Bathroom *zones* and which luminaires go where

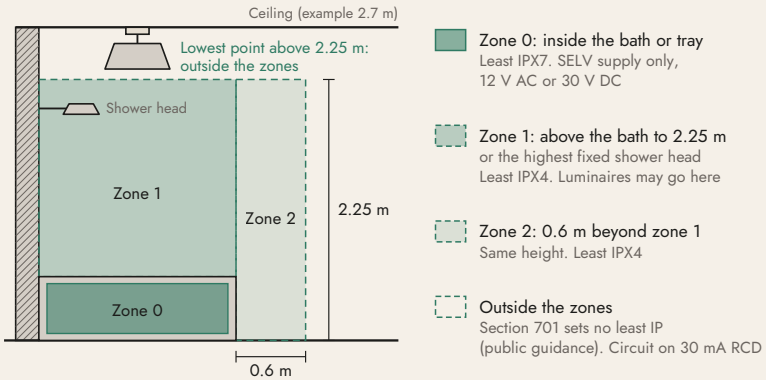
Bathroom zones 0, 1 and 2 under BS 7671 Section 701, the least IP rating in each as given in public guidance to the 2022 amendment, and the rules for a chandelier or pendant. Check every figure against the edition in force (A4:2026).

Compliance guidance. Figures are taken from public guidance to Section 701 of BS 7671:2018+A2:2022 (a trade-body pocket guide of June 2022 and a certification body's householder page) and from gov.uk's Approved Document P (2013), all read on 5 November 2026. BS 7671 itself is paywalled and was not read, and BS 7671:2018+A4:2026 (published 15 April 2026) is now the edition in force: confirm every figure against it, and have an electrical engineer set and check the zones. Guidance, not electrical or legal advice.

AT A GLANCE

Zone	Where it is	Least IP	Supply and equipment	Decorative glass fitting
Zone 0	Inside the bath tub or shower tray. No tray: floor to 0.10 m, outline of zone 1.	IPX7	Fixed, permanently connected, made for zone 0. SELV source of 12 V AC or 30 V DC, outside the zones.	No
Zone 1	Above the bath or tray to 2.25 m from the floor (or the highest fixed shower head). Includes the space under the bath if reachable without a tool. No tray: 1.2 m from the fixed water outlet.	IPX4	Luminaires allowed if made for the zone, or SELV or PELV up to 25 V AC or 60 V DC.	Only if rated IPX4 or better
Zone 2	A 0.6 m strip beside zone 1, same height. None if there is no tray.	IPX4	Other IPX4 equipment, shaver supply units, SELV switches and sockets.	Only if rated IPX4 or better
Outside the zones	The rest of the room and the space above the zone heights.	None set in Section 701 (public guidance)	30 mA RCD on circuits. No ordinary socket within 2.5 m of zone 1.	IP20 possible if the engineer agrees: ask about steam

Dimensions and IP levels are from public guidance to BS 7671:2018+A2:2022 (SELECT, June 2022; NICEIC) and are not checked against the standard. The edition now in force is BS 7671:2018+A4:2026. Approved Document P (gov.uk) prints 2.25 m, 0.6 m and 1.2 m for its own purpose.



Section through a bath against a wall; dimensions in metres. Original drawing by Make Bespoke Studio: schematic, not to scale for production. Dimensions and least IP levels are as printed in public guidance to BS 7671:2018+A2:2022: check them against the edition in force.

CHANDELIER OR PENDANT IN A BATHROOM: THE SHORT RULES

- Decorative glass fittings are usually IP20 (no water protection): not for zones 0, 1 or 2, which need at least IPX7 or IPX4.
- Wholly outside the zones (lowest point above 2.25 m, clear of zone 2): no least IP is set. Ask about steam.
- Ceiling minus 2.25 m is all that is left for canopy and fitting. Heights are from finished floor level.
- SELV is not a loophole: the zone's IP rule still applies; the driver sits outside the zones.

SPECIFICATION WORDING

DRAWING NOTE: ZONES

Bathroom zones 0, 1 and 2 are shown on plan and section for each bath, shower and wet room, drawn to Section 701 of BS 7671 [edition in force: BS 7671:2018+A4:2026 or later], with finished floor level and the height of the highest fixed shower head marked. The electrical engineer [name] confirms the zones on the final layout before shop drawings are approved.

LUMINAIRES IN A ZONE

A luminaire in zone [0 / 1 / 2] is fixed, permanently connected, rated at least IP[X7 / X4] to BS EN 60529 [edition] and comes with the maker's written statement that it suits that zone. A SELV transformer or driver is at [location], outside zones 0, 1 and 2, with access for replacement.

DECORATIVE FITTINGS OUTSIDE THE ZONES

A decorative fitting rated below IP[X4], or with no IP rating stated, is installed wholly outside zones 0, 1 and 2: its lowest point, including any adjustment, is not less than [2.25] m above finished floor level and above the highest fixed shower head, and [ ] mm clear of zone 2 in plan. The maker states its IP rating and whether it suits a bathroom.

SCHEDULE COLUMNS

The luminaire schedule states for each bathroom fitting: zone, least IP required, IP of the fitting, supply and driver position, circuit and RCD, and the maker's statement of suitability. A fitting with any item missing is not approved.

TERMS USED

Bathroom zones

Zones 0, 1 and 2, numbered outwards from the water around a bath or shower, within which electrical equipment must meet least IP ratings and other rules.

SELV

Safety extra-low voltage: a supply kept separate from the mains and earth so that touching it cannot cause a dangerous shock.

IP rating

A two-digit code for how well an enclosure keeps solids (first digit) and water (second digit) out. An X means not rated.

STANDARDS AND SOURCES

- BS 7671:2018+A4:2026, Section 701 (IET and BSI): paywalled, NOT read. Published 15 Apr 2026; A2+A3 withdrawn 15 Oct 2026 (BSI).
- SELECT pocket guide TS 19-001, Locations Containing a Bath or Shower (June 2022): summarises Section 701 of BS 7671:2018+A2:2022; read 5 Nov 2026.
- NICEIC: Bathrooms and electrics (householder page): undated, no edition; read 5 Nov 2026.
- gov.uk: Approved Document P, Electrical safety: Dwellings (2013, England): regulation 12(6A), Diagram 2, paragraph 2.2; cites BS 7671:2008+A1:2011.
- BSI knowledge: BS 7671:2018+A4:2026 article (15 Apr 2026): dates and topic list; no mention of Section 701.
- IEC 60364-7-701:2019 (edition 3.0, 14 Oct 2019): listing only; zone description improved. Text not read.

Full guide: https://makebespoke.com/trade/technical/bathroom-zones-and-luminaires. Make Bespoke Studio coordinates manufacture through its partner workshops. Figures are guidance only and your specification governs; some may be superseded, so contact the studio to verify.