

# J THOMAS HOME

## INSTALLATION GUIDE FOR CORNER SHELVES

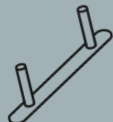
This guide covers installation for one of our most unique choices: the **corner shelves**. Whether you're wanting to accentuate a corner space or renovate an entire closet or pantry, these instructions will help ensure a secure, clean install.

Our **corner shelves** are made from real hardwood with a slim, modern profile. Two floating shelves are combined together in an "L" formation. The "L" can be configured on either side, left or right. Wooden biscuits are attached on the connecting ends to hold the shelves flush together for a tight fit into a dado.

### WHAT'S INCLUDED



2 Shelves



Brackets



Bracket  
Screws



Countersink  
Screws

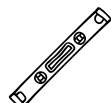
### TOOLS NEEDED FOR INSTALLATION



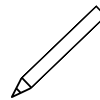
Drill



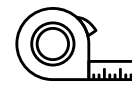
Drill Bits



Level



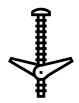
Pencil



Tape  
measure



Stud Finder  
(Optional)

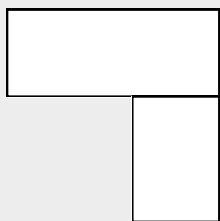


Toggle Bolts  
(Optional)

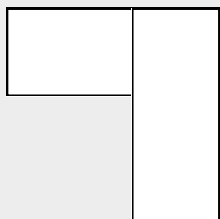


# CORNER SHELF INSTALLATION STEPS

1



Left Side  
Long Side



Right Side  
Long Side

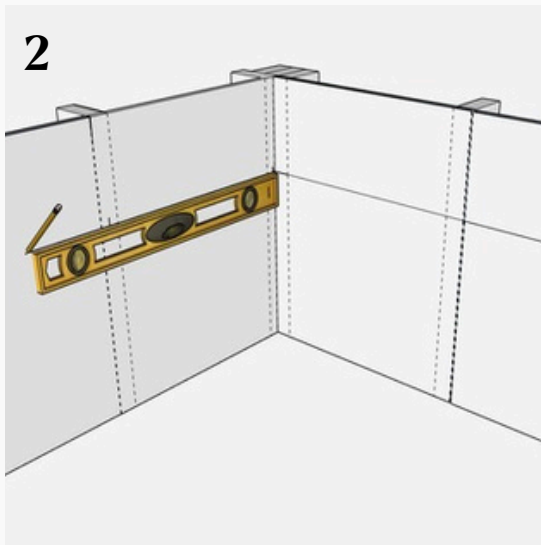
## Determine First Shelf

Our corner shelf configuration determines which shelf goes in the corner:

- Left Side Long Side → the left shelf goes in the corner.
- Right Side Long Side → the right shelf goes in the corner.

This refers to placement (which side extends into the corner), not the actual length of the shelves. The “Long Side” shelf that goes in the corner will always be installed first. From here on, we’ll call this the first shelf.

2

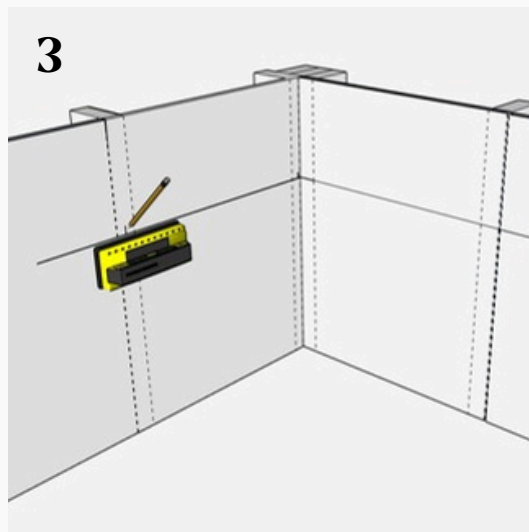


## Mark Wall Placement

Pick the height you want your shelves, then mark that spot in the corner. Use a level to draw a straight line across both walls from that point.

Pro Tip: A laser level makes this step much easier.

