Jan. 22, 1957 J. GOCHÉ 2,778,030

SHOWER STALL

Filed Jan. 14, 1954

Fig. 1.

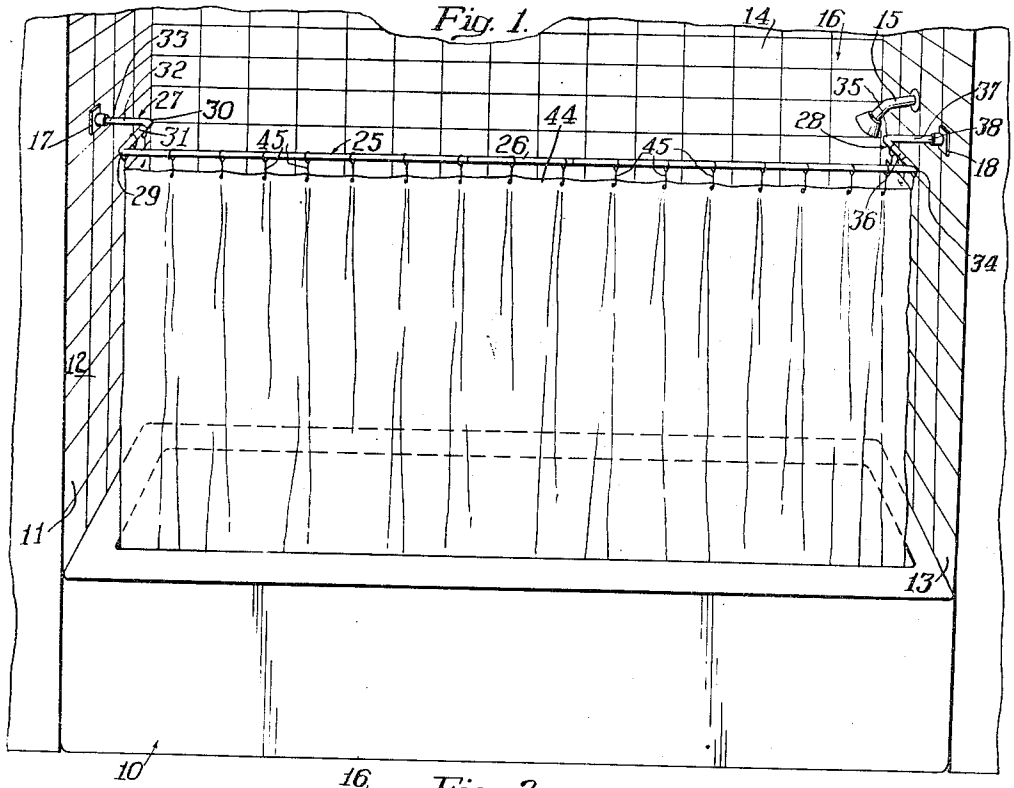


Fig. 2.

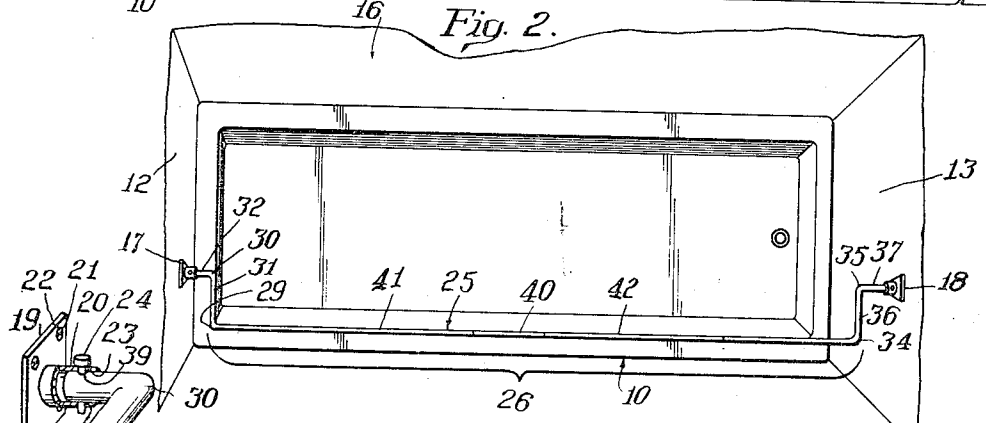


Fig. 3.

