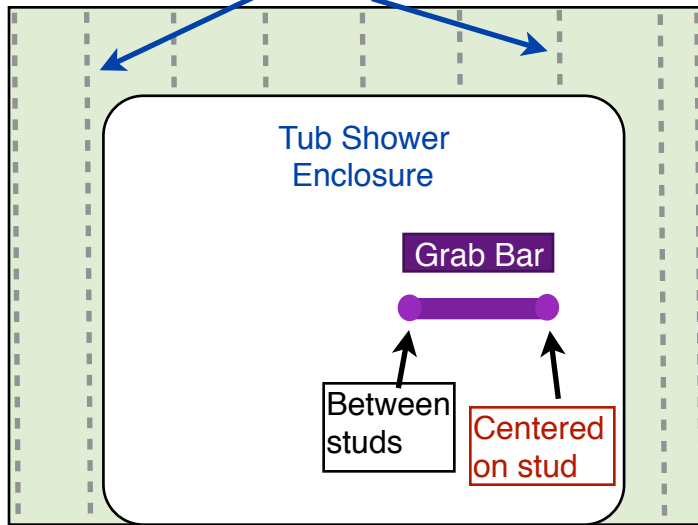


Retired Carpenters' Club 108 (CA) method of mounting grab bars on fiberglass tub/shower enclosures

Mounting grab bars onto tile, plasters, or drywall is straight forward. Some hardware stores (Home Depot) sell fasteners specific to both those surfaces. Note that any fastener used to mounted a grab bar must be rated to hold the weight required. Mounting onto a fiberglass tub/shower is challenging and time consuming, but possible. Studs are usually 16" on center. Grab bars are commonly sold in 18", 24", 30", and 36" lengths. As a result it is usually possible to only attach one end to a stud. Stud centers can be determined by using a **Stud Finder** or **drilling small holes** into the drywall above the enclosure. Or use a combination of both methods.



Centered on stud attachment

Insert **medium expanding foam** into one of the holes drilled through fiberglass for grab bar mounting flange before fastening **screws** to stud. Apply hand pressure on fiberglass surface to resist the **foam** from bulging the fiberglass out. Similarly the **screw** must not dent in the fiberglass. The **foam** locks the fiberglass in place and achieves a secure mount for the **grab bar**.

Fiberglass enclosure wall

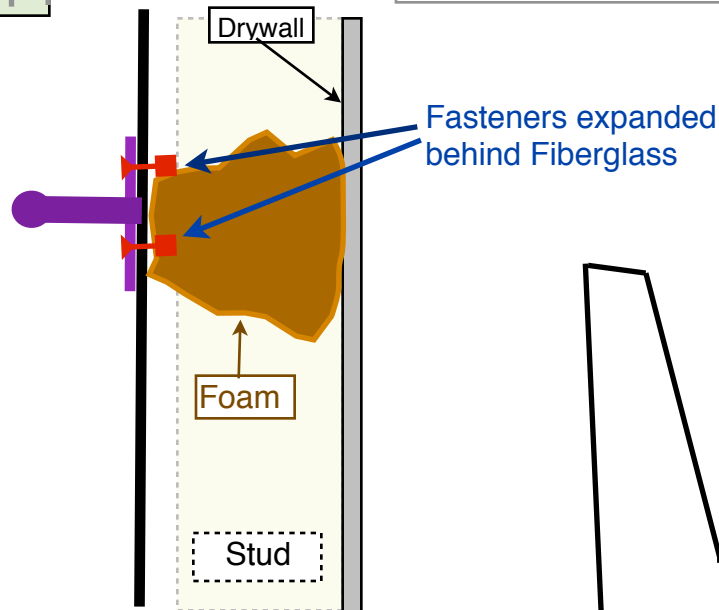
Grab Bar

Screws into Stud

Foam

Between studs attachment

When it is only possible to attach one end of the bar to a stud, at the other end it will be necessary to use one of various types of **fasteners** which can inserted through the flange and the fiberglass and then expand behind the fiberglass. Some hardware stores (Home Depot) carry a variety. It is still necessary to build up **medium expanding foam**, which must be done by squirting it in, little by little, letting it build up into a mound. The foam will rigidify the fiberglass so the fasteners not wobble and crack it. The bar will remain securely mounted.



Tub/shower Enclosure

Stud