

Designing a Custom Drop-in Tub Enclosure

Reference Number: **KB-01264**

Last Modified: **February 19, 2025**

The information in this article applies to:



QUESTION

I need to create a tub deck surround for a drop-in tub. How can I achieve this?




ANSWER

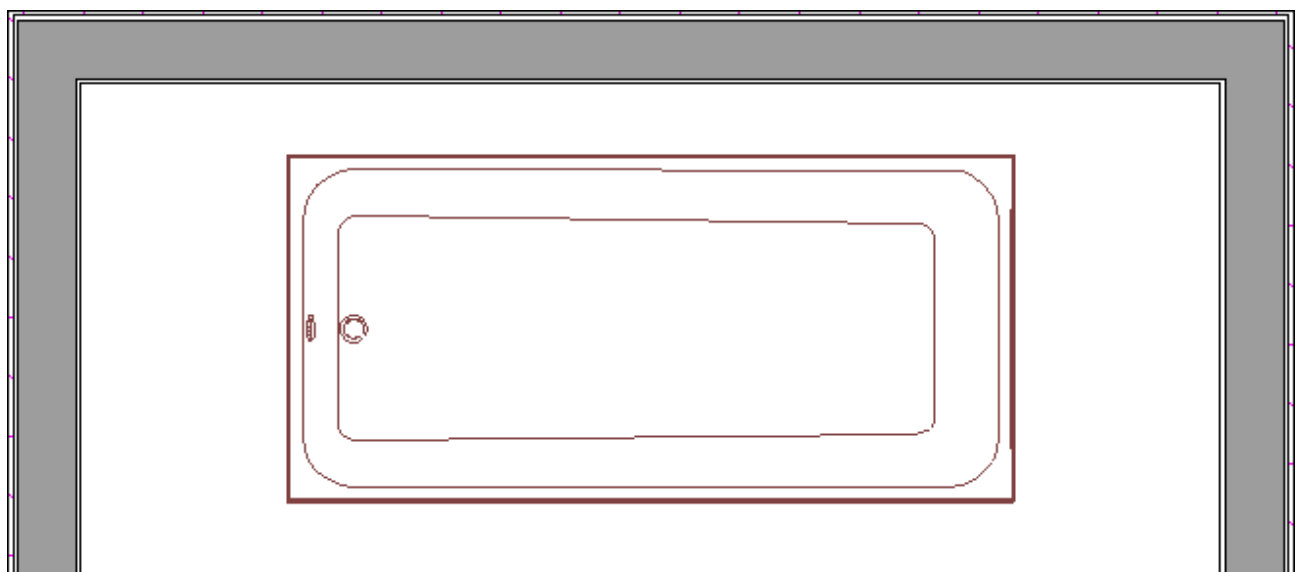
In Chief Architect, we have a number of drop-in tub symbols that can be placed in plans, as well as a number of tools to create a surround. In this article, we will create an enclosure using half-walls and a custom countertop.


Note: Half-walls are used in this resource to produce accurate framing for the tub enclosure. If framing is not needed, consider following the instructions in [Video # 10125 - Creating a Bathtub Platform](https://www.chiefarchitect.com/videos/watch/10125/creating-a-bathtub-platform.html) (<https://www.chiefarchitect.com/videos/watch/10125/creating-a-bathtub-platform.html>).

