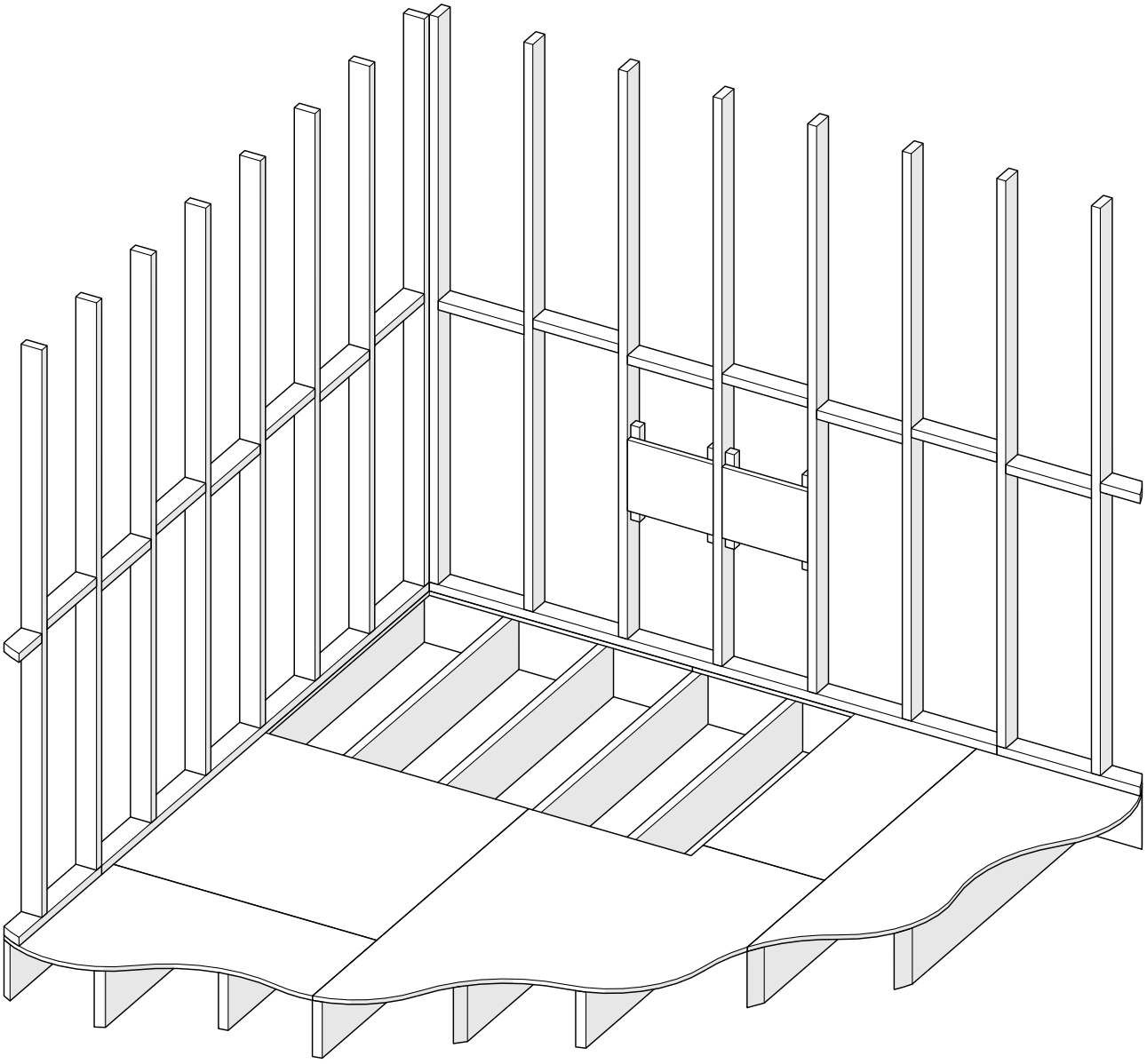
Wood Floor Installation

With the showering area defined and the subfloor still in place, now may be a convenient time to add blocking in between the wall studs to support shower accessories such as seats and grab bars. Add 2″ thick blocking and cleats at the appropriate heights as required. For lighter duty items, 1″ or even 3/4″ thick plywood can be used.



Step 2

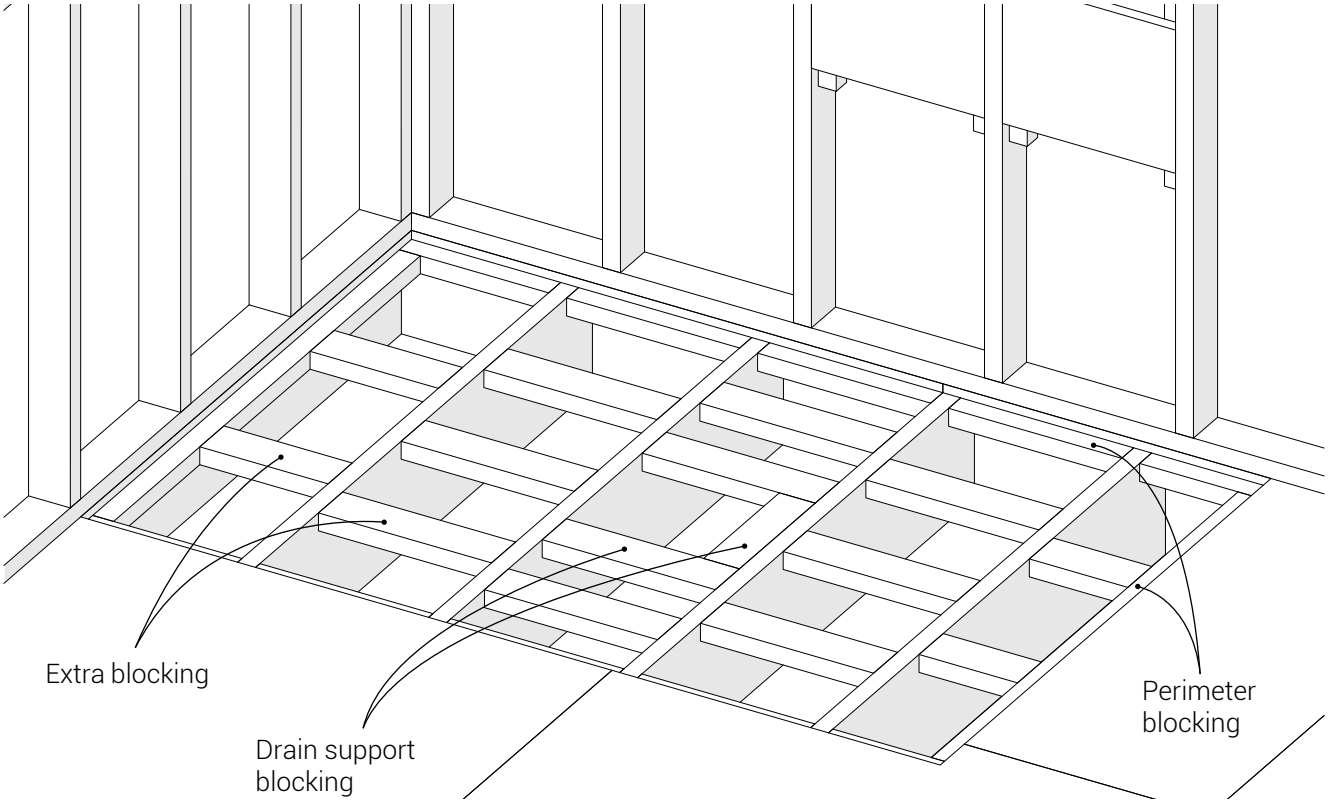
Check for any buried wiring, plumbing, and ductwork before cutting into the floor. Cut the subfloor, taking care not to cut any deeper than necessary. Carefully remove the subfloor. Doing more cuts to make the pieces of subfloor smaller may make this easier.