3

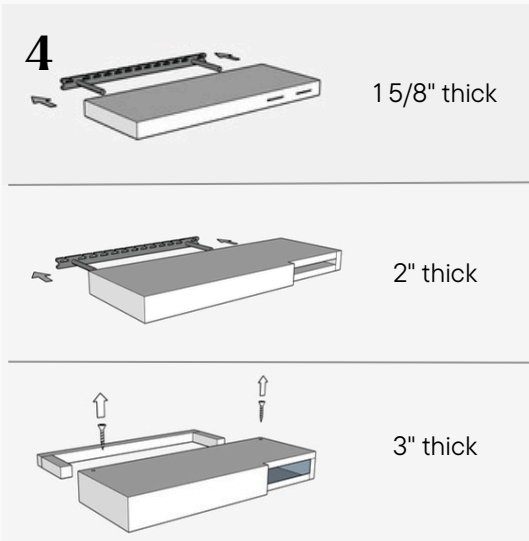


## Locate the Wall Studs

Use a stud finder to locate the studs along your marked lines. Mark the stud locations on the wall where they intersect with the lines you drew. If your bracket only crosses one stud, mark another spot along the bracket line to place a toggle bolt.

Tip: See page 5 for info on studs and other ways to locate them.

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## Remove First Bracket

Remove the bracket from the first shelf:

- For 1 5/8" and 2" shelves, the metal bracket should slide out. If it's snug, you may need to wiggle it.
- For 3" shelves, unscrew the countersink screws to release the wooden bracket.

## Shelves with Cleats

See page 6 for more tips on cleats and alternative installation methods.

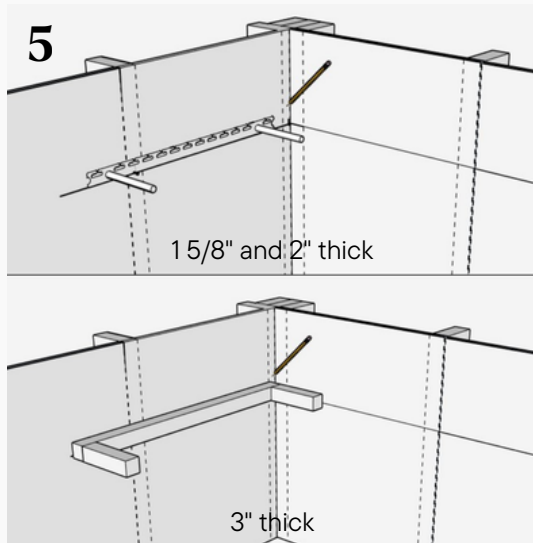
## Have some questions?

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OR CALL US AT 913.353.4283

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# CORNER SHELF INSTALLATION STEPS

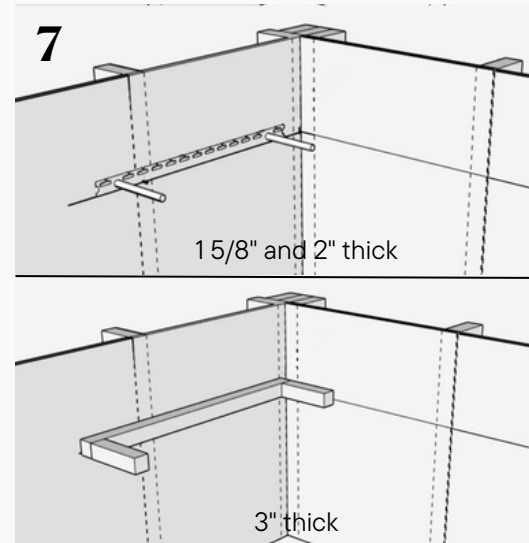


## Mark Bracket Position

Place your bracket so the shelf will reach the corner (the bracket itself won't sit all the way in the corner).

Measure the distance from the shelf edge to the bracket edge, then mark that same distance from the corner on your wall line.