To place a drop-in tub

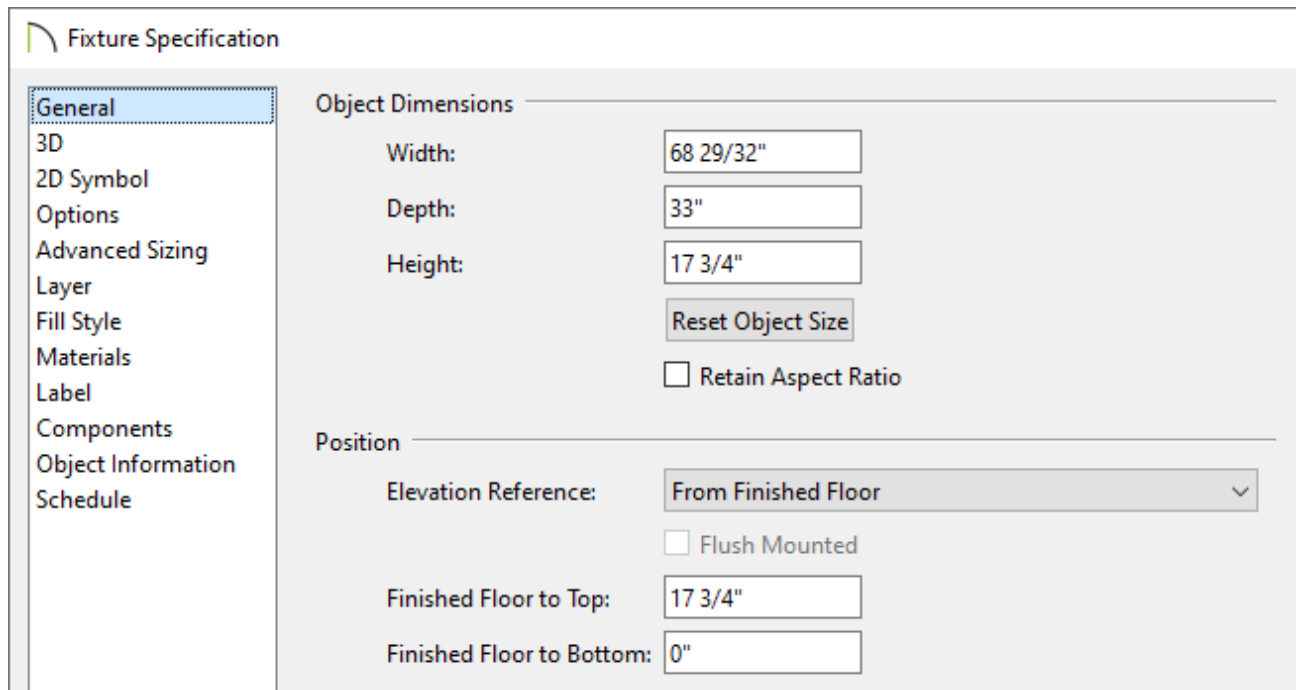
1. Navigate to **View> Library Browser**  if the library isn't already open, and browse to **Chief Architect Core Catalogs> Architectural> Plumbing Fixtures> Bathtubs> Drop-In Tubs**.
2. Select one of the drop-in tubs, then click once in the plan to place the selected tub.

In this example, we are using the Standard Tub from the library.



3. Keeping the tub selected, click the **Open Object**  edit tool, and in the **Fixture Specification** dialog that displays, take note of the size and elevation of the tub, then click **OK**.

This would also be a good time to make changes to the size and elevation of the tub if different values are desired. However, in this example, the values are unchanged.



Fixture Specification

General

- 3D
- 2D Symbol
- Options
- Advanced Sizing
- Layer
- Fill Style
- Materials
- Label
- Components
- Object Information
- Schedule

Object Dimensions

Width: 68 29/32"

Depth: 33"

Height: 17 3/4"