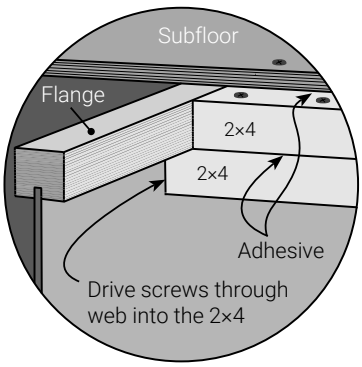
Wood Floor Installation

Step 3

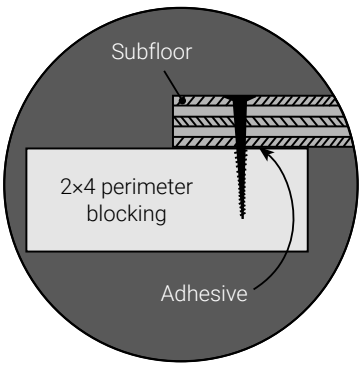
Check that the joists in the recess are level. If necessary, remove the high spots with a belt sander or rasp, and add shims or 2×4″ sistering joists to the low spots. Add 2×4″ (or bigger) blocking along the perimeter of the recess and in a 11″ square centered on the drain hole. If the joist spacing is greater than 16″ centers, additional blocking in between the joists must be put in. For good measure, add blocking in between the joists to minimize flex once everything is installed. Apply construction adhesive to blocking surfaces that support the subfloor.



For TJIs, fasteners should penetrate the web or into the top and bottom of the flange, but not through the sides of the flange. Stacked 2×4s work well with TJIs.



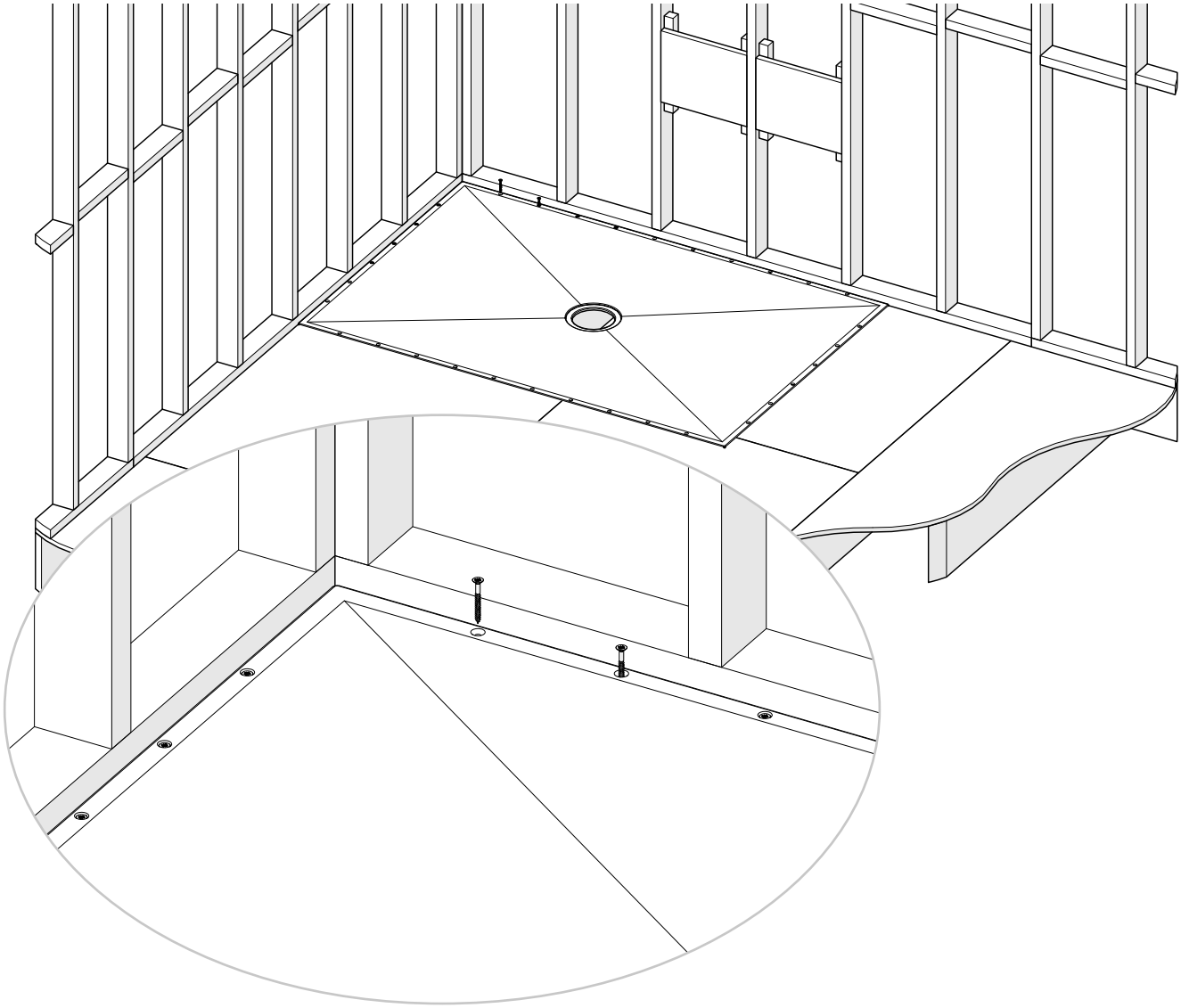
Install the perimeter blocking so that half of the block is under the subfloor and half is exposed.



Wood Floor Installation

Step 4
Determine the height of the floor. The flat region around the edge of base must be flush with or very slightly lower than whatever goes on top of the subfloor, tile backer board for example. The base is 1" thick, so 3/4" thick subfloor plus 1/4" tile backer will work perfectly. If the thicker flooring is required, the base must be packed up accordingly. Add packing material, such as plywood, as required to achieve the level transition from floor to shower base.