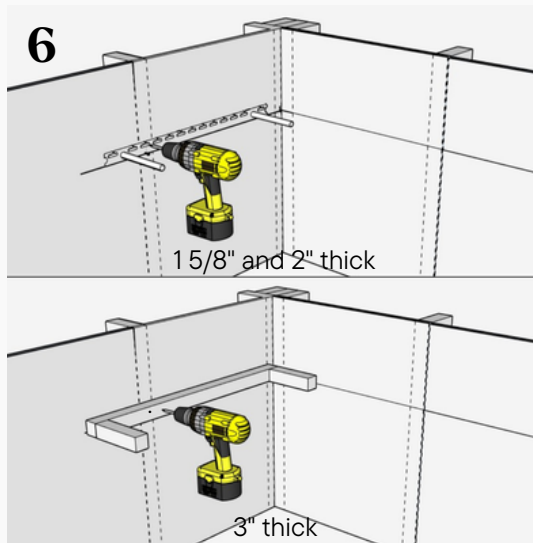
For 3" thick shelves, mark the position on the bracket to pre drill your holes and pre drill the holes.



## Check Bracket

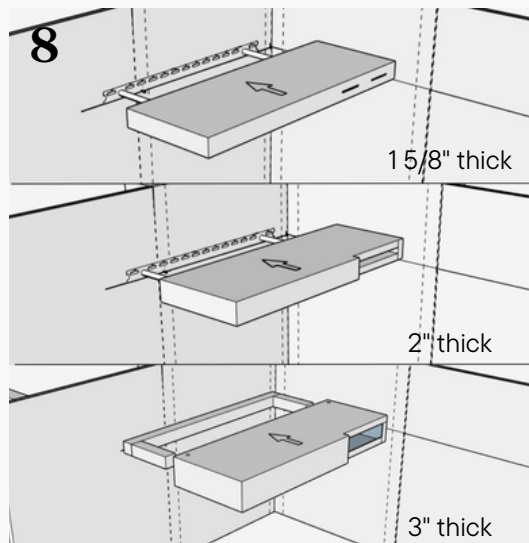
Make sure the bracket is level and snug to the wall. Rods should be level or slightly tilted up.

*Note: Rods / arms should be level or tilted slightly up. Make sure the bracket is tight against the wall and doesn't pull away from the wall when you press down on the rods / arms.*



## Secure the Bracket

Start with one screw into a stud (don't fully tighten yet). For metal brackets (1 5/8" & 2"), make sure the teeth point up and use the longer screws. For wooden brackets (3"), pre-drill holes; all screws are the same length. Level the bracket, then add a second screw (stud if possible, toggle if not). Slide the shelf on to test the fit—if it's not snug in the corner, adjust the bracket. Remove the shelf and tighten the bracket screws.



## Attach the First Shelf

Slide the first shelf back onto the bracket and push it fully into the corner. Loosely secure it with the countersink screws (bottom for 1 5/8" & 2", top for 3") using a screwdriver, not a power drill. Leave the screws loose for now—you'll tighten them later.

If the shelf doesn't sit tight in the corner, adjust the bracket position. If you notice sagging, check the troubleshooting tips on page 7.

## Toggle Bolt Tips

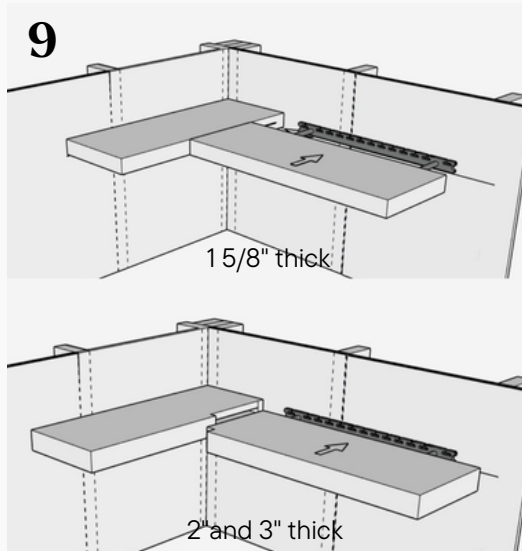
For toggle bolts, the bracket must be threaded onto the bolt before inserting it into the wall. Refer to the page 5 for more tips on Toggle Bolts.

## Screw Sizes Vary Per Shelf Thickness

- 1 5/8" shelves: #9 × 3 1/8" screws for studs, #6 × 5/8" screws for countersink holes.
- 2" shelves: #9 × 3 1/8" screws for studs, #6 × 3/4" screws for countersink holes.
- 3" shelves: All screws are #10 × 4" (used for both studs and countersink holes).

