

## Some Design Ideas for Bathroom Remodeling



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### A New Look to an Old Bathroom

With paint, primer, sand paper, a few common hand tools and time you can give that old bathroom a new 'fresh' look.

First, remove curtains, items on top of the vanity, shower curtains and rod, and any other loose items as well as any outlet or switch plates, and soap or tooth brush holders attached on the walls. Use painter tape to tape over any outlets and switches to keep them clean and paint free.

If the old vanity, window molding, baseboard or crown molding have been stained and/or polyurethane you must first sand then to remove the sheen to them for the primer to adhere properly. Take your time sanding and take care in sanding any molding that is shaped as to not sand down out any of the details. Also, remove any hardware from the vanity or closet, if there is one in the bathroom.

If you plan on changing the hardware, it would be best to use wood putty to fill in the old holes now in case the hardware does not line up. This would also be a good time to fill in any nail holes left from years of changing curtain rods. With the sheen removed from all surfaces needed and cleaned well to make sure the surface is dust free, time to prime the vanity and trim. If you are changing the wall color to a lighter color, you should prime the walls as well.

Where possible, remove any drawers, vanity cabinet doors or other doors to be painted laying horizontally for a better finished look. For the adventurous do-it-yourself homeowner, removing the window and door trim, baseboard, and crown molding to either paint or even replace is always an option. When painting the walls, it is best to use a brush to cut-in at the ceiling, the inside corners and around the windows and doors first, then you can use a roller to finish the walls. Two coats of paint maybe required to cover the old paint.

Now, on to painting that old vanity with a good semi-gloss paint. Remember a bright color for the vanity and trim/molding will brighten up what is typically a dull room. Here is where time and patients will prevail to get a professional finished. Using a good paint brush, paint in long continuous stroke, all in the same direction. For any panel doors on the vanity, follow the wood grain on the vertical and horizontal stiles and rails. Using the same technique, paint the window and door molding with nice long even strokes.

After all the painting is complete, time to finish this new fresh look bathroom. Replacing the vanity hardware with new updated handles and hinges will change the appearance of the old drawer and doors. Now, brighten up the windows by using blinds for privacy and light curtains for that 'open' feel. The same thought process can be done for the tub, a new plastic curtain to hang inside the tub and a light fabric outer curtain to hang outside the tub can help change the appearance of a gloomy tub.

The overall look should be geared to a light airy bright feel.

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## Renovate Your Bathroom the Easy Way



Bathrooms are the easiest room in the home to decorate since they are generally the smallest room in the home. Just because it is a smaller room does not mean the decorating is not as important but it means that it could take you less time and mean you making fewer decisions. The bathroom can be decorated with plenty of beautiful things and ideas. It can be a delightful experience for the person who wants to create a pleasant bathroom.

Decorating the bathroom can consist of adding figurines, adding decorative borders, adding pictures, wall hangings and even adding new trash baskets and sink items. The ability to change the bathroom can also include adding new curtains and a new shower curtain. Simple things will make a

big difference.

Decorating the bathroom does not have to be complicated. Do small things to change the look or enhance the current look. Depending on the desired look, different steps can be taken to make the bathroom a more pleasant place. Add designer hand towels as accents. Add things to accent the décor. The things can be found at any retail store. There are plenty different options to choose from so the chance of finding the perfect added touch is endless.

There are magazines that have different bathroom decorating ideas. Buy a magazine if you do not know exactly what to do to the bathroom. The magazines will offer more options for the bathrooms and they have many new ideas for every size of bathroom.

The ideas range from completely changing the bathroom to adding accents and enhancing the current décor. With the numerous ideas on decorating the bathroom, there is a theme or style

for everyone. The changes will not need to be expensive, just beautiful. The ideas will make subtle changes for the room that everyone uses. Make the changes and make a great impression on the people in your life. Show off the new bathroom with pride and confidence.

The internet has several websites dedicated to decorating rooms of the home. The bathroom is one of most popular rooms to decorate. Visit the websites and find new ideas. Use the information on the website and apply it to the bathroom. Experience the new bathroom and enjoy taking the time to make the changes. Creating a new look for the bathroom will mean a lot to you once you have finished the project. You will be proud to know you did it yourself. You will be happy you did. To see the new bathroom décor will mean you now have the abilities to do more decorating in the future. You will have more confidence once you have decorated the bathroom for the first time.

