nuvo BATH

A guide for bath remodelers

The Real Cost of a Bath

Six hidden costs to look out for on every job, and how to minimize each one.



WHAT YOU'LL GET

- ✓ **6 hidden costs to look out for**
- ✓ **Learn how to minimize each cost**
- ✓ **Get your crew to the next job sooner**

The supplier's bill isn't the whole cost of a bath. These six hidden expenses can quickly eat into your profit, but there are ways to minimize each one.

Discover what to look out for and how modern bathroom composites can help reduce several of these costs at once.

$1,600

in new sales to make back every $100 a job loses. The average remodeler keeps about 6 cents of every dollar as profit.

Source: NAHB Cost of Doing Business Study, 2026

6 Hidden Costs to Look Out For

1. Shipping and Fees

Shipping, fuel charges, and pallet fees get added on top of the product, and so does every middleman's cut.

How to minimize it:

Buy direct from the maker, with shipping included in your price. You know your real cost before you quote the job.

74% of remodelers saw supplier prices go up, by **6.7%** on average. NAHB, Q2 2026

2. Supplies Trips

Every run for a missing piece costs gas, the truck, and a worker's time.

How to minimize it:

Get the whole bath (walls, base, and door) in one order, delivered complete. Your crew stays on the job instead of on the road.

3. Stock on the Shelf

Product bought ahead of time ties up your cash, and some may end up damaged or unused.

How to minimize it:

Order for each job from a supplier that offers same-day shipping, keeping your cash in the bank until the job is sold.

4. Crew Days Spent Waiting

You pay your crew whether they're working or waiting. Tile walls take days of setting, grouting, and curing.

How to minimize it:

Pick walls your own crew can put up in 2 to 3 hours, with no tile setter and no mortar. Every day you take off a job is a day your crew can start the next one.

6 Hidden Costs to Look Out For (Continued)

5. Broken and Returned Pieces

A big panel that chips on the stairs means a reorder and another wait.

How to minimize it:

Pick panels narrow enough to carry up the stairs and through a door. Smaller pieces are easier to handle and less likely to break.

6. Callbacks

A callback is work you do for free. Most shower problems start at cracked grout or failed caulk.

How to minimize it:

Pick walls with no grout or caulk seams, and an independent plumbing code (UPC) listing. Fewer seams mean fewer things to fail after you leave and less upkeep for the homeowner.

What It Adds Up To

Here is what these six hidden costs can look like on one bath.

Shipping and fees	$300
Supplies trips	$250
Stock on the shelf	$100
Crew days spent waiting	$880
Broken and returned pieces	$150
Callbacks	$200

= **$94,000**

a year, at $1,880 a bath and 50 baths a year

Where to Start

You don't have to tackle all six at once. Try these on your next three jobs.

1. Ask your supplier for one price with shipping included, and compare it to what you paid last time.
2. Order the whole bath (walls, base, and door) at once, so nothing is missing on day one.
3. Track how many days the walls take. In the example above, crew days are the biggest cost.

Welcome to the World of Modern Bathroom Composites

Your customer wants the look of tile without paying for tile labor or grout upkeep. Stone poly composite walls give them that look, and your own crew puts up the patented click-lock panels in 2 to 3 hours.



A Bigger Ticket

For the homeowner who would otherwise get acrylic, it's the luxury step up from a plastic-looking shower, and $2,000 to $3,000 more per bath for you.

Also in this series: *How to Make More Money Remodeling Bathrooms* and *The Best Shower Wall*, a remodeler's guide to stone poly composite.

Sources: NAHB, Remodelers' Cost of Doing Business Study, 2026 edition, and Remodeling Market Index, Q2 2026. Example figures are illustrations, not industry averages.

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Published by NuVo Bath, a supplier of stone poly composite shower walls and bases, along with doors and accessories, to bath remodelers.

nuvobath.com (503) 653-2418