# CORNER SHELF INSTALLATION STEPS

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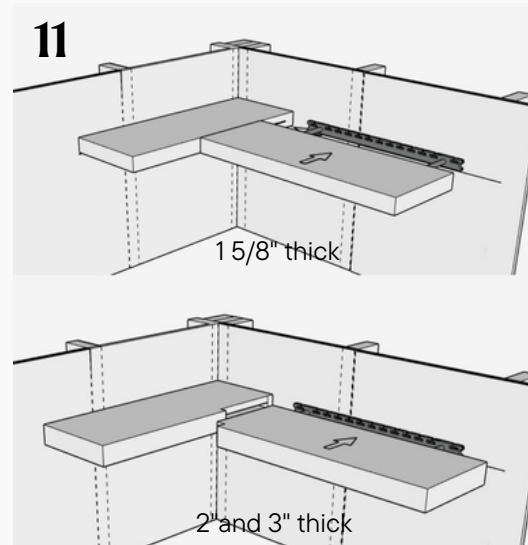


## Secure Second Bracket

Install the second bracket just like the first, measuring from the first shelf. Next dry-fit the second shelf to check alignment: For 1 5/8" thick shelves, slide it straight onto the bracket, then remove it. For 2" and 3" shelves, slide it straight over the bracket, then toward the corner pocket. If the shelf doesn't sit flush, adjust the bracket until it does. Once aligned, tighten the screws so the bracket is secure and level.

If sagging occurs, see the troubleshooting guide (page 6).

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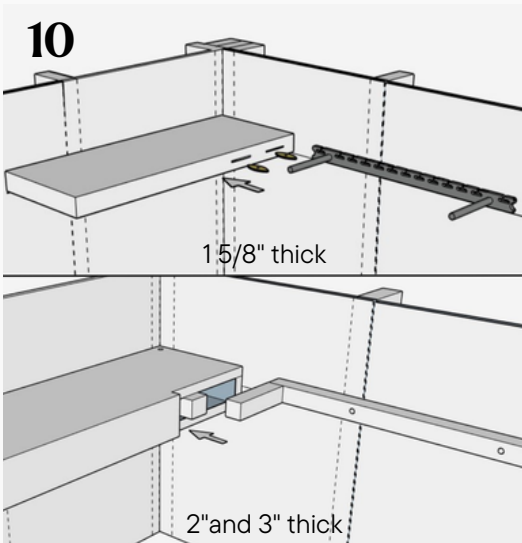


## Position Second Shelf

Re-slide the second shelf onto its bracket so the biscuits fit into place. For 1 5/8" thick shelves, slide it straight onto the bracket, then remove it. For 2" and 3" shelves, slide it straight over the bracket, then toward the corner pocket.

Push the shelves tightly together. Loosely secure with countersink screws (bottom for 1 5/8" & 2", top for 3").

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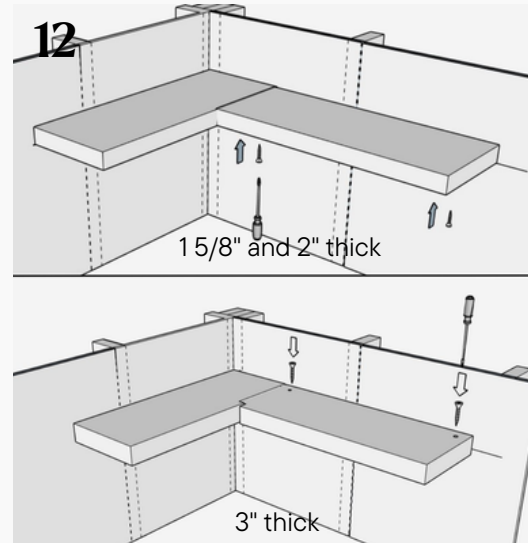


## Glue Biscuits

Apply glue to the biscuit(s) and insert them into the grooves of the first shelf. Use only a thin, even layer of glue—too much can drip out of the joint and create a mess.

Note: Use two biscuits for 1 5/8" shelves, or one biscuit block for 2" and 3" shelves.

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## Adjust and Tighten Countersink Screws

Once both shelves are aligned, tighten all countersink screws. Wipe away any glue drips immediately.