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## Picking a Theme for your Bathroom Design

Designing the bathroom can be so much fun. There are many possibilities to create nice setting for the bathroom. The design for the bathroom is based on many factors. Things to take into consideration include the preferences to the individuals, budget available, and space of the bathroom.

For smaller budgets, simple steps to create a unique design are available. Selecting a theme for the bathroom is the starting point. The theme used includes selecting the colors used in the bathroom. This will expand the options and present a prettier room.



Small touches of decorated items will change the appearance of the entire room. Select items such as cups, toothbrush holders, and soap dishes or dispensers with a shape, color, or design. Carry the theme further with curtains on the windows or shower. Add bathmats and rugs in the same theme. Use the same color scheme and step it up a notch. The option of using figurines or wall hangings will add even more to the designs of the room.

Different items used in the bathroom can create a very different look for the bathroom. Using fixtures for the towels, toilet paper, and hooks will enhance the look. Use brass to brighten up the room. Brass is classy and inexpensive.

The themes vary from jungles to romantic to trendy. The different types of themes can go out of fashions so to avoid using a trendy theme will help to prevent needing to redo the bathroom over time. It is not expensive to redecorate with smaller items yet it is not wise to select a theme that will provide years of enjoyment.

To select the theme for the bathroom is easy. Visit any retail store and browse the items in that department. It is suggested to visit more than one store since fashions in one store may not be available in another and the idea of decorating is to have more options available. One store may carry a theme such as angels yet to match the items from that store at another may become impossible.

Select a theme and color provided by multiple locations. This will save time and expense since the one store may charge a higher price for the items while another will have lower prices and offer a better selection yet the exact theme is not available. Keep the options open for expanding the needed items for the bathroom.

When deciding on the theme and color, experiment with layout of the items. Select locations throughout the bathroom for the items that allow for changes. It will take time to get the perfect creation of the items, but that is part of the fun with designing the bathroom. Take the time to enjoy the new designs by leaving the options available to modify the new design in the future.

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## Checking For Damage Before A Bathroom Remodel

It's no secret that the bathroom is the most costly part of a house to remodel, even if it usually the smallest room in any house. The reason for this expense is the entire plumbing infrastructure that has to be installed as well as the fact that the bathroom is often a humid environment that needs to be controlled.

One major issue with remodelling a bathroom is that very often, you don't know how good or bad of a state the plumbing is in until you get started with the remodel. If you want to completely remodel your bathroom that will usually mean getting an entirely new toilet, vanity and bath tub and/or shower. You may well also want to install new lighting or at least update what you have in your bathroom. You may also need to update your wiring, especially if you live in an old house.

One thing you need to beware of is covering up damage. You may find that people have done that before you in your house but it can only add to greater problems later. For instance, old, damaged tiles may be covered up with acrylic panelling. That is a bad idea because typically, tiles are damaged by water or at least humidity, and covering that kind of damage up will only make the problem worse. If you cover this damage up without repairing it you really are asking for trouble, providing the perfect environment for mold to grow.

Another popular spot for mold to grow is in the carpets that are more often in old bathrooms. If you're lucky, though, peeling back the old carpet might reveal beautiful hardwood floors that you can renovate.

If your bathroom has drywalls, the chances are that this will be in pretty bad condition. Drywall is unable to cope with a bathroom's humidity and dampness. Do not just try to cover up the damp damage on a way. You need to remove the wall covering that is damaged and instead use a special wall covering that is intended for the humid conditions within a bathroom.

In your bathroom remodel, once you remove the old bathroom fixtures, that is when you will really be able to tell how much damage there is to your bathroom. Taking out a tub or shower will often uncover damaged floors or walls. It is a good idea to do a thorough check for mold once you have removed all these fixtures. Consider getting in mold removal experts unless you know what you're doing with this.

Take a close look at the floor beneath the tub. Is it damaged, warped or soft? If it is, this may suggest problems with the subfloor or even the joists or floor beams. Problems here are really something worth calling in expert help for. If the bathroom fixtures look like they haven't been replaced in quite some time, this may suggest there are very old plumbing pipes lurking

beneath. The pipes could even be made of lead, which will have to be replaced. Otherwise, the plumbing in old houses may be cast iron and repairing these can be quite expensive. You should also check the bathroom infrastructure such as stud walls for damage such as rot and mold. The same could be said of the floors, especially if there are cracked floor tiles.

