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

If you live in Scottsville or anywhere in Allen County, Kentucky, and you are finding your old bathtub harder to step into, a tub to shower conversion could be worth considering. The direct answer is that it depends on your household's needs, your home's layout, and how long you plan to stay in the house. For many homeowners, the change improves safety and everyday convenience without a major renovation.

What a tub to shower conversion involves

A conversion means removing the existing bathtub and replacing it with a walk-in shower. The shower area is usually built within the same footprint, so you are not adding square footage. The process includes capping the old drain, installing a new shower pan or tiled floor, fitting a shower valve and head, and finishing the walls with waterproof materials like tile, acrylic, or fiberglass. Because the tub is gone, the floor becomes continuous with the rest of the bathroom, which lowers the barrier you have to step over.

Why homeowners in Scottsville choose this change

Bathtubs are deep. For anyone with limited mobility, joint pain, or balance concerns, lifting a leg over the side of a tub can feel risky. A walk-in shower eliminates that high step. The new shower floor can be flush with the bathroom floor, or nearly so, so entry is a small step rather than a climb. This is the main reason families in older homes around Scottsville look at conversions. The same applies if you are thinking ahead for aging in place, or if you have young children who need a safe, low-step space for bathing.

Another common reason is that the bathtub simply does not get used for baths. Many homeowners find they shower far more often than they soak. When the tub becomes a rarely used fixture, converting it to a more functional shower makes sense. It can also make the bathroom feel larger, since a shower with a clear glass door takes up less visual space than a tub with a curtain or enclosure.

Key factors to weigh before you decide

Not every tub to shower conversion is straightforward. Here are the main things to think through.

Your household's daily needs

If someone in your home takes baths regularly, removing the tub removes that option. A shower conversion cannot easily be reversed, so consider whether a bath is essential for young children, for relaxation, or for a medical need. If baths are occasional, a portable baby tub or a small soaking tub elsewhere could be a workaround. But if baths are a core part of your routine, a conversion may not be the right move.



Resale value and buyer expectations

In Scottsville and the surrounding county, family homes typically have at least one bathtub. If you plan to sell in the next few years, removing the only tub in the house could narrow your buyer pool. Families with small children often want a tub. On the other hand, if your home has a second bathroom with a tub, or if you plan to stay for many years, the loss of a tub matters less. Real estate agents in the area can give you a local sense of buyer preferences, but the general rule is that a home without any bathtub can be a tougher sell.

Bathroom size and layout

A conversion works best when the existing tub area is long enough for a comfortable shower. A standard tub is about 60 inches long, which gives you room for a shower that feels spacious. If your bathroom is compact, the conversion still fits the same footprint, but you may need to adjust the door swing or move the toilet to improve flow. That added work increases cost and time, but it also makes the bathroom function better overall.

Plumbing and drainage considerations

The old tub drain will be capped, and a new shower drain will go in. If the tub sits on a concrete slab, rerouting the drain may require cutting into the slab, which is more involved than a raised-wood floor. A professional plumber or contractor can tell you what your home's construction means for the conversion. In Scottsville, many homes are built on crawlspaces or basements, which makes drain work easier. But some homes are on slabs, so it is worth checking before you commit.

Safety and accessibility improvements

The lowered step-in height is the biggest safety gain. A standard tub has a side that is roughly 14 to 18 inches tall. A walk-in shower threshold can be as low as 2 to 4 inches, or even zero if you opt for a curbless design. That reduction means less risk of tripping or falling while entering or exiting. For older adults or anyone with balance issues, this alone can make the bathroom much safer.

Beyond the step-in height, you can add grab bars, a built-in seat, and a handheld shower wand. These features are difficult to install safely in a tub enclosure, but they are natural additions to a walk-in shower. Slip-resistant flooring is another upgrade that is easier to achieve in a shower pan than on a tub floor.

What the project looks like for a Scottsville homeowner

In the Bowling Green area, including Scottsville and Allen County, contractors who specialize in bathroom remodeling can often complete a tub to shower conversion in one to two days, depending on the complexity. The process usually starts with demolition: the tub, surrounding tile or surround, and old plumbing fixtures come out. Then the rough-in for the new drain and valve is done. The shower pan or tile bed goes in, followed by waterproofing and wall finish. Finally, the shower door, trim, and fixtures are installed.

Because the work is contained to one area of the bathroom, the rest of the room remains usable during the project. That said, you will lose access to the shower and toilet in that bathroom for the duration, so plan accordingly. If you have only one bathroom, a quick turnaround matters. Some contractors offer one-day conversion systems that use prefabricated shower bases and wall panels, which can keep disruption to a minimum.

Cost considerations (in general terms)

Prices vary widely based on materials, labor rates in your area, and whether you keep the same tile or upgrade. A basic conversion with a stock acrylic shower base and standard tile can be a moderate investment. A custom tile shower with a linear drain, glass door, and premium fixtures costs more. Local contractors in south-central Kentucky can give you a quote after

seeing the space. There are no fixed numbers to list here, but the range is typical for mid-range bathroom remodels.



Alternatives that might make sense

If a full conversion feels too permanent, you have options. A walk-in tub keeps the bathing function while lowering the step-in height. These tubs have a door that opens and closes, so you step in rather than climb over. They are more expensive than a standard tub but can be a good compromise for someone who wants both safety and the ability to soak. Another alternative is adding grab bars and a transfer bench to the existing tub, which improves safety at a lower cost. Neither option requires removing the tub, so you preserve the second bathroom's tub for resale.

Making your decision

Start by asking who uses the bathroom and how. If no one takes baths and the high step feels like a hazard every day, a conversion is likely a good fit. If you have plans to stay in your Scottsville home for the long term, the convenience and safety will pay off each time you shower. If you might sell soon, check whether the home has another full bathroom with a tub. If it does, converting the second tub is less of a risk. If not, you may want to keep the tub or install a walk-in tub instead.

Talk to a local contractor who does bathroom remodeling in Scottsville and Allen County. They can assess your plumbing, your floor structure, and your layout, then give you a clear picture of what the project would involve. You are not locked into a decision until you see the options side by side.

A tub to shower conversion is not right for every home, but for many families in the Scottsville area, it turns a seldom-used bathtub into a safer, more practical shower. The lower step-in height, the added grab bars and seat, and the ease of cleaning make it a change that improves daily life. If that sounds like what you need, it is worth exploring further.