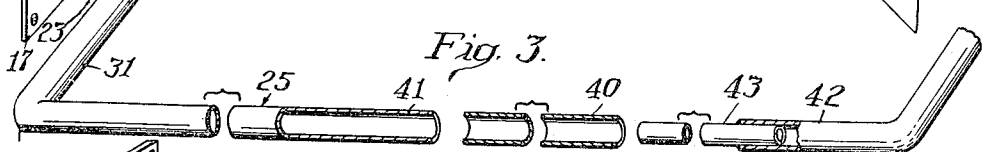
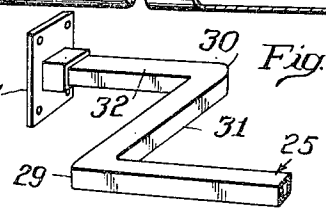


Fig. 4.



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SHOWER STALL

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1 Claim. (Cl. 4—149)

This invention relates to an improved shower curtain rod, more particularly to a non-rotatably mounted shower curtain rod having each end portion thereof bent inwardly and then outwardly whereby water is prevented from escaping around the sides of a shower curtain which is suspended from said shower curtain rod.

The use of shower baths to maintain body cleanliness has been progressively increasing in our civilization. The conventional shower bath structure consists either of a specially designed shower stall in which is mounted a shower head, with the front of the stall being covered by a flexible curtain, or by the installation of a shower head in a recess in the wall in which is located a bath tub. In the latter installation also a flexible curtain is employed to cover the front of the bath tub recess. In either situation the flexible curtain is usually suspended from a straight rod which is mounted at the front edge of the shower compartment. This curtain is so mounted upon the shower curtain rod that it may be moved along the rod in order to completely open or to completely close off the shower compartment.

When the shower compartment is in use the shower curtain is drawn so as to completely close off the shower compartment. With the curtain in this position the edges of the curtain are usually in close relationship with the walls of the shower compartment. Invariably, however, there is a space between the edge of the shower curtain and the wall through which space it is possible for water to escape. This water which escapes around the sides of the shower curtain will not remain within the shower compartment, but will be splashed into the area adjacent the shower compartment. When the shower compartment is located in a home the result is that the area surrounding the shower compartment is wet by the escaping water. This causes a mess which must be cleaned up after each use of the shower bath. In addition, objects in the vicinity of the shower may be damaged by water.

In order to eliminate water escaping from around the sides of a shower curtain, this invention discloses a new and improved shower curtain rod from which a shower curtain is to be suspended. This improved shower curtain rod comprises a rodlike member wherein the end portions are bent inwardly at right angles and then outwardly at right angles. The end portions are then rigidly secured in suitable mounting members. These mounting members are affixed a distance inwardly from the front edges of the shower compartment walls. The major, unbent portion of the shower curtain rod is substantially flush with or slightly inward of the front edges of the shower compartment walls. When a shower compartment is equipped with the shower curtain rod of this invention, it will be seen that the side edges of the shower curtain will be brought inwardly from the front edges of the shower compartment. Consequently the main portion of the curtain is substantially flush with the front of the shower compartment, thus giving the same amount of room within the shower compartment as existed with the conventional shower curtain, but, in addition, the

ends of the shower curtain are turned inward. By turning the ends of the shower curtain inward, the escape of water around the sides of the shower curtain is eliminated.

It is, therefore, an object of this invention to provide a new and improved shower curtain rod.

It is another object of this invention to provide a shower curtain rod the use of which will eliminate the escape of water around the sides of a shower curtain suspended from it.

It is a further object of this invention to provide a shower curtain rod whereby the sides of a shower curtain suspended therefrom will be turned inwardly, thereby preventing water from the shower bath to escape around the sides of the shower curtain.

It is an additional object of this invention to provide a shower curtain rod wherein the end portions thereof are bent inwardly at a right angle and then outwardly at a right angle, and said end portions being non-rotatably mounted on the walls of a shower compartment.