Knowing what damage to look for and where to spot it is an essential part of preparing for a successful bathroom remodel.

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## How to Make the Most of your Small Bathroom



Everyone who has ever hurried out of their tiny, cramped bathroom will identify with the wish to find ways to make a small bathroom appear to be larger than it actually is. You can't always extend or completely remodel the whole bathroom. That's not always practical or affordable. Thankfully, there are several easy things you can do to make your small bedroom appear larger.

The first important thing to consider is the color of your bathroom walls. To make a small bathroom seem larger it is best to

stick to light pale colors for the main colors but you can accent with something bolder and darker. Darker colors would give your bathroom a more intimate feel but they may be too oppressive in an already small bathroom.

If you use wallpaper in your small bathroom, make sure they you use neither a big print nor a pattern which is too busy. Subtle wallpaper designs are better for small bathrooms, perhaps with no pattern at all. One unusual idea would be to use the largest wall in your bathroom for a mural of an outside scene such as countryside, sky or a garden. That can be quite an eye-catcher!

Just as with the walls, the floor colors in a small bathroom should be kept light. That will give the illusion of there being more space in the room. Tan, pale grey and light blue are popular colors for the flooring of a small bathroom. Your flooring will give you a good basis for the dñcor for the rest of your small bathroom.

In a small bathroom, you have to take care with the fixtures and fittings too. A pedestal sink that is slimmer and more streamlined will give the appearance of more space in a small bathroom than a traditional vanity or countertop will. You can find a wide variety of styles in pedestal sinks so you are sure to find one to fit your bathroom design, taste and budget. Simple fixtures with plain designs and neutral colors are best for a smaller bathroom as they don't make it look cluttered. You should also try not to clutter a small room with laundry hampers and unnecessary accessories etc. You will also want to give attention to putting additional lighting into a small bathroom. Use high wattage bulbs to make the room as bright as possible. Also, make as much use of natural light as you can. You may be able to install extra windows or a skylight to let the natural light pour in and make the room look bigger. Add a mirror to reflect what light you can back into the room. Following just these few simple tips should allow you to make the best use of a small bathroom and create the illusion of space which will allow you to create a stylish, practical and even beautiful bathroom.

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## **Small Touches that Give Big Bathroom Ideas**

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## **Turning Your Bathroom Into a Luxury Spa**

After a long, hard day at work, aren't you just longing to relax and unwind at home? How better to do that than in your bathroom? Of course, your bathroom isn't such a great get away from it all retreat if it is all functional, hard, bright surfaces, but it doesn't have to cost the earth to transform your boring, functional bathroom into a luxurious master spa suite retreat. The new technology which is so easily available in a wide price range also means that you can be happy

that you are also taking environmentally friendly options. Money spent on building a spa room in your home is never money lost as not only will you be thrilled by the hours you spend relaxing in your very own private sanctuary; you will also be likely to recoup almost the whole cost if and when you go on to sell your property with a spa room.

Bathrooms used to be tiny, cramped little rooms we just did the necessary in and then rushed straight out of. However, these days, people are more often in search of a place to relax, and the bathroom is prime candidate. You may even want to consider extending the bathroom into the adjoining room to give yourself more room to relax.

Bathroom technology has really advanced. Power showers, multiple head showers and saunas are common. Reflective light bath tubs, heated floors etc are all things that are close behind in the bathroom popularity stakes. All these will give your bathroom all the comfort and relaxation offered in a spa.

Air jet whirlpools are also becoming a very popular luxury spa bathroom addition. Steam is forced under high pressure to give a champagne bubble effect through the water to gently massage your cares away. Enhance that experience with sea salt or bath oils and lie back and relax, safe in the knowledge that an air jet whirlpool also reduces the likelihood of fungus growth and also lessens the risks of hair, jewelry being sucked up into the jets.

Chromatherapy units, stimulating given moods with various colored lights, are a great luxury addition to any spa bathroom. This holistic therapy has been shown to lift moods and help people to relax. Further enhance this with inline heaters which maintain a constant water temperature.

All these luxury spa bathroom additions may sound like they will cost the earth, but they certainly don't have to be expensive. Whirlpool baths are actually very economical. They are available in a wide range of colors and styles. They can be fitted in a corner or in any space where a regular bath tub fits.