That's it — your shelves are installed and ready to enjoy!

## Final Bracket Check

Double-check that the bracket is fully secured and does not sag. Adjust if needed. A secure bracket ensures a stable shelf.

## Have some questions?

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## What are Studs and How to Locate them

### Stud Basics

A stud is a vertical 2x4 wood beam behind your drywall that supports your wall. Floating shelves should be anchored into at least one stud—two is ideal for added strength. For extra support, use toggle bolts every 8–12 inches along the bracket between the studs.

### Finding a Stud

Best method: Use a stud finder for quick and accurate results.

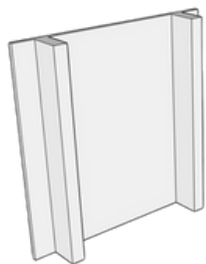
No stud finder? Try these alternatives:

#### Knock Test

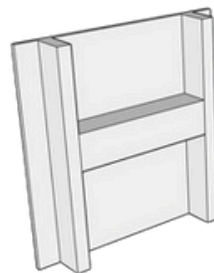
- Tap along the wall in a horizontal line.
- A hollow sound indicates no stud, while a solid thud likely means you've found one.
- Mark the solid spots for further checking.

#### Outlet Method

- Turn off power and remove an outlet cover.
- Look inside to see which side the stud is on.
- Studs are typically spaced 16 inches apart (sometimes 24 inches), measured center to center.



Wall showing studs



Wall studs with blocking

## Blocking (if walls are open))

### What is Blocking?

Blocking means adding horizontal wood pieces—usually 2x4 or 2x6 lumber—between wall studs. This creates a solid surface behind the drywall so every screw in your floating shelf bracket can anchor into wood.

### Why Use It?

If your walls are already open this will make the final installation even easier. In essence, it turns the entire space into a stud so every screw hits solid wood.

**Pros:** Provides maximum strength and long-term stability. Makes hanging a breeze everywhere it's installed.

**Cons:** Walls need to be open and studs accessible.

## Using Drywall Anchors (Toggle Bolts)

When installing floating shelves, it's best to anchor the bracket into at least two wall studs for maximum strength. If you're not able to hit studs or need extra support, heavy-duty drywall anchors—such as togglers—do a great job to support the weight. Toggle bolts expand behind the wall to securely hold screws in hollow drywall where no stud is present.

### Installation Tips:

- Use toggle bolts approximately every 8–12 inches along the bracket where it spans between studs.
- The number and spacing of anchors may vary depending on your bracket and shelf size.
- Follow all manufacturer instructions for proper installation.

### Our Favorites:

- TOGGLER SNAPTOGGLE Heavy-Duty Drywall Toggle Bolts, 3/16"-24 UNC Zinc-Plated Anchors
- Hillman 101085 Zinc Flat Head Phillips Machine Screws, size 10-24 x 2-1/2" (100 pack) – may be needed when custom screw lengths are required.

## Installing Over Tile

Installing floating shelves over tile follows the standard process with a few added steps:

- **Locate Studs:** Use a stud finder to mark where the shelf bracket will intersect wall studs behind the tile.
- **Mark Drill Points:** Mark pilot hole locations on the tile—preferably at grout lines to reduce cracking risk, if alignment allows.
- **Drill Pilot Holes:** Use a carbide-tipped or diamond tile drill bit suitable for ceramic, porcelain, or stone. Drill slowly and steadily to avoid damaging the tile.
- **Anchor as Usual:** Secure the bracket to the studs using screws. Use toggle bolts or drywall anchors between studs for added support, spaced approximately every 8–12 inches.
- **Proceed with Standard Installation:** Once anchors and screws are in place, follow the regular bracket and shelf mounting steps.

### *Note on Uneven Surfaces:*

For textured or dimensional tile (e.g., ledgerstone, stacked stone, ledger panels), the surface may not allow flush bracket mounting. In these cases:

- Build out the wall surface behind the bracket to create a level base.
- Trim or notch tile as needed around the bracket to allow proper alignment and fit.

