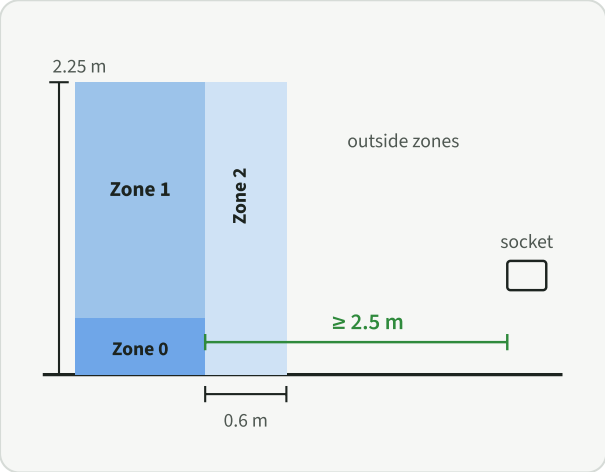
BATHROOMS AND SPECIAL LOCATIONS

WHAT'S ALLOWED IN BATHROOM ZONE 1?

A room containing a **bath or shower** is a special location. That includes a **bedroom with a shower enclosure in it**. An en-suite is its own room, but it's still a special location. We define zones because **the closer you are to water, the higher the shock risk**.



- **Zone 0**: inside the bath or shower tray.
- **Zone 1**: above the bath or tray up to **2.25 m** from the floor (or to the shower head if higher).
- **Zone 2**: **0.6 m** out from the edge of zone 1.
- **Under the bath**: zone 1 if you can reach it without a tool (no panel, or a panel that comes off by hand). If it takes a tool, such as unscrewing the panel or cutting sealed silicone, it is outside the zones. It is never zone 0.
- **Walk-in / wet room** with no tray: zone 1 only, extending **1.2 m** from the fixed water outlet. There's no zone 2.
- **All circuits** in the location need **30 mA RCD** protection (RCD or RCBO).
- **Sockets** (other than shaver units) are allowed only **at least 2.5 m horizontally** from the boundary of zone 1.
- **Shaver supply units** (BS EN 61558-2-5) are allowed in **zone 2 and outside the zones**, where direct spray from the shower is unlikely.
- **Plate switches** go **outside the zones**, at least **0.6 m** from the edge of the bath or shower, and must suit the location. **Cord-operated** switches are the exception: the cord is allowed into zones 1 and 2.

- **Equipment you'll see:** a pull-cord switch (on the ceiling above 2.25 m, so the cord can hang into a zone), ceiling lights, a shaver socket, extractor fans, and an electric shower.
- **Where does the shower go?** On the wall in **zone 1**, never in zone 0. Fixed equipment in zone 1 needs at least **IPX4**, or **IPX5 if it will be cleaned with water jets**. Allowed fixed equipment in zone 1 includes whirlpool units, electric showers and shower pumps, ventilation, towel rails, luminaires and water heaters.

- **Shaver socket:** it has a **safety isolating transformer** inside, with a laminated core to reduce eddy-current losses. Because the output is isolated from earth, touching one conductor won't give an earth-path shock.

> **Common mistake**
> A shaver socket does **not** step down to 12 V. A standard shaver supply unit (BS EN 61558-2-5) actually gives an **isolated 115 V / 230 V** output. It's safe because it's **isolated**, not because it's low voltage. The 240 V marked on some of them is just the old nominal voltage.

- **Electrician's Guide to the Building Regs** · 5.3 · locations containing a bath or shower: sockets, shaver units, plate switches, luminaires, showers and fans by zone · **p.86**
- **Electrician's Guide to the Building Regs** · walk-in shower / wet room figure · **p.89**
- **Electrician's Guide to the Building Regs** · table: minimum IP rating and equipment allowed per zone · **p.87**
- **On-Site Guide** · Section 8 · zone requirements table (IPX4, IPX5 where water jets used for cleaning) · **p.118**
- **BS 7671** · Section 701 locations containing a bath or shower, zones in Regs 701.32.2–4 · from **p.257**
- **BS 7671** · **Reg 701.32.3**: the space under the bath is zone 1, or outside the zones if only accessible with a tool

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