Soaking tubs where you can immerse yourself in water up to the chin are also popular choices for a luxury spa bathroom. Again, these are available in many styles and sizes.

It is not only the shower or bath which is important in creating a luxury spa bathroom. The flooring is also a major part of the design. Under-floor heating is one way to heat the room through electricity or water. Why step from a lovely warm bath to a cold floor when you don't have to?

While you are doing all that relaxing in the bathroom, how about adding an entertainment system? You can have music and TV at your fingertips with televisions behind mirrors and everything controlled by waterproof remote controls.

Upgrade your fixtures and fittings and lie back enjoying the grand features of your luxury spa bathroom.

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**Bring Freshness into your Bathroom Decor**



Bathrooms are the easiest rooms to decorate. They are generally a smaller room. The items for the bathrooms tend to be less expensive. There are many different ways to design the bathroom. The options are limitless in regards to what can be done within the bathroom.

The hardest part of bathroom design is selecting the colors and theme to be used. Due to so many available options, it will take serious thought and consideration for finding just the right design for each individual. One of the best ways to

approach designing the bathroom is to make a list of the colors and possible themes. This will help making the choices.

Visit a store and see what is available for the bathroom. Get a general idea of the colors. There are many different colors and shades of colors. Each color can enhance or take away from the theme so select a complimenting color. People notice the colors in a room, so selecting the perfect color is very important.

One terrific way to use colors is to use different shades throughout the theme. An example of this technique is in the theme of ferns. Use the full range of greens that are associated with the natural foliage. The colors range from light green, to medium green, to the darkest green. Use the colors by purchasing different colors of rugs and bathmats. Accentuate the theme with the colored rugs. The effect is stunning.

Still using the fern theme, use a shower curtain with the fern design to accent that area of the bathroom. Add curtains to room with the same design. Find applications for the wall such as a small fern or painting with a fern in it. Use medium green bathmat and a darker green rug. Buy a cup and soap dish with a fern design. The appearance of the room will be beautiful and peaceful. Classy but not too overwhelming since the fern is a calming theme.

There are fixtures that are available with the fern theme. Towel holders, toilet paper holders, and hooks added to the bathroom will enhance the theme used. Using the additional fixtures will also provide for added usage of the room for the needed fixtures. Having a place to hang the bathrobe will now have a special location on the hook. The towels can be placed on the towel holders allowing for more needed room.

A person can use this technique with any theme. They can use additional items to make the bathroom personalized and unique to their individual tastes. The bathroom needs to display the individual's personal preferences. Use the things liked best and create a classical and unique bathroom inexpensively...

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## **Bathroom Floor Tiling**

In order to get a professional looking job with bathroom floor tiling, it is best to remove the toilet instead of tiling around it. Tiling around the toilet is perfectly acceptable if all the cuts are done correctly and you do not end up with too many small pieces. It is best to just remove the toilet with a few hand tools. First shut off the water supply and flush the toilet a few times to drain as

much water as possible. When the water is drained, put a towel into the tank to absorb the remaining water and disconnect the hose going into the bottom of the tank. Then using a flat head screwdriver, pry up the caps at the base covering the mounting bolts. With a wrench or pair of pliers, undo the bolts, one on each side, and carefully remove the toilet and place in a different room.

Floor preparation is next. In order to get a lasting floor, the base needs to be stable and if possible adding a layer of concrete board will ensure tiles do not flex and possibly crack. If this is not possible the existing floor needs to be removed and the sub-floor should be screwed off every 6 – 8 inches. When the floor is solid, then next step would be to pre-layout the tile by finding the center of the room and laying tile to all four walls. By doing this ahead of time, it may be necessary to adjust the tile to end up with the smallest pieces at the wall or doorway.

When laying out the tile after a dry fit, there should be no surprises with a hand tile cutter for straight cuts, and tile nippers for around any pipes from baseboard heat or other plumbing. Following the tile manufacturing specifications for mortar mix and tile notch, follow the dry fit placement starting in one quarter and working your way out the door. Remember to work so you end up out the doorway. After the mortar set, the tile needs to be grouted. (Hint: Darker grout for a bathroom floor will look newer for a long period of time as to a white/lighter color.) When grouting the floor, hold the rubber float at a 45 degree angle and force the grout deep in between the tiles going diagonal to the tile as well, back and forth to make sure the entire gap is full. With most of the grout scrapped off, use a damp sponge and wipe off the extra going slowly and carefully as to not pull the grout back out of the gaps. After an hour or so, a haze will form and need to be buffed off with a soft cloth before it dries too much.