Reset Object Size

☐ Retain Aspect Ratio

Position


Elevation Reference: From Finished Floor

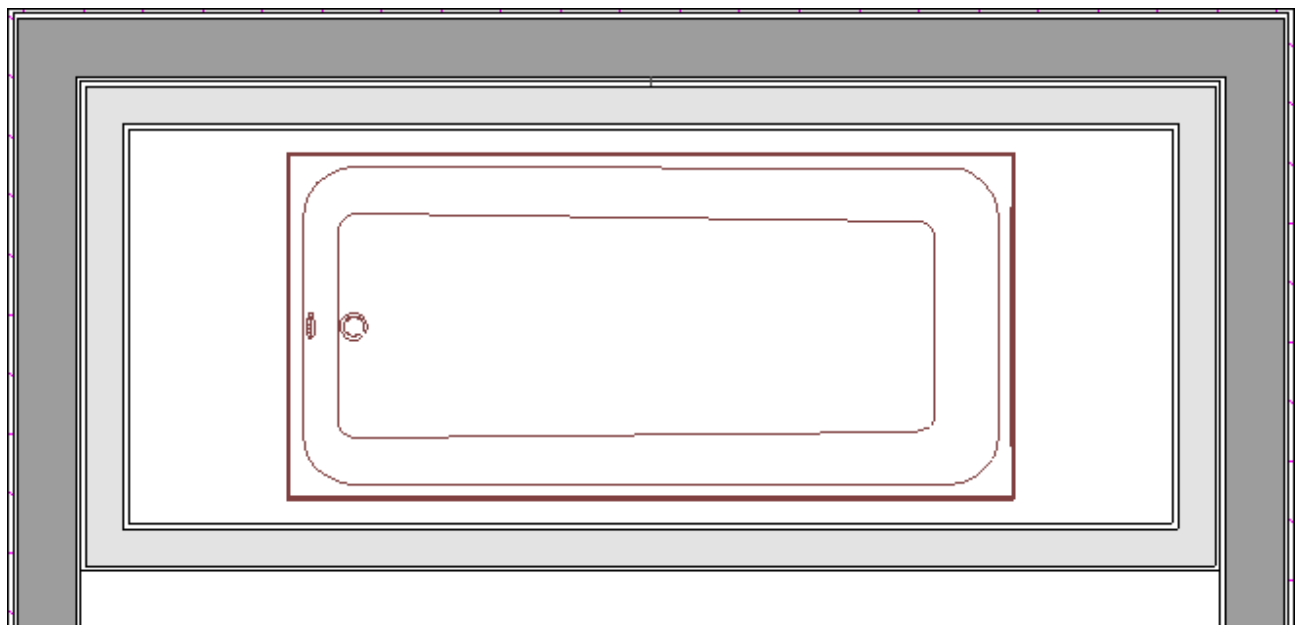
☐ Flush Mounted

Finished Floor to Top: 17 3/4"

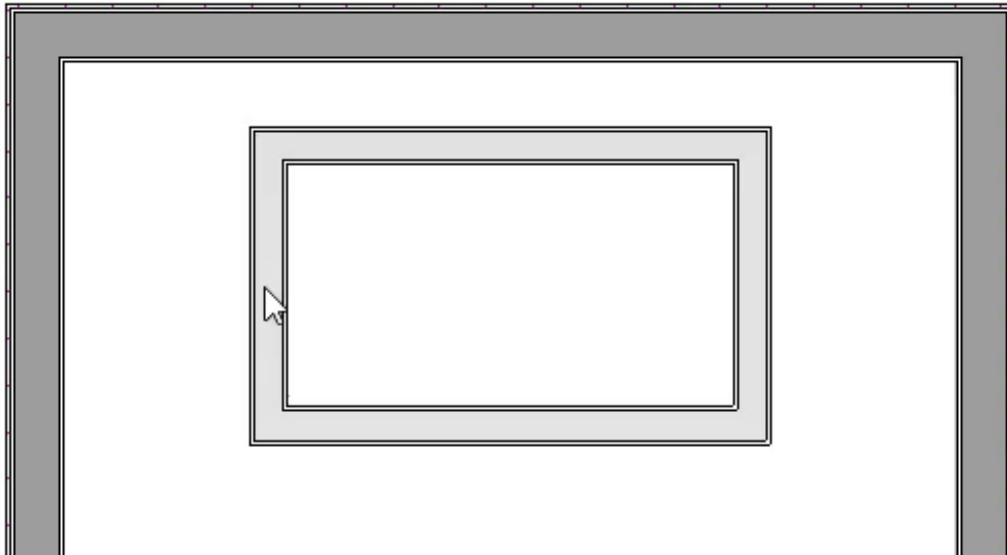
Finished Floor to Bottom: 0"



To create the enclosure

1. Navigate to **Build> Wall> Straight Half-Wall**  from the menu, then draw an interior rectangle that will serve as the supportive enclosure for the tub.



Note: If you have difficulty drawing half-walls directly beside other walls, try drawing them in a separate area of the room, away from other walls, then move them into place using their Move edit handles.



- Using the **Select Objects**  tool, select one of the half-walls, click the **Open Object**  edit tool, and in the **Railing Specification** dialog that displays:

Railing Specification

General

Structure
Roof
Foundation
Wall Types
Wall Cap
Wall Covering
Rail Style
Newels/Balusters
Rails
Layer
Materials
Label
Components
Object Information
Schedule

Railing

Height: 16 5/8"

Newels/Posts

Width: 2" ☐ Use Wall Width

Height: 36"

Horizontal Offset: 0"

Bottom Offset: 0"

Spacing Method: Automatic

Max Spacing: 96" On Center

Type: Square Library...

Balusters

Width: 1 1/2"

Spacing: 5" On Center


Type: Square Library...