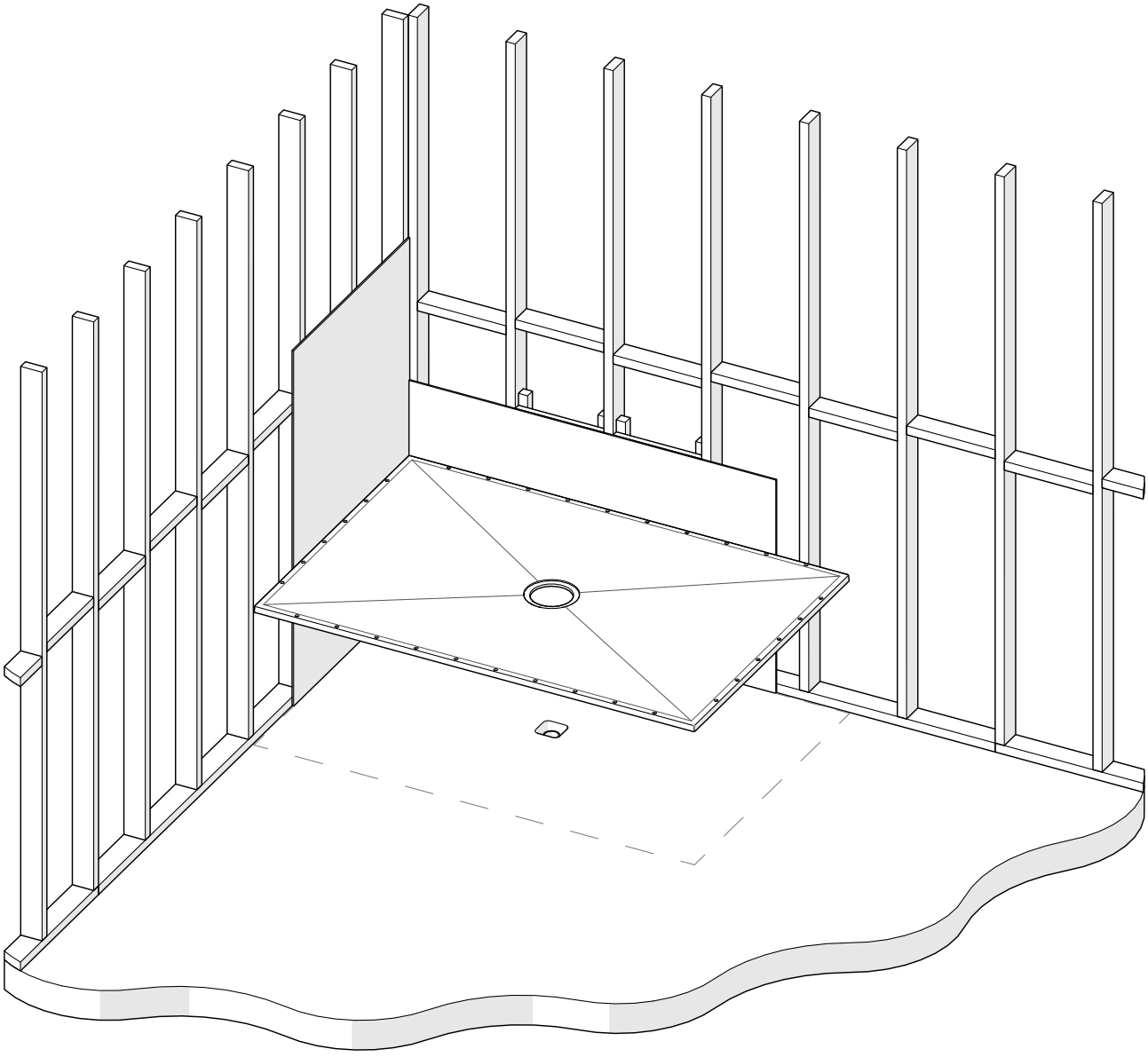
Step 5
Lower the shower base into the recess. Drill through the holes along the shower base's edge to remove the material that blocks the holes. Drive screws through the holes along the perimeter to fasten the base down. Do not drive the screws in so hard that it causes the base to become unlevel. If the holes were removed in cutting the base down to a custom size, simply drill your own holes at roughly the same spacing. For increased security, apply construction adhesive to the perimeter blocking before placing the base in.



Solid Floor Installation

Step 1
Cut the shower base down to a custom size if desired. Put the board on the wall, at least temporarily, while defining the area if only the tiles are to overlap the shower base (this is irrelevant if the base is not up against the wall). Place the base on the floor to determine the position of base. The location of the drain line may influence the position, or the drain line may be extended to account for the desired position of the shower base. Draw around the edge of the base. Placing it upside down may help if the rocking on the drain ring affects marking around the edge, but be careful not to scuff the top face.

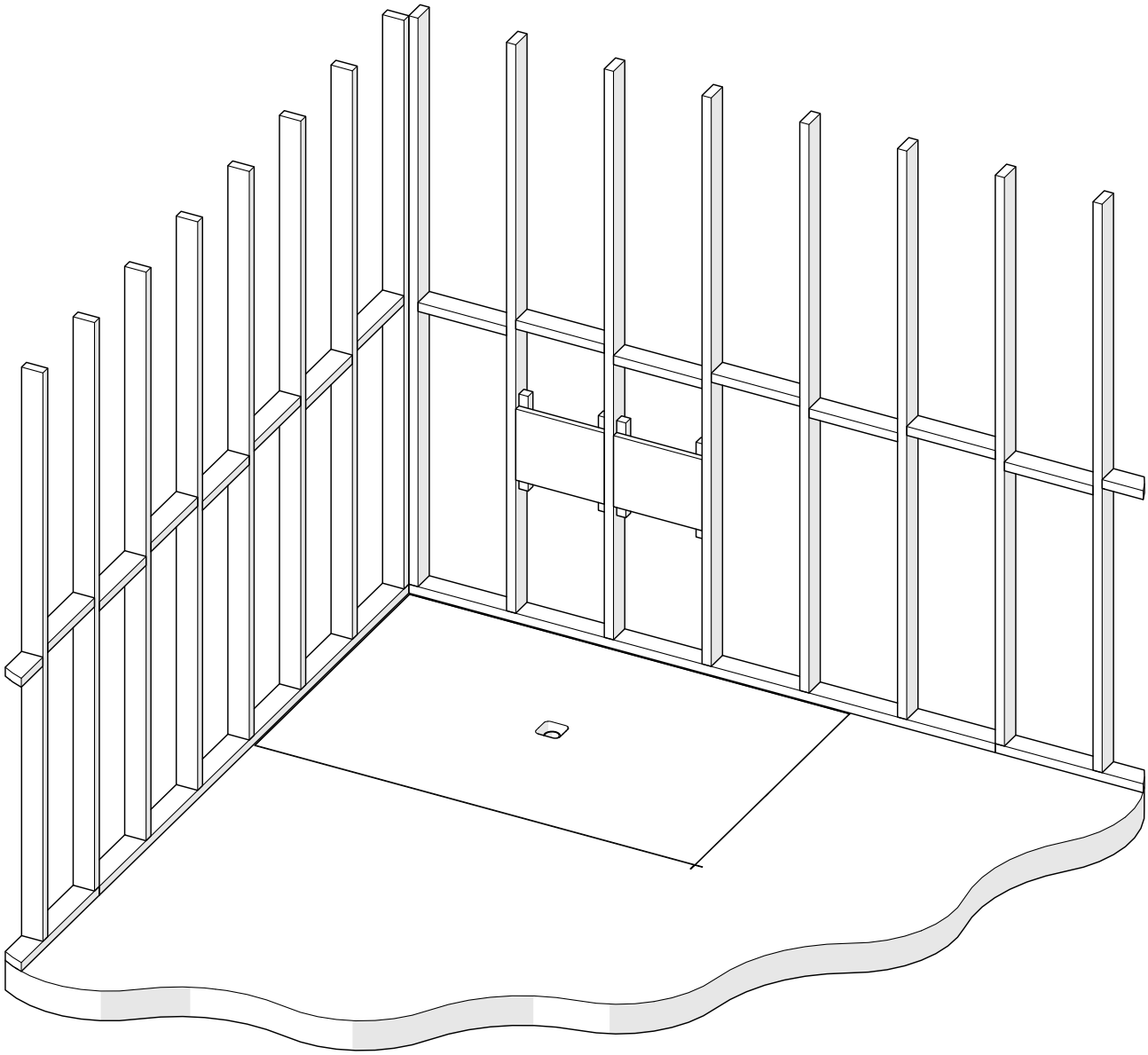
Install any accessory blocking as in step 1 of the wood floor installation.