After the grout has fully dried, it would be best to now seal the grout with a sealer found at any hardware store. It is best to do it while the room is still new and clear of debris. Also, if the toilet was removed, an adapter maybe needed to remount the toilet as the flooring now is higher then the flange mounted on the floor. With a new wax mounting ring and a small bead of caulking around the base of the toilet, reinstall the toilet and tighten the two flange mounting bolts and cover the bolts with the decorative caps. Re-attach the water supply being careful not to crack the plastic nut and turn water on looking for leaks. Then, stand back and enjoy your new bathroom floor.

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## Choosing a Bathroom Tile

Just by choosing the perfect bathroom tile you can transform a very ordinary looking bathroom into a relaxing treat better than any expensive spa vacation. Re-tiling your bathroom is an easy, convenient way to remodel your bathroom, even on a small budget. There is a wide range of tile designs available but the old favourites are still possible: harlequin, stone and marble can be seen again and again and can be used to give a variety of looks and moods. Also now, people are becoming bolder in the colors they use in their bathroom designs.

The harlequin design makes clever use of tiles by turning them through forty-five degrees so



that they are like diamond shapes. Black and white is the classic color way for the harlequin design of tiling. This classic look with its clean lines looks good with any different styles of bathroom fitting but is probably most closely associated with a traditional white bath tub. It can give a very expensive look to your bathroom without having cost you very much at all. However, it can easily show fingerprints.

If you are looking for a cosier, more relaxed feeling to your bathroom, look for tiles that have natural stone designs in muted colors. They add real warmth to the look of the bathroom. If you have a slightly larger tiling budget, you could opt for marble. However, if you want to save a little money on your bathroom remodelling project, you can find many good bathroom tiles which don't cost too much. Perhaps you could design a tiling layout that uses mainly plainer, less expensive tiles which are accented by a few more expensive tiles as accents.

Tiles come in a range of sizes and shapes now which as well as fitting many themes, can also allow you to play around with the dimensions of your bathroom a bit. Mosaic tiles which are easily applied in bonded sheets will make a small shower room seem much larger. Rectangular tiles can made a bathroom appear wider or higher, according to which way the tiles are laid on the wall, if their design allows for that flexibility.

Tiling is not a difficult job, except perhaps for the cutting of them to fill in gaps. When you tackle a tiling project it is a good idea to plan out your tiles so that you have as few cuts as possible to do and do them carefully with a proper tile cutter. Use the right tile adhesive and grouting recommended for your tiles and apply it carefully, according to the manufacturer's instructions, to get the most from your tiles and create a beautiful bathroom which fits any budget and style.

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## Choosing Bathroom Furniture



Deciding which bathroom furniture to purchase tend to be overwhelming to many people. They do not know to begin when making the selection of the furniture. The best way to approach bathroom furniture to know the amount of space needed. To find out the space needed, it is wise to measure the area for the new furniture. Knowing the measurements will help with the selection of the furniture and making the best decision for the purchase.

The bathroom furniture all come in different sizes and shapes. This is a benefit for the different styles of bathrooms since there are so many versions of bathrooms. There is no such thing as a "standard" bathroom. Even bathrooms in mass produces homes or apartments are not identical.

Always take measurement of the area for the furniture to guarantee the furniture will fit and will have enough space for cleaning. It is important to leave enough space on the sides of the furniture when it is installed.

After getting the measurements for the space where the furniture is to be placed, it is time to select the right sized furniture. Take the measurements to the store where the furniture is going to be purchased. This information will help selecting the furniture. The box the furniture is in has the measurements of the furniture once it is assembled.

Select the furniture based on the available space. This is the hardest part, knowing the exact piece of furniture and style. Take the furniture home and assemble it. If it is wall-mounted item, secure it to the wall properly.

Rearrange the items in the bathroom. This can include adding to the new space the furniture provides or placing the older things back to where they were before installing the new furniture. The newly added furniture will create a new design feature in the home bathroom. It adds space as well as to the décor.