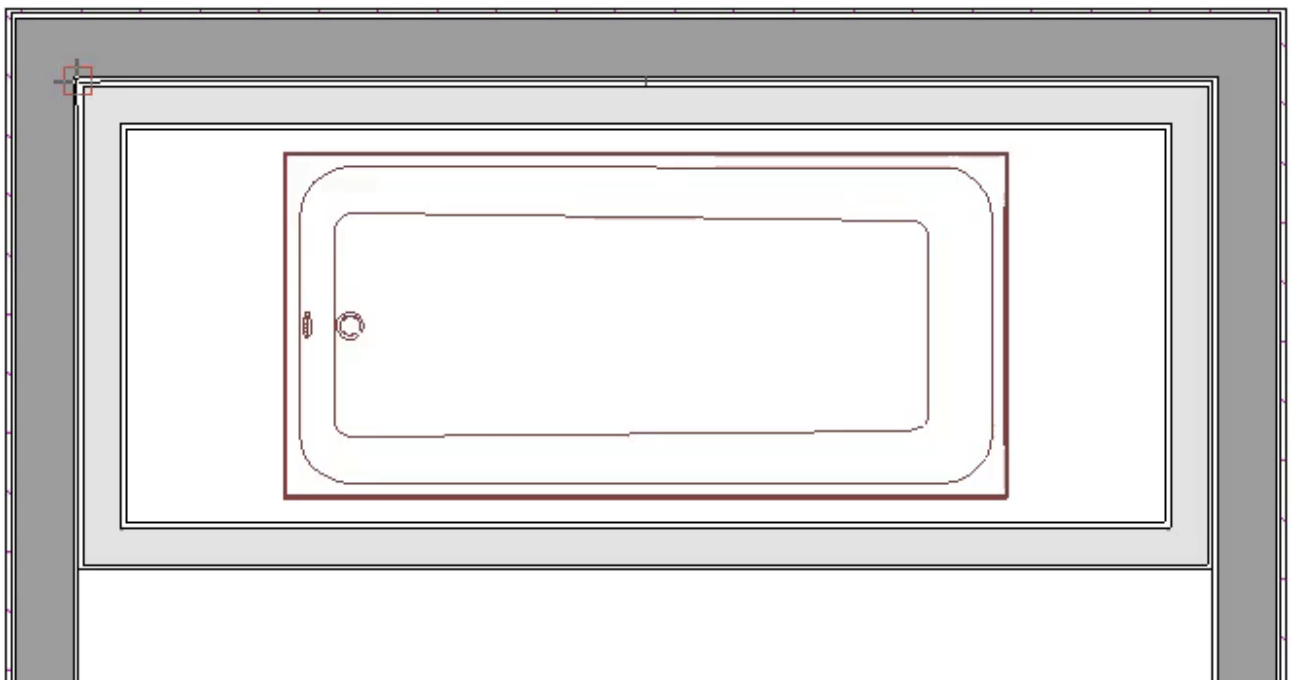
- On the **WALL CAP** panel, select the Wall Cap Profile if one is specified, then click the **Delete** button.
- On the **NEWELS/BALUSTERS** panel, set the desired **Height** of the half-wall. Make sure to account for the thickness of the top surface that will be created a bit lower in this article.



In this example, we have set the Height to 16 5/8".

- On the **MATERIALS** panel, select the **Exterior Wall Surface** component, click the **Select Material** button, and choose a material from the library to apply to the wall's exterior surface.
- Click **OK** to confirm the changes and close the dialog.

3. Perform this same procedure for the three remaining walls.

4. We are now ready to construct the top surface of the enclosure. Select **Build> Cabinet> Custom Countertop**  from the menu, then click and drag to create a rectangle that encompasses the tub and the four half-walls.



5. Once the countertop is placed, select it using the **Select Objects**  tool, click the **Open Object**  edit tool, and in the **Custom Countertop Specification** dialog

that displays:

- On the **GENERAL** panel, uncheck **Set Thickness From Cabinet** and specify a desired **Thickness**.