Step 2

Set the base to one side while the recess is created. Calculate the depth of the recess. The recess needs to be deep enough so that the top face of the base is flush with or very slightly lower than whatever goes on top of the concrete, tile backer board for example.* Cut along the outline to a depth that is 1/8" to 1/4" deeper than calculated. Depending on how powerful your saw is, multiple passes may be need in order to achieve the right depth of cut. Overcut at any corner to aid removal of material (see step 3).

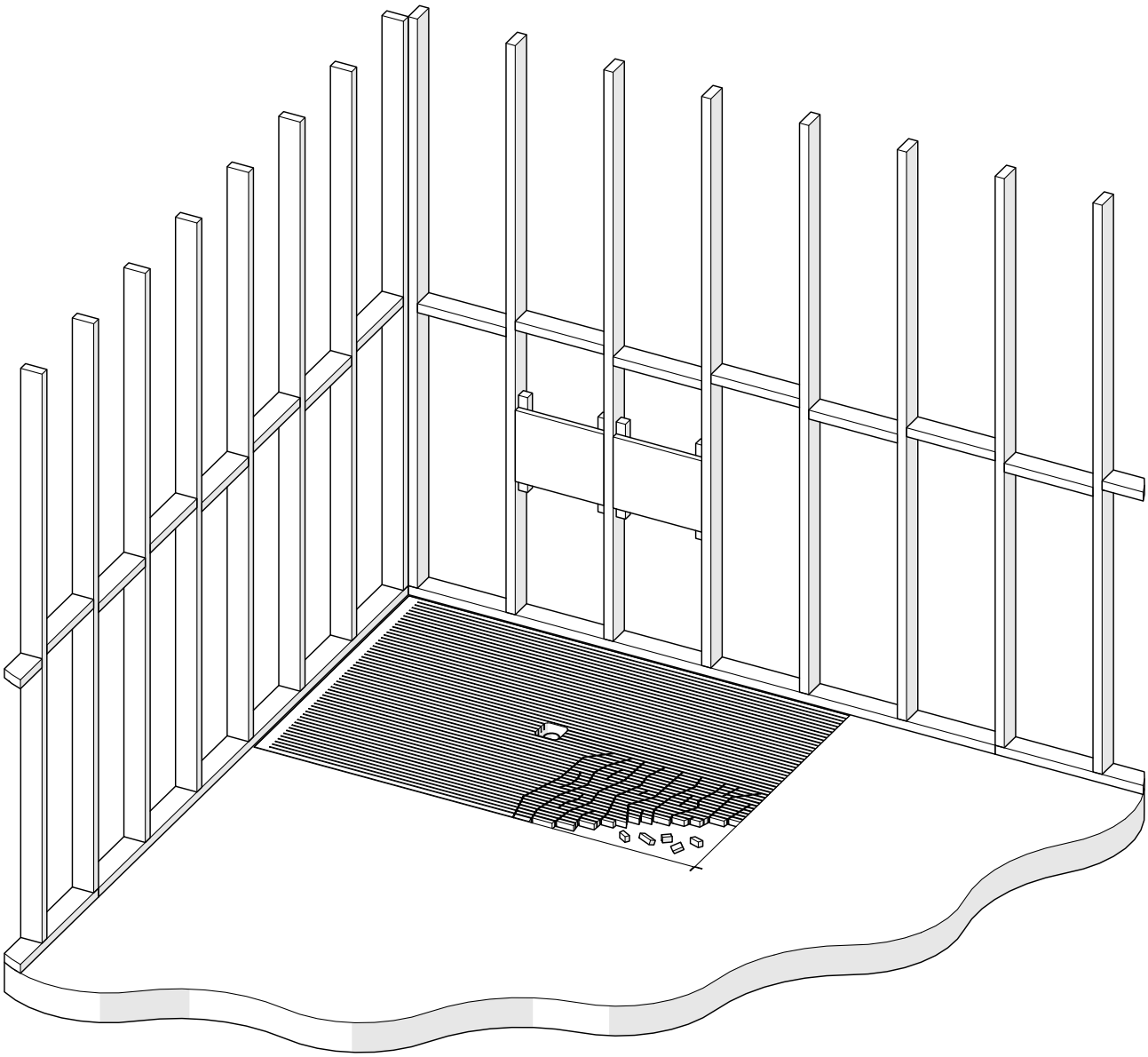
*This assumes that the floor tiles and base tiles are the same thickness. If the floor tiles are a different thickness to the tiles that will go over the shower base, the recess will need to be deeper or shallower to accommodate the difference in thickness.