Remember the new furniture may not be able to take too much weight. Do not overload the furniture. It can become unstable and cause an accident. Taking precautions with the furniture is the best way to use it. Some furniture will require a “settling” period. This means it will need to adjust to being assembled, while other furniture does not need that time.

Read the information on the furniture carefully to know of any issues or care that it may require. Always take the time to know about any new furniture to get the best use of the items. Learn of any manufacturer’s recommendations the furniture may have listed. Educate yourself on the features of the items as well as the care to prolong the life of the furniture.

The furniture is an investment to the bathroom. Take good care of it and it should last a long time.

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## **Bathroom Furniture for Storage**

Bathrooms do not always have enough space for storage. There are ways to increase the storage space without making the room look cluttered or unattractive. Many different types of bathroom furniture can add to the bathroom appearance and even enhance it while adding the needed space.

Depending on the décor of the bathroom, the budget for the bathroom, and available space, there are many options for selecting furniture for the bathroom. There are different types of furniture for the bathroom. Some examples are wall-mounted cabinets, floor cabinets, stands behind the toilet, and shelving on the walls.

Some of the furniture requires assembly. The cabinets are usually assembled and ready for installation as are the floor cabinets and shelves. The stands usually need minimum assembly with a screwdriver. The ease of adding furniture to the bathroom is simple for many people. That is what makes it so appealing.

Bathroom furniture adds additional storage space for the smaller rooms that have inadequate space. It also can add to the style of the room and create a new look too. The use of the furniture is completely up to the individuals and their needs as to how the furniture is used.

Furniture is available in wood, plastic, and metal. These options of different materials can be exactly a match to the current décor so adding the furniture will not create an unpleasant sight

for the room. They also come in different finishes. The wood has different colors of wood grain. The plastic has different colors, and some are available that can be painted to create a more custom addition. The metal items have different finishes such as brass, chrome, and white.

With the different styles, materials, and finishes, all the furniture can be added with confidence of fitting into the current design in the bathroom. All the furniture has different added features that anyone can make good use of, which is one of the many reasons people decide to add the furniture.

For the person that decides to add furniture but does not like the store ready furniture, they have the options of having cabinetmaker design custom furniture for the bathroom. This costs more money yet it is a sure way to get exactly the furniture desired for the room. The specialized furniture will be unique to the customer and the bathroom. Depending on the maker of the furniture, the individuals will have a warranty for the replacement of the furniture. The warranty covers the furniture breaking, falling apart, and other important issues bathroom furniture may have due to the humidity of the bathroom. If having custom furniture made, ask about the type of warranty provided. Make sure the warranty will cover damage from humidity.

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## **Choosing Bathroom Furniture with Useful Storage**

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## **Fitting Your Bathroom Furniture into the Space**

Deciding which bathroom furniture to purchase tend to be overwhelming to many people. They do not know to begin when making the selection of the furniture. The best way to approach bathroom furniture to know the amount of space needed. To find out the space needed, it is wise to measure the area for the new furniture. Knowing the measurements will help with the selection of the furniture and making the best decision for the purchase.

The bathroom furniture all come in different sizes and shapes. This is a benefit for the different styles of bathrooms since there are so many versions of bathrooms. There is no such thing as a “standard” bathroom. Even bathrooms in mass produces homes or apartments are not identical.

Always take measurement of the area for the furniture to guarantee the furniture will fit and will have enough space for cleaning. It is important to leave enough space on the sides of the furniture when it is installed.

After getting the measurements for the space where the furniture is to be placed, it is time to select the right sized furniture. Take the measurements to the store where the furniture is going to be purchased. This information will help selecting the furniture. The box the furniture is in has the measurements of the furniture once it is assembled.

Select the furniture based on the available space. This is the hardest part, knowing the exact piece of furniture and style. Take the furniture home and assemble it. If it is wall-mounted item, secure it to the wall properly.

Rearrange the items in the bathroom. This can include adding to the new space the furniture provides or placing the older things back to where they were before installing the new furniture. The newly added furniture will create a new design feature in the home bathroom. It adds space as well as to the décor.

Remember the new furniture may not be able to take too much weight. Do not overload the furniture. It can become unstable and cause an accident. Taking precautions with the furniture is the best way to use it. Some furniture will require a “settling” period. This means it will need to adjust to being assembled, while other furniture does not need that time.