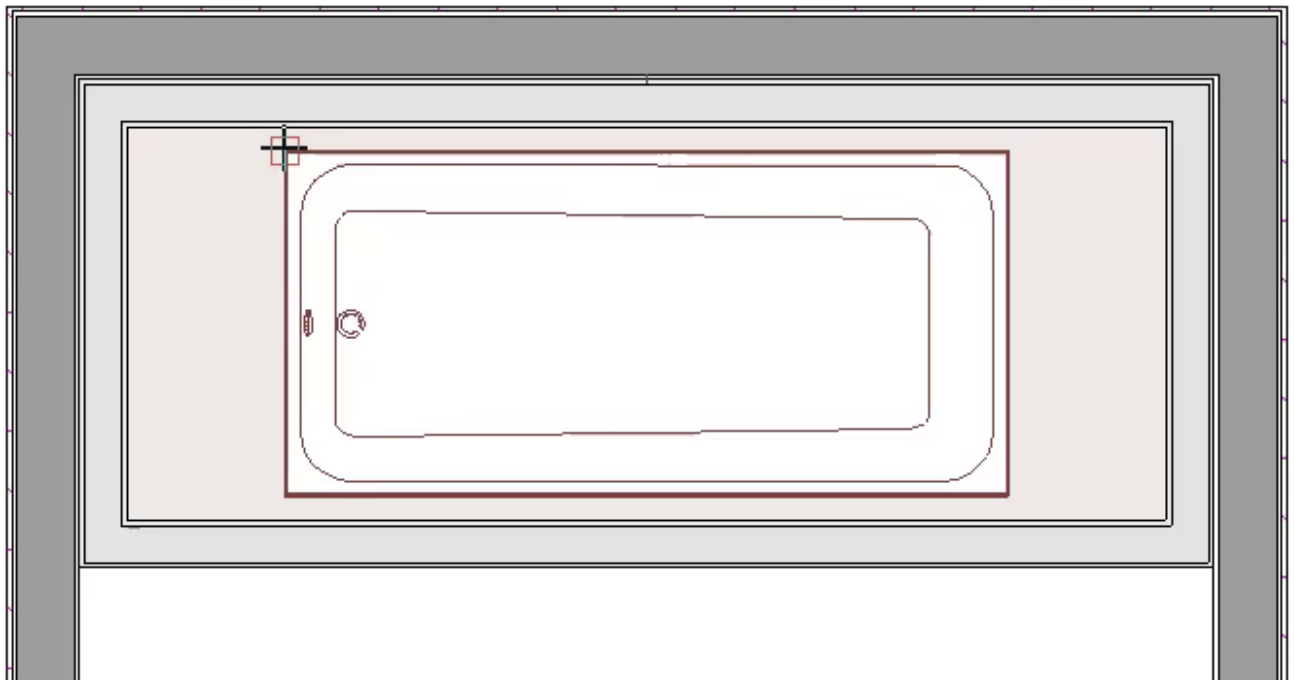
In this example, a Thickness of 1 1/2" is specified.





- Uncheck **Set Height From Cabinet** and specify the **Finished Floor to Top/Bottom** value.

In this example, the Elevation Reference is set to From Finished Floor, and the Finished Floor to Bottom value is set to 15 3/4".

- Change the material of the countertop on the **MATERIALS** panel.
- Click **OK** to confirm the changes and close the dialog.

6. Navigate to **Build> Cabinet> Custom Counter Hole**  and create a hole that spans the width and depth of the tub.



7. Lastly, add a faucet, along with any additional fixtures and accessories from the **Library Browser** , generate framing using the **Build Framing**  or **Build All Framing**  tool, then take a **Camera**  view to see the results.



- [📄 Creating a Custom Glass Shower \(/support/article/KB-03133/creating-a-custom-glass-shower.html\)](/support/article/KB-03133/creating-a-custom-glass-shower.html)
- [📄 Creating a Custom Sink Hole or Cutout \(/support/article/KB-01203/creating-a-custom-sink-hole-or-cutout.html\)](/support/article/KB-01203/creating-a-custom-sink-hole-or-cutout.html)
- [📄 Creating a Steam Shower \(/support/article/KB-02820/creating-a-steam-shower.html\)](/support/article/KB-02820/creating-a-steam-shower.html)



[\(https://chieftalk.chiefarchitect.com/\)](https://chieftalk.chiefarchitect.com/)

 [\(/blog/\)](/blog/)



[\(/https://www.facebook.com/ChiefArchitect\)](https://www.facebook.com/ChiefArchitect)



[\(/https://www.youtube.com/user/ChiefArchitectInc\)](https://www.youtube.com/user/ChiefArchitectInc)



[\(/https://www.instagram.com/chiefarchitect/\)](https://www.instagram.com/chiefarchitect/)



[\(/https://www.houzz.com/pro/chiefarchitect/\)](https://www.houzz.com/pro/chiefarchitect/)



[\(/https://www.pinterest.com/chiefarchitect/\)](https://www.pinterest.com/chiefarchitect/)