Other objects and advantages of this invention will become readily apparent by reference to the following description taken in conjunction with the following drawings, wherein:

Figure 1 is a front perspective view of a shower compartment utilizing the shower curtain rod disclosed in this invention;

Figure 2 is a top perspective view of a shower compartment using the shower curtain rod disclosed in this invention, with the exception that the shower curtain is omitted for clarity;

Figure 3 is a detailed drawing in perspective of the shower curtain rod, and illustrating the means for preventing the rotation of said rod and means for adjustably extending the rod; and

Figure 4 is a detailed drawing in perspective of one end of another embodiment of the shower curtain rod disclosed in this invention, wherein the end portion of the shower curtain rod has a substantially square cross-section, and the socket which receives the end of the shower curtain rod also has a substantially square cross-section.

Returning now to the drawings, more particularly to Figure 1, **10** indicates a bath tub which is installed in a bath tub recess indicated generally as **11**. The recess **11** comprises a pair of side walls **12** and **13** and a back wall **14**. A shower head **15** is installed on the side wall **13**. As the recess **11** is equipped with a shower head **15**, it will be convenient in describing this invention to refer to the assembly as described so far as the shower compartment **16**.

As previously described, the shower compartment **16** comprises the walls **12**, **13**, and **14** which, as illustrated in Figure 1, are of tile construction. The coventional shower compartment has walls of tile construction, but in order to practice this invention it is not necessary that tile surfaces be employed. The shower compartment may have walls of any other suitable material.

A pair of mounting members **17** and **18** are affixed to the side walls **12** and **13** respectively. The mounting members **17** and **18** are so mounted on the side walls **12** and **13** that the members directly oppose each other, as illustrated in Figures 1 and 2. Both of the mounting members **17** and **18** have similar construction, and the mounting member **17** which is illustrated in detail in Figure 3 will be further described.

The mounting member **17** comprises a base plate **19** to which is integrally attached a socket portion **20**. The base plate **19** has a plurality of holes **21** through which screws **22** may be inserted in order to fasten the entire mounting member **17** to a wall. It is not necessary that the fastening of the mounting member **17** to a wall be

limited to screws. Other methods of fastening, such as cementing the mounting member to the wall, as an example, may be satisfactorily used.

The socket portion **20** has diametrically opposed openings **23** therein, through which is inserted a pin **24**. The function of the pin **24** will be later described in detail.

A shower curtain rod indicated generally as **25** is supported from the mounting members **17** and **18** by inserting the ends of the shower curtain rod **25** into the socket portions of the respective mounting members. The shower curtain rod **25** comprises a substantially straight main portion **26**, and end portions indicated generally as **27** and **28**. The end portion **27** is bent inwardly 90° at the point **29** and bent outwardly 90° at the point **30**. As a result of the bends **29** and **30**, a transverse portion **31** and a longitudinal portion **32** are formed in the end portion **27**. The free end **33** of the longitudinal portion **32** is received within the socket portion **20** of the mounting member **17**.

The other end portion **28** of the shower curtain rod **25** has a configuration similar to that described for the end portion **27**. In the end portion **28** a 90° inward bend at the point **34** and a 90° outward bend at the point **35** form a transverse portion **36** and a longitudinal portion **37**. The longitudinal portion **37** has a free end **38** which is received within the socket portion of the mounting member **18**.

While there is no particular relationship between the length of the transverse portions **31** and **36** and the shower curtain **25**, the length of these transverse portions should be at least six inches for satisfactory results. However, the length of these transverse portions **31** and **36** may vary considerably from the figure of six inches, and the results of this invention will still be obtained.

The longitudinal portions **32** and **37** should have a length slightly greater than the length of the socket portion on the mounting members. With this relationship of the longitudinal portions **32** and **37**, the transverse portions **31** and **36** will be adjacent the side walls **12** and **13**. The closer the transverse portions **31** and **36** are to the side walls **12** and **13**, the more satisfactory will be the results of the invention.

Because the main portion **26** of the shower curtain rod **25** is offset from the longitudinal portions **32** and **37** which form the supporting axis of the shower curtain rod **25**, there will be a tendency for the shower curtain rod **25** to rotate when it is supported by the mounting members **17** and **18**. Several different constructions may be utilized in order to prevent rotation of the shower curtain rod **25**. In Figure 3 the longitudinal portion **32** is illustrated as having a substantially circular cross-section at the point where it enters the socket portion **20**. Consequently, an aperture **39** is made adjacent the free end **33** as illustrated in Figure 3. When the shower curtain rod is inserted into the mounting member **17**, the aperture **39** is aligned with the openings **23**. The pin **24** is then inserted through the aligned openings and aperture. The same structure is also present on the longitudinal portion **37** which is associated with the mounting member **18**. In this manner it can be seen that the shower curtain rod **25** is prevented from rotation and is rigidly held in place.