Read the information on the furniture carefully to know of any issues or care that it may require. Always take the time to know about any new furniture to get the best use of the items. Learn of any manufacturer’s recommendations the furniture may have listed. Educate yourself on the features of the items as well as the care to prolong the life of the furniture.

The furniture is an investment to the bathroom. Take good care of it and it should last a long time.

## Copper Bathroom Sinks Add an Easy Elegant Touch



Copper bathroom sinks are becoming increasingly popular because they are not only beautiful but very functional too. They are not cheap, so they would not be within everyone's budget, but if you can, there are several reasons why you might go for copper bathroom sinks.

### Low Maintenance and Cleaner Sinks

Built to last you have to do very little to copper sinks once they are installed. Sure, they tarnish with age and the copper takes on a unique patina, if left alone to oxidize naturally. It slowly turns a wonderful bronze color. Soap and water is all the cleaning it needs, no harsh cleaners. They can, if you want, be treated to retain their original coloring, or at least close to it. Made from thick sheets of copper, they absorb noise, so you don't have to worry about feeling you're inside a bell if you drop your tooth mug into the basin!

Copper bathroom sinks offer a high standard of sanitation. Its naturally

antibacterial surface means that bacteria do not live for long on its surface – a few hours, as opposed to a few days, which is the life expectancy of bacteria on stainless steel.

### Added Elegance

Copper bathroom sinks add an extra air of elegance to any room, no matter how small or how large. Most are made exclusively by hand, which is why they don't come cheap, but it means they can be found in styles to fit virtually every bathroom décor. The fact that they come on different treated finishes to give a variety in color helps with that. Hammered finishes can also be found, which add a real touch of artwork to the most utilitarian of household appliances: the sink. Because copper is hammered into shape anyway, and these unique marks are all part of its charm, you don't have to be such a perfectionist. A few knocks and scrapes only add to the beauty of copper bathroom sinks. They are strong enough to last a lifetime.

### A Few Words of Warning

Copper bathroom sinks are quite a big investment. You need to make sure you are buying one that is of high quality. Less expensive copper sinks are made from recycled copper and may be only ninety per cent copper, which is perhaps not what you thought you were buying at all. They may also not last as long as the real deal in copper bathroom sinks so they will end up costing you more in repair and replacement in the long run.

So, there are real practical and health and hygiene advantages to having bathroom copper sinks; if you can afford them, you are getting a really beautiful addition to any bathroom. No matter what the style, you can buy or have made, just the right copper bathroom sinks for your needs.

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## **How to Replace a Tub Faucet**

In older homes the bathtub may have a hot and cold faucet handle which can be dangerous and scald young children. To replace an older two handle faucet with a single anti-scalding faucet, a new cover plate, and access to the plumbing is all that is required.

First, turn off the water supply lines, both hot and cold water lines. After the water is off, remove the small end caps from the handles and with a screwdriver remove the screw and then each handle. With a pair of channel lock pliers and a soft cloth, unscrew the spout, being careful as to not scratch it. After this is removed, using the same pliers, remove the shower head and pipe.

Now, from the back of the tub, the copper supply lines will need to be cut and all the pipes from the spout, faucets and shower head should be removed. New copper pipes need to be re-fitted and used to get a good solid leak free conversion. But centering the new handle and marking, cut a hole from the tube side to mount the new mixer handle. Remember to be careful if the wall is tiled and use the proper drill bit.

The new handle mounts from the rear of the tube and all copper piping needs to be dry fit before soldering all the pipes for a proper fit. After the initial fitting, soldering the pipes with a lead-free solder and make sure all pipes are secured per the new faucet manufacturers specification. When all the plumbing is complete, go back to the inside of the tube for final installation.

From the front now, you will see the new handle in the center of the tub and two empty holes, one on each side. This is where the new cover plate will install covering the new handle assembly and the empty hole for a nice clean professional finish. Use the instructions to mount the cover plate and caulk as required. Carefully line up the spout and with a soft cloth and pliers, tighten the spout making sure the output ends up pointing down. Following the same procedure, install the shower head finished pipe and head. The last few finishing touches are the cover to go over the mixer valve sticking out the cover plate and then the handle itself that will screw on the end of the valve and a small cover cap to hide the screw. With everything in place, turn on both supplies and look for leaks and then try out your new bathtub faucet. Also note, the water temperature will not change when the toilet is flushed now due to the new anti-scalding valve.

