

Contest winner thrilled with “new bathroom”

Story by Keith Merritt
Palm Beach Post Staff Writer

When June Pinner read her e-mails one February morning, she couldn't believe what she saw. It was a message from The Palm Beach Post, informing her that she'd won a free bathroom renovation, courtesy of BATH FITTER. The Post and BATH FITTER co-sponsored a contest where one lucky entrant would receive a new tub/shower and wall (which typically range in price from \$2,500 to \$3,500) — and Pinner was the winner.

“I entered the contest over the computer, and it was a very easy process,” she said. “But I never dreamed I'd actually win.” BATH FITTER is the country's leading bath, shower, and wall refinishing company. According to Bob Beauchamp, the company's Branch Manager in West Palm Beach, all of their products are acrylic (not fiberglass or plastic), which is important because acrylic is nonporous, and the product is custom-made to fit over pre-existing tubs, showers and walls. BATH FITTER is also the only acrylic manufacturer that uses a seamless wall. To date, they have remodeled and refinished bathrooms in over one million homes nationwide.

Knowing all of this, it's easy to see why Pinner was so excited when she found out what she'd won. Her husband, Harry, on the other hand, wasn't quite as elated.

“He was hesitant at first because he didn't know if it would all be worthwhile,” said Pinner. “But once the guys from BATH FITTER came out and explained everything to us, he was on board.”



One day after receiving the news that she'd won, Pinner got a call from a BATH FITTER representative. They scheduled a consultation at the Pinner's Jupiter Farms home, where they would discuss the different options for the couple's bathroom.

“Two gentlemen came out and took measurements. Then we looked through books that had everything you could possibly imagine,” said Pinner. “There were plenty of options, and they told us we could choose anything we wanted.”

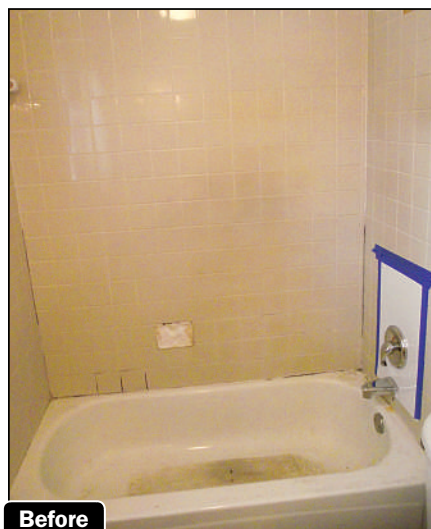
Beauchamp says that's how the process typically works.

“We measure the tub or shower and wall to make sure we have a mold for it. Then we thermoform an acrylic liner that goes over the tub and tile,” he said. “While we're there, we work with the customer to help them pick the right look for their bathroom. We go over shapes, sizes, colors, patterns, designs...you name it. We've yet to find a tub or shower that we couldn't handle.”

Once the Pinner's had made their selection, it was time to set up the installation. Unlike most bathroom or any other home-remodeling projects where you might be forced to live in a “construction zone” or even evacuate for days or weeks, BATH FITTER gets the job done in only one day.

“We're the perfect solution because we don't tear up your whole bathroom and hold you out for long periods of time,” said Beauchamp. “We always say, ‘Give us one day and we'll give you a new, beautiful bathroom.’” June Pinner admits that the fear of having their bathroom ripped apart was one of the reasons her husband was so apprehensive in the beginning, but once the staff at BATH FITTER assured her that wouldn't be the case, his mind was put at ease — somewhat. “They showed up this past Tuesday at about 8:15 in the morning and got right to work,” said Pinner. “I stayed out of the room the whole time because I wanted to be surprised when they finished, but Harry watched them quite a bit. He kept coming out and telling me how professional they were and how great it looked. He was very happy.”

Beauchamp was at the house when his crew put the final touches on the tub and wall at about 3:30 p.m., so he blindfolded Pinner and led her into the new bathroom. When the blindfold was removed, Pinner was amazed. “It was like a whole new bathroom, and it was spotless. There wasn't even a speck of dust to be found,” she said. “They were so wonderful to us, and I can't tell you how highly we regard the people



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at BATH FITTER and, of course, their work. The bathroom looks incredible and they were very pleasant. I could brag about them all day. The whole thing was such a pleasure.” After less than seven hours, the Pinner's had their new bathroom, although the installers did leave them with one last instruction.

“They told me not to use the new tub for 24 hours so that the silicon could dry, but I told them it was so pretty that I'll probably never use it,” said June. “I was kidding, but I am going to invite all my friends over to look at it first.”

So the Pinner's were clearly overjoyed, but what

was the experience like for Beauchamp and the staff at BATH FITTER?

“It was very heartwarming, and we were pleased that the winner was such a wonderful person,” he said. “It's a great feeling to see people get so excited, and to know that they appreciate what you've done.”