

What is a Bathroom Zone?

Bathrooms and wetrooms are divided into distinct zones to assess water exposure risk, ensuring electrical and building safety compliance. These zones dictate the suitability of fixtures, lighting, and electrical installations.

Definition & Explanation

Bathroom zones are three-dimensional spatial classifications within wet areas (bathrooms, shower rooms, wetrooms) that determine the required **Ingress Protection (IP)** rating for electrical fittings and materials. The zones reflect varying degrees of water exposure risk, with **Zone 0** being the highest risk (direct water contact) and **Zone 2** the lowest (splashes only).

- **Zone 0 (Highest Risk):** Inside the bath or shower basin where water is always present. Requires **IPX7** (submersion-proof) rated products.
- **Zone 1:** Vertical area extending 2.25m above Zone 0 (for baths/showers) or the entire floor-to-ceiling space in wetrooms. Requires **IPX4** (splash-proof) or higher.
- **Zone 2 (Lowest Risk):** Area extending 0.6m beyond Zone 1 (or 3m horizontally from a shower head). Requires **IPX4** or equivalent protection.

Wetrooms differ slightly—they only have **Zone 1 (entire floor and walls up to 2.25m)** and **Zone 2 (beyond 0.6m from Zone 1)**.

Practical Example

- A shower light installed within **Zone 1** must be **IPX4-rated** to withstand steam and splashes.
- A socket installed **600mm outside Zone 1** (i.e., in Zone 2) still needs protection against moisture ingress.

Relevant UK Building Regulations

- **Part P (Electrical Safety - Dwellings):** Mandates safe electrical installations in wet areas.
- **Approved Document P (2013, amended 2022):** Specifies IP ratings for bathroom zones.
- **BS 7671 (IET Wiring Regulations, 18th Edition):** Defines electrical safety in bathrooms.

Synonyms

- Wet area zones
- Bathroom safety zones

Related Terms

1. **Ingress Protection (IP) Rating** – A code (e.g., IPX4) indicating a product's resistance to water/dust.
2. **Wetroom** – A fully waterproofed bathroom where the shower area is level with the floor.
3. **Part P Compliance** – Legal requirement for safe electrical installations in UK homes.
4. **BS 7671** – British Standard for electrical wiring safety.
5. **Vapour Barrier** – A moisture-resistant layer used behind bathroom walls to prevent damp.