A desirable method of preventing rotation of the shower curtain rod **25** is to make the longitudinal portions of the shower curtain rod of a cross-section other than circular. The associated sockets on the mounting members have openings whose cross-section will co-operate with the cross-section of the longitudinal portions. An example of this structure is illustrated in Figure 4. In Figure 4 the longitudinal portion **32** is illustrated as having a substantially square cross-section, and the socket portion **20** also has a substantially square cross-section dimensioned so as to closely receive the longitudinal portion **32**. While Figure 4 indicates that the entire shower curtain rod has a square cross-section, it is necessary only that the longitudinal portion itself have a cross-section which is other than circular. By utilizing square cross-sectioned longitudinal portions at the ends of the shower curtain rod, it can be seen that the shower curtain rod will be prevented from rotation when supported by the mounting members.

Returning to the shower curtain rod **25**, it is pointed out that this rod may be constructed of any suitable material. A metal construction is desirable, however plastic or glass could be satisfactorily used.

Also, in connection with the shower curtain rod **25** it is desirable that it be capable of having its length adjusted. One construction which would accomplish this is illustrated in both Figure 2 and Figure 3. The main portion **26** of the shower curtain rod **25** is of a hollow construction, and comprises a center portion **40** and adjoining portions **41** and **42**. A dowel member **43**, which will be closely received within the main portion **26**, is rigidly fastened within the adjoining portion **42** in such manner that a considerable part of the dowel member **43** protrudes from the adjoining portion **42**. This protruding end of the dowel member **43** is received within the center portion **40**. Another dowel member (not shown) is similarly affixed to the free end of the adjoining portion **41**. With this construction, it can be seen that the main portion **26** of shower curtain rod **25** may be adjusted to correspond to the distance between the side walls **12** and **13** of the shower compartment **16**. It is also an advantage to have the shower curtain rod adjustable when installing the shower curtain rod after the mounting members **17** and **18** have already been positioned.

To enable the shower compartment **16** to be used, a conventional shower curtain **44** is suspended from the shower curtain rod **25** by use of a plurality of conventional hooks indicated as **45**.

Thus it can be seen that by using this invention a shower stall may be obtained from which escaping water is eliminated. While this invention will find its greatest use in shower stalls and bath tub recesses equipped with shower heads, it is pointed out that other uses for this invention exist. This invention may be used in connection with various industrial processes which are carried out in compartments from which it is desired that escaping vapor or liquid be eliminated, but it is deemed desirable that the front of the compartment be covered with a flexible curtain. This invention may also be satisfactorily used in suspending a curtain in front of dressing stalls such as would be found in a clothing store or in a bath house. This use of the invention would give the occupant of such a stall a greater degree of privacy.

It will be understood that this invention is susceptible to modification in order to adapt it to different usages and conditions, and accordingly it is desired to comprehend such modifications within this invention as may fall within the scope of the appended claim.

What is claimed as this invention is:

In a shower stall, opposed side walls with the front edges thereof defining the open front of said stall, a bottom for said shower stall and having an upstanding retaining portion along the front thereof for collecting and conveying shower water, socket-like mounting members on said opposed side walls in the same horizontal plane and equidistant from the front edges of said side walls, a straight rod having outer ends and a uniform cross section throughout with the median portion of the rod between the outer end portions thereof being positioned flush with the front edges of said side walls, each end portion of said rod having an inward bend and an outward bend a substantial distance therefrom with said bends being with respect to said front edges of said stall side walls, the outer ends of said rod being non-rotatably

supported within said mounting members with the ends of said rod between said outer ends and said outward bends being only slightly longer than said mounting members whereby the portions of said rod between said outward and inward bends are slightly spaced from said opposed side walls, and a shower curtain having its upper edge suspended from said rod and its lower edge within said bottom retaining portion with said shower curtain extending the length of said median portion and said end portions whereby appreciable amounts of each end portion of said shower curtain is adjacent and parallel to said opposed side walls to prevent the escape of water around the ends of said shower curtain and to guide shower water downwardly into the bottom of the shower stall.

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