Solid Floor Installation

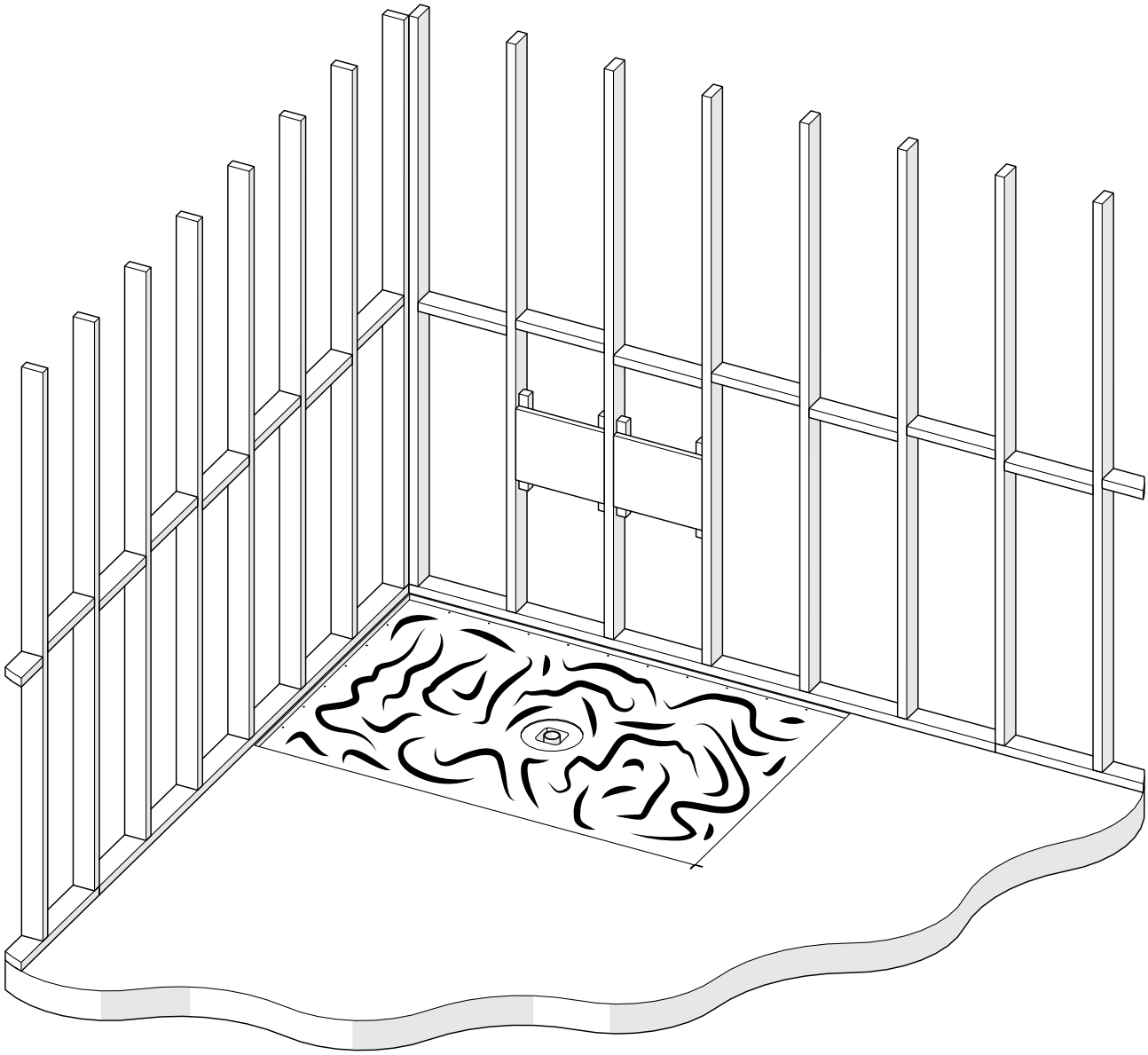
Step 3

With the outline done, remove the material to create the recess. A concrete breaker may be used. Alternatively, using a saw to cut kerfs and then chipping the ridges out may be a more precise method. A rotary hammer drill makes for easy removal of the ridges, while a hammer and chisel are good for accurate removal around the corners. A slightly deeper section will need creating where the base's drain ring is. Place the base into the recess and verify that the recess is deep enough.



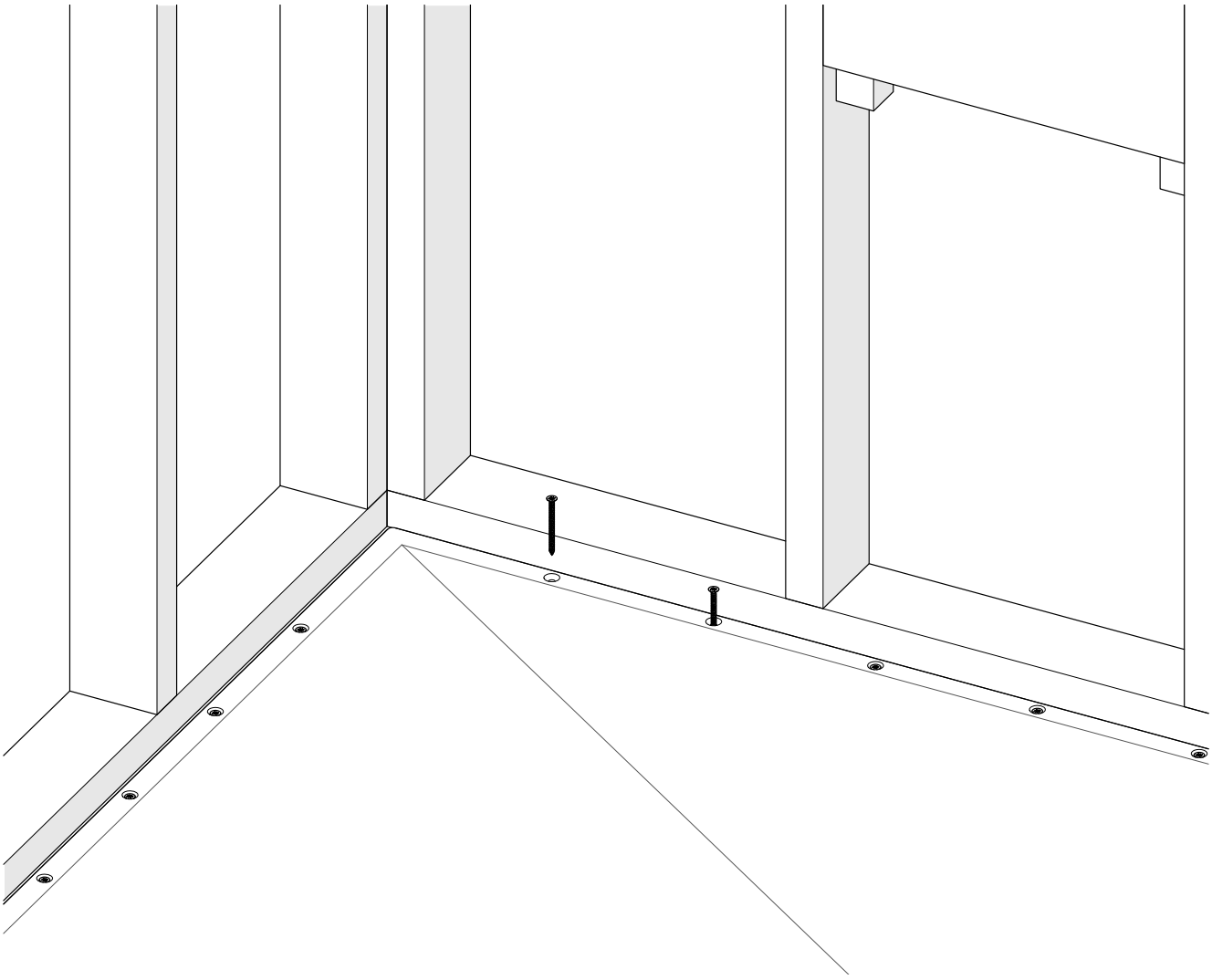
Step 4
Drill pilot holes into the concrete through the holes along the edge of the base. The diameter of the pilot holes depends on whether you use concrete screws or anchor plugs with self-tapping screws to fasten the base down. If the base was cut down to a custom size, create your own holes along the edge at roughly the same spacing.

Step 5
Lift the base up and set it aside. Mix a modified thinset mortar and spread it around in the recess.



Solid Floor Installation

Step 6
Place the base onto the mortar and gently tamp it down. Insert the screws into the holes along the edge and gradually and evenly tighten them. Do not drive the screws in so much that the base gets pulled down too far into the recess. If the base goes too deep, lift it up and add more mortar and/or some shims. Make multiple checks that the base is level while screwing it down.