## Installing Over Brick, Stone, or Concrete

Installing Over Brick, Stone, or Concrete  
Installing floating shelves over masonry surfaces like brick, stone, or concrete is similar to the standard installation but requires a few additional tools and steps:

- **Mark Bracket Placement:** Plan and mark where your bracket will be mounted. If possible, align with the mortar joints rather than the solid brick or stone to make drilling easier.
- **Use the Right Drill Bit:** You'll need a hammer drill and a masonry bit to create pilot holes in these hard surfaces. Drill slowly and steadily to maintain accuracy.
- **Install Masonry Anchors:** Instead of wood screws or standard drywall anchors, use heavy-duty masonry anchors or concrete screws (e.g., Tapcon screws) to secure the bracket directly into the wall.
- **Continue Standard Installation:** Once the bracket is anchored securely, proceed with attaching the shelf as outlined in the standard instructions.

### *Note on Uneven Surfaces:*

For textured or irregular stone, the bracket may not sit flush. In this case:

- Shim behind the bracket or build out a level mounting surface.
- You may also need to notch the stone or adjust shelf placement for proper fit.

## Installing with Metal Studs

If your wall has metal studs instead of wood, floating shelf installation requires some adjustments. Metal studs don't hold screws the same way wood does, so using regular wood screws is not recommended.

Instead, use self-drilling metal stud anchors or toggle bolts specifically rated for use with metal. These anchors are designed to grip the thin metal framing securely without stripping out. As with wood stud installations, try to anchor the bracket into at least one metal stud and then use toggle bolts or drywall anchors every 8–12 inches along the bracket to ensure even support.

When in doubt, consulting a contractor or professional installer can help ensure a safe and secure installation.

*Extra Info Tip: Choosing the Right Screws*  
Our hardware packets include screws for wood stud installation. If you're installing into metal studs, brick, or concrete, you will need to purchase appropriate mounting hardware.

## Cleats Instead of Brackets

Some shelves may use cleats instead of brackets (or a mix of both). Install cleats horizontally along the line from Step 2, pre-drill, and secure to studs when possible. If only one stud is available, use a stud plus toggle bolts. Longer shelves may include a back cleat. Once installed, slide the shelf over the cleat from the front.

## Installing Over Acoustic Slat Wall Paneling

Installing floating shelves over our acoustic slat wall paneling follows the standard installation process, with a few adjustments:

- **Install Slat Wall Paneling:** Mount the paneling according to the manufacturer's instructions before shelf installation.
- **Locate Studs:** Use a stud finder to identify and mark studs behind the paneling, just as you would with drywall.
- **Use Longer Screws:** Because our acoustic slat wall panels are 13/16" thick, you'll need longer screws than the standard hardware provided. We recommend using screws that are 4" or longer to ensure secure bracket anchoring into the studs.

Once the brackets are installed through the paneling and into the studs, continue with the standard floating shelf installation steps.

## Troubleshooting: Getting Your Floating Shelf Level

If your floating shelf isn't sitting level during installation, here are a few quick checks and fixes:

### Bracket Orientation

Make sure the teeth on the bracket are facing up. This is essential for the shelf to lock into place properly.

### Tightness to Wall

Rods should be level or tilted slightly up. Make sure the bracket is tight and doesn't pull away from the wall.

### Using Shims to Adjust Level

If the shelf still isn't level after verifying bracket orientation, you may need to shim the bracket.



## What is a Shim?

A shim is a thin, wedge-shaped piece (typically plastic or wood) used to fill small gaps and adjust level during installations. It can fill and fix unevenness along the wall.

## How to Install Shims

- Loosen the bracket screws just enough to slide the shim between the bracket and the wall at the mounting points.
- With the shim inserted, slide the shelf onto the bracket to check if it's level.
- If it's still off, adjust the shim slightly higher until the shelf sits level or rods point up slightly.

## Trimming the Shims

Once the shelf is level:

- Tighten the bracket screws fully.
- Trim the excess shim material by scoring it with a utility knife and snapping it off, or by using an oscillating tool for a clean cut.
- Slide the shelf back on and secure it using the provided countersink screws underneath.

## Helpful Links

[Installation videos](#)

[FAQs](#)

[Warranty information](#)

[Contact Us](#)

At J Thomas Home, we're proud to offer high-quality custom floating shelves that add both beauty and function to your space. Your new shelves are built to last and will be a timeless addition you'll enjoy for years to come.

## Have questions?

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