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**JOSEF ERLEBACH,
MARKETING DIRECTOR,
QUICK DRAIN USA**

ICC-ES® PMG Listing Adds to Shower of Success for Quick Drain USA

Josef Erlebach is not the kind of guy who “goes with the flow.” He’s the kind of guy who questions things most people take for granted.

A veteran professional tile setter, he took a long, hard look at the traditional round shower drains he once labored over—and came up with a better idea.

His version of a low-profile linear shower drain pays homage to the Roman baths of more than 2,000 years ago—yet is so novel it’s taking the bathroom-fixture business by storm. His sleek patent-pending design has won three awards at national trade shows in the past year. Quick Drain USA, just 1½ years old, has already exceeded sales goals set for the 3-year mark.

“Installing a shower pan the old traditional way is very labor intensive,” said Erlebach, a Czech native who has called the mountains west of Denver his home for more than 13 years. “You have a four-way slope going into one point. To me, that’s a round peg in a square hole. It’s very, very difficult to install. I thought ‘there must be a better way.’”



His “better way” is a one-way slope that is based, he says, on simple math and physics. It can shave hours off of installation time and is much easier all the way around, he said. “In a recent building project, we saved the contractor \$150,000 on time and labor costs.”

Also, he said, “it looks better.” It works well with large-format tiles, something traditional round drains can’t adapt to. And the installed system doesn’t cost any more than traditional drains.

Erlebach especially sees the linear drain as “unbeatable” when it comes to handicapped-accessible showers. “Architects and designers of hospitals and senior living centers say we just solved their accessibility problems.”

Quick Drain is also ideal for deck and pool drains, public shower trenches and trough drain applications.

Business is booming, but Erlebach still saw a need to earn recognition from the ICC Evaluation Service® PMG Listing Program.

“It is a great help for us, for code officials, for companies or individual homeowners who are deciding if they will purchase from us or not,” said Erlebach.

Certification took about 10 months and was complete by July.

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“Quick Drain’s design is unique,” said Beck. “Our PMG Listing Committee considered every aspect of code equivalence. After issuance of the Listing Criteria, Josef quickly arranged for the required testing and qualifying inspection to document conformance.”

Erlebach is proud that Quick Drain is the only product of its kind to be listed by ICC-ES® PMG. He is also excited that Quick Drain USA—which makes one product and one product only—is made in the good old USA, his adopted homeland, “the greatest country in the world.”

“People here are thankful for the manufacturing jobs we give them,” he said. “And since our product is made close by to our headquarters, we know for certain it’s

quality stuff. And now our ICC-ES® PMG Listing (PMG-1042) proves it.”

Right now, Quick Drain USA consists of just four employees—including Erlebach and his wife Barbara. “It’s important we keep it close and know what’s going on. Any decisions can be made immediately.” That means a lot of long hours, long days, and long weeks for the Erlebachs, but they’re building their own American Dream.

It seems Quick Drain USA might just be at the right place, the right time. “The most popular remodel in the U.S. right now is taking out a 5-foot tub and replacing it with a walk-in shower,” he said. “That’s what we do the best.”



Erlebach doesn’t think his company is done with ICC-ES®. “We can’t stagnate,” he said. “We’re working on second and third generations of the design now.”

It looks like the Erlebachs’ success story is proof that people are still building better mousetraps—and people are still beating a path to the builders’ doors.

To find out more about this product, view **PMG-1042: Quick Drain USA low profile linear shower drains** (www.icc-es-pmg.org/Listing_Directory/pdf/PMG-1042.pdf), which was issued July 1, 2009. All ICC-ES® PMG Listings can be accessed and downloaded free of charge at www.icc-es-pmg.org/Listing_Directory.

This article is intended to provide information on a product for which an ICC-ES® PMG Listing has recently been issued. It should not be construed as a product endorsement or a recommendation for its use.