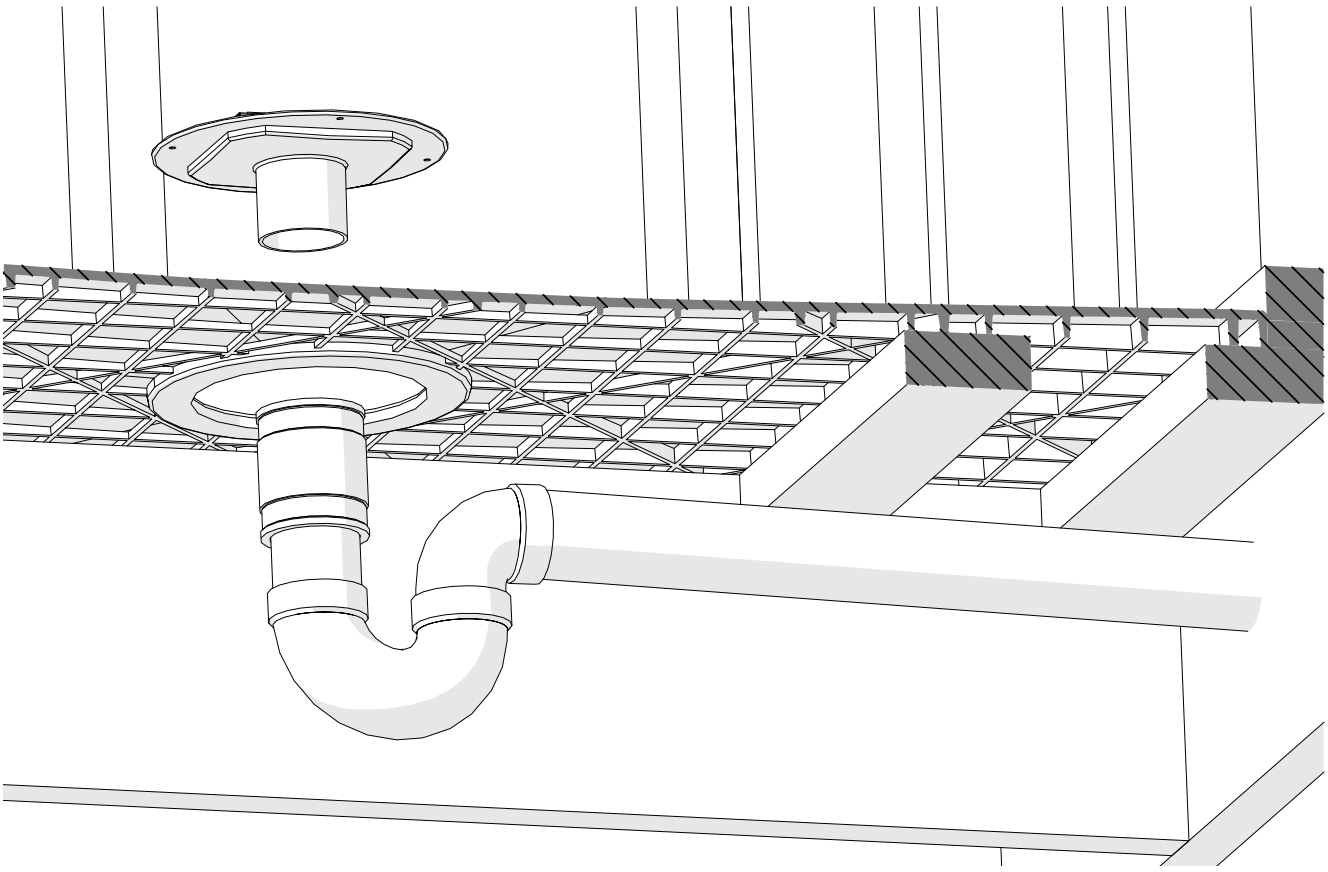
Step 7
Fill any gaps around the edge of the base with mortar. If the base was pulled away from the wall, to accommodate the drain line routing or because the saw was not a flush cut saw for example, apply mortar to the space between the wall and base to create a 2% slope.

Drain Installation

The installation of the drain depends on the specifics of each site's installation. The drain may be one that is simply placed in from above once the base is in place. Alternatively, part of the drain may need attaching to the base before the base is put down. In both cases, drain couplings/ connectors—such as Sioux Chief 825-27 or Fernco 1056-22—may be required.

Route the drain pipe and connect the trap. Cut/extend the vertical pipe that goes into the trap so that it is at the right height. This height is determined by whatever drain and couplings you are using. Temporarily fix the drain to the shower base and offer them into the recess in the floor to see where the pipework needs to be. Attach the connector to the pipework so that it is ready to receive the rest of the drain assembly when the base is put down.

For drains with an adapter ring, offer the ring up to the shower base, drill the pilot holes, apply acrylic caulk to the mating face of the shower base, and fasten the ring down. Wipe the excess that was squeezed out around the edge and apply more if necessary to fill the gap. For drain bodies that fasten directly to the base, proceed as per the adapter ring instructions above, but the base must already be placed down in the recess.

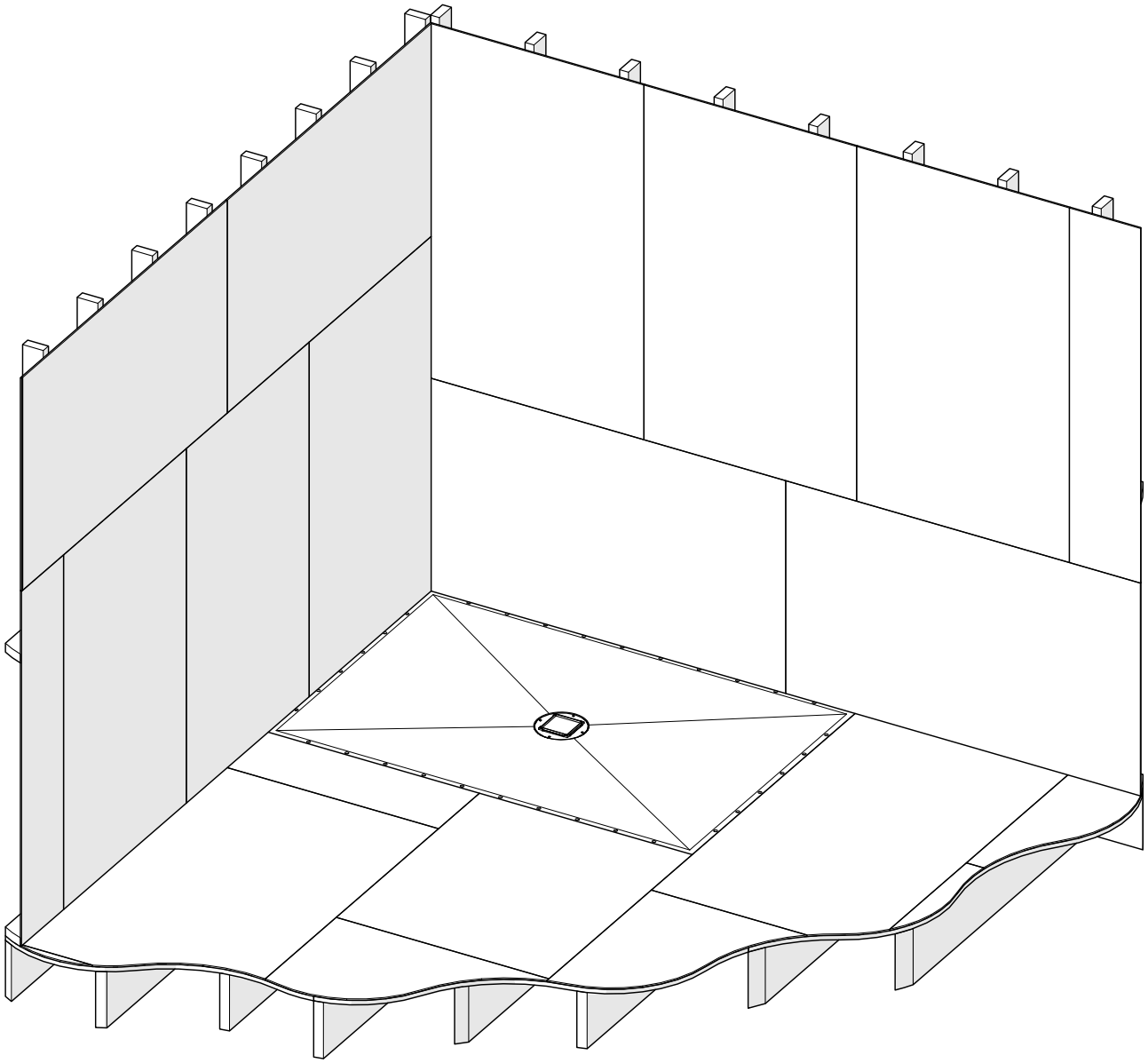


Note, the drain support blocking is not shown here for clarity.

