

TUB & TILE REGLAZING GUIDE

— TOOLS, PREP, SAFETY, SPRAYING, AND FINISHING —



THE RIGHT
TOOLS



PROPER
PREP



SAFETY
FIRST



FLAWLESS
SPRAYING



PROFESSIONAL
FINISH



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Introduction

Replacing a bathtub can cost homeowners thousands of dollars once demolition, disposal, plumbing adjustments, wall repair, and finish work are included. In many cases, though, the tub itself is still structurally sound. It simply looks dated, stained, chipped, or worn. That is where reglazing can be a smart alternative.

CHAPTER 1

Safety First

Start With Safety Before You Start the Job

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Before you clean, sand, mask, mix product, or spray anything, safety has to come first. Tub and tile reglazing is not just painting a surface. This work can involve strong cleaners, solvents, primers, coatings, fumes, dust, and sprayed materials that can be dangerous if they are not handled the right way.

Professional standards begin with protective equipment, ventilation, isolation of the workspace, and careful handling of every product on site.

A good finish is important, but your health is more important. No job, no customer, and no amount of money is worth breathing unsafe fumes, damaging your lungs, burning your skin, or putting other people in the home at risk.

This chapter comes first because every step in the reglazing process depends on working safely. Before you think about how glossy the tub will look, you need to understand your respirator, ventilation, protective gear, product labels, and the risks that come with the materials you are using.

Important: Do not start a reglazing job unless you understand the safety requirements for the products you are using. Always read the Safety Data Sheet, follow the manufacturer instructions, use proper personal protective equipment, and make sure the space is properly ventilated.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE)

Use a respirator with organic vapor cartridges rated for solvent exposure. A dust mask is not enough.

Wear chemical resistant gloves, eye protection, protective clothing, and footwear that gives stable traction in a wet workspace.

Critical: A dust mask does not protect you from solvent vapor. Use a respirator appropriate for the coating system you are spraying.

Ventilation Requirements

Set up an exhaust system that pulls air out of the bathroom and away from occupied areas. A portable utility blower or exhaust fan connected to flexible ducting is a common setup for refinishing work because it helps create negative airflow and move fumes toward an exterior opening. Route the duct to a window or other approved exterior outlet, close off interior pathways as much as possible, cover HVAC vents, and keep children, pets, and unprotected occupants away from the work zone.

Workspace Safety Checklist

Before opening product containers, confirm that your fan is positioned correctly, masking is complete, your materials are staged, ignition risks are minimized, and emergency cleanup supplies are accessible.

Methylene Chloride: A Banned Chemical You Must Know About

Methylene chloride (also called dichloromethane or DCM) was widely used in the reglazing trade for decades as a stripping agent to remove old coatings from bathtub surfaces. It is no longer legal for that use. In April 2024, the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency finalized a rule banning most commercial uses of methylene chloride under the Toxic Substances Control Act. Full prohibition on industrial and commercial use takes effect April 28, 2026.

This matters to every refinisher because methylene chloride has been directly linked to at least 88 worker deaths since 1980, a disproportionate number of them in the bathtub refinishing trade. Some deaths occurred even when workers were trained and wearing personal protective equipment. The chemical is heavier than air and accumulates