Waterproofing

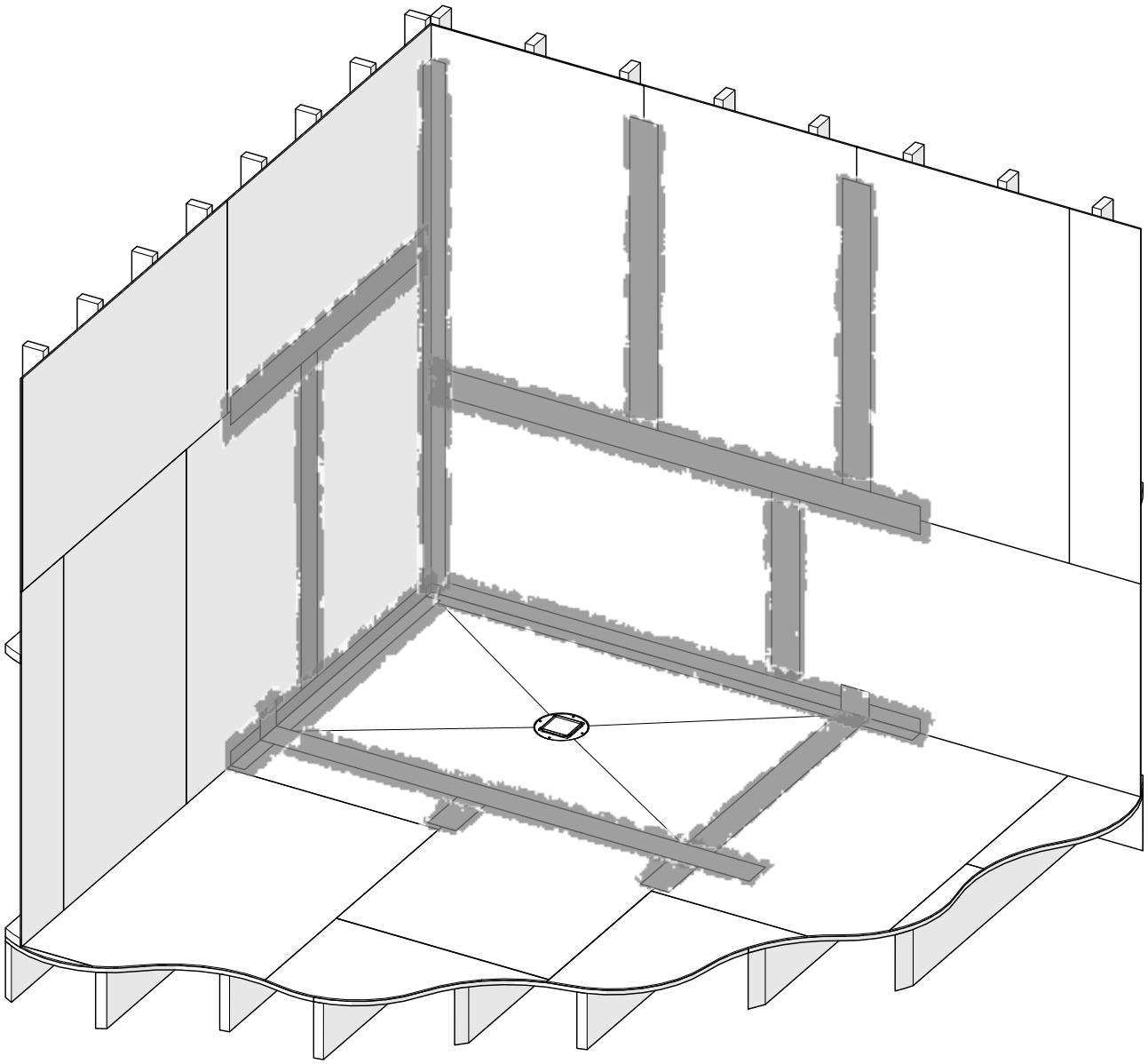
Step 1
Cover the drain hole to protect it from any dirt or debris. Fill the screws holes around the base's perimeter with filler. Ensure that all gaps, grooves, and screw heads are filled in and level for a smooth finish.

Step 2
Prepare the floor and walls for waterproofing. Add tile backer board to any areas that will be tiled. Alternatively, install something else, such as uncoupling membrane. Plywood can be put up if decorative laminate wall panelling will be used instead of tiles. For vinyl flooring, lay down oriented strand board or plywood. If the base was pulled away from the wall, the board in between the base and the wall must be angled slightly to create a slope.



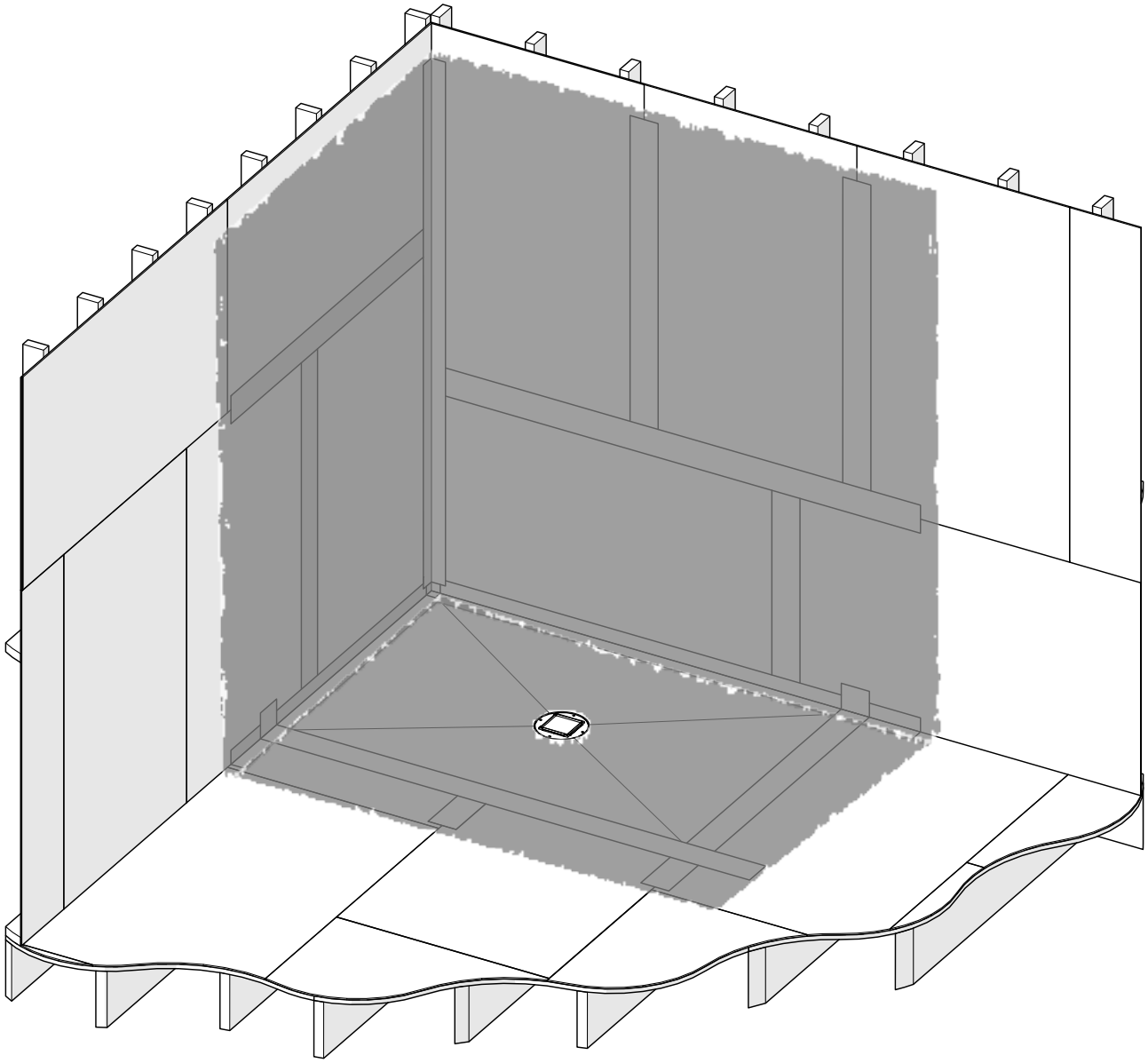
Step 3
Lightly abrade the top surface of the shower base with coarse sandpaper (80 to 100 grit). Vacuum the dust and debris up and then wipe clean with a damp sponge. All surfaces must be dry before applying waterproofing compound.

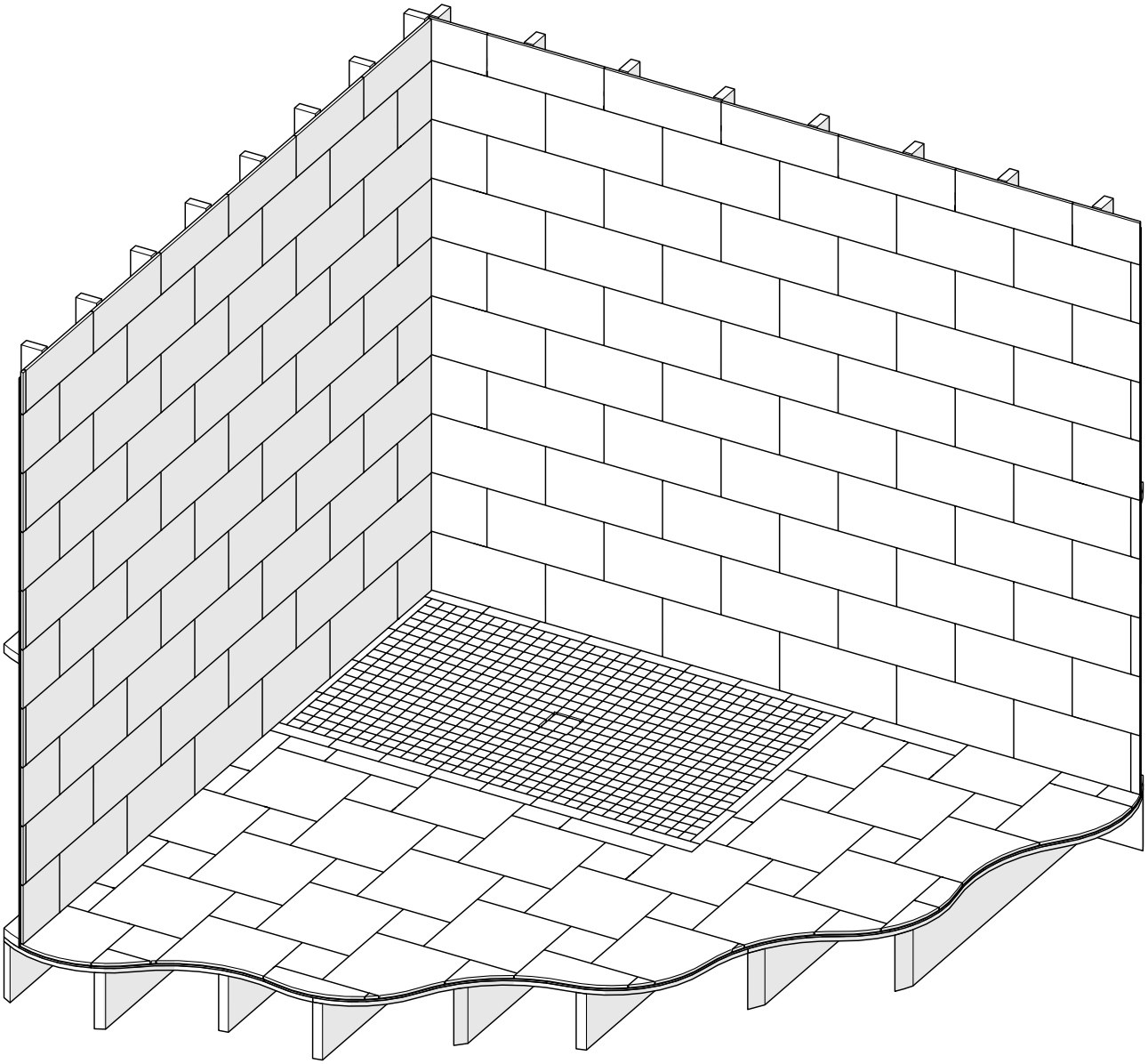
Step 4
Cut strips of joint tape for each edge of the shower base and for the joins of the wall panels. The tape strips must overlap by at least 2" and must cross completely on an external corner. Apply waterproofing compound around the edges of the base and along the joins of the wall panels. Set the tape into the wet compound and then brush more compound onto the tape. Proceeding from back to front and doing one strip at a time may be convenient. Apply gaskets for the drain and water supply pipes in the same way as the tape. Tape should cover joins in the area that is likely to get wet, so at least 12" beyond the shower base, or the entire area for a wet room.



Waterproofing

Step 5
Once the tape and gaskets have been embedded, start on the rest of the wall. Apply waterproofing compound to the entire showering area and at least 12" beyond that area. Go even further for more protection. Once the walls are done, repeat for the floor in the same fashion as the walls. Allow the coat to dry, then apply another full coat. Let the waterproofing compound dry fully before installing the finished floor and wall, e.g. tiles/vinyl flooring/wall panels.





Notes

Notes

Contact Us

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Warranty

Warranty applies only to manufacturing or material defects, conditional on the one-time correct installation of the product. It does not apply to:

- Inappropriate use or accidental damage.
- Damage or defects that result from incorrect installation.
- Lack of maintenance including the build up of grime or damage resulting from inappropriate cleaning.
- Damage or defects that result from repairs or modifications undertaken by unauthorized persons.
- General wear and tear through usage and does not apply to surface finishes.

Warranty period starts from the date of installation.

What to do if something goes wrong?
In the event that you encounter a problem with this product, please contact your local installer. If the issue is still unresolved, please contact AKW Resource Center who will provide further advice. None of the foregoing affects your statutory rights.