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## **How to Replace an Old Vanity with a NEW Pedestal Sink**

The fixtures and fittings are a vital part of a bathroom makeover. You don't want the look of your new bathroom spoiled by outdated fixtures do you? That is why it is important that you know

how to replace an old vanity with a beautiful new pedestal sink to get your bathroom makeover off to a great start.

To begin, you must turn off the hot and cold water supply to the vanity sink. After the water is off, disconnect the supply lines, waste line, and remove the sink by either removing the entire counter top, or just removing the bowl from the counter top. With the sink removed, the vanity should be easier to un-screw from the wall and carefully removed without disrupting the existing plumbing.

With the vanity removed, the flooring may need to be patched/repared as the pedestal sink will sit on the finished flooring. If the plumbing comes up from the floor, this will have to be addressed now by cutting out section of sheetrock and flooring if needed. Re-plumb the water supply and drain connection in the wall and use the manufacturers' template to position the plumbing in the wall. Remember that the new water supply lines, shut off valves and drain will be exposed so using new valves with a finish ring to match room and a metal, (copper or stainless steel) drain instead of PVC will give it a professional finished look.

With the wall exposed this would be a good time to place the new sink on the pedestal to measure where to mount a 2x6 in between the studs to bolt the sink to later. After the plumbing is moved and the wall is repaired, place the sink into position on the pedestal to mark the mounting holes on the wall and the floor. If the flooring is tiled, use a proper drill bit to pre-drill and not crack the flooring. At this point, mounting the faucet, drain, and trap to the sink would be easier before is securely fastened. Now, using new braided water supply lines, attach one end up under the sink to the hot and cold fittings on the faucet leaving the other end loose for now.

For the final installation, take your time as it will be tight making the final plumbing connections. Slowly move the new sink and pedestal close to position, but not tight up to the wall yet. Connect the two water lines hanging down from the sink to the proper hot and cold water supply fittings and tighten. Now, slowly align the drain and tape while sliding the sink and pedestal into position. Here is where it will take time to tighten the trap to the drain in this limited space being careful not to damage the wall. When everything is tight, push the sink and pedestal into place aligning it with the pre-marked holes on the wall and floor. Using the supplied lag bolts, securely fasten the sink to the wall and the pedestal to the floor.

Turn on the water supply and look for leaks, tightening where needed. Your new sink will give your bathroom a clean, open feel and look.

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## **Replacing a Bathtub**

Replacing an old tub with a new fiberglass tub and shower surround is not as hard as you think. For remodeling jobs, there are new two piece tub/shower replacements designed to be able to fit through the typically smaller bathroom doors.

The first job is to remove the old tub, which will be messy, so be prepared. Take a rag or duct tape and cover the drain to keep debris out. Before the destruction phase, turn off the water supply lines, both hot and cold water lines. After the water is off, remove the small end caps from the handles and with a screwdriver remove the screw and then each handle. With a pair of channel lock pliers and a soft cloth, unscrew the spout, being careful as to not scratch it. After this is removed, using the same pliers, remove the shower head and pipe.

Now, carefully start to remove the shower walls by using gloves and a small sledge hammer, knock out piece of the existing wall, right to the studs remembering to remove all the screws and nails. It is important to take care in and around the tub faucet and shower head, leaving the existing plumbing in place to be re-used later. Now for the tub removal, an old cast iron tub will break apart with a little force, or if there is a big enough window or door, remove the drain and spout and with help remove the entire tub.

With the tube removed and the shower wall area completely striped back to the studs, make any repairs needed to the flooring, plumbing or existing framing. The new tub should be in two pieces, the tub and the shower walls, all three sides, as a second piece. This will have only one seam at the top of the tub, but hidden and leak free. Position the new tub in place, propping up one end to connect the drain to the new tub then slowly position into place. Follow the manufactures instructions if you need to drill a hole for the spout. With the tub in place, bring in the shower wall section, and again follow the manufactures instructions if you need to drill a hole for the faucet and/or the shower head. The tub and shower wall unit is designed to interlock with a leak free single seam for a clean seamless look. After the wall section is installed, using new 'greenboard', a water resistant sheetrock designed for bathroom, patch in at the top of the shower walls as needed.

With the faucet and showerhead re-installed, turn on the water and test the new tub. That should be your new bath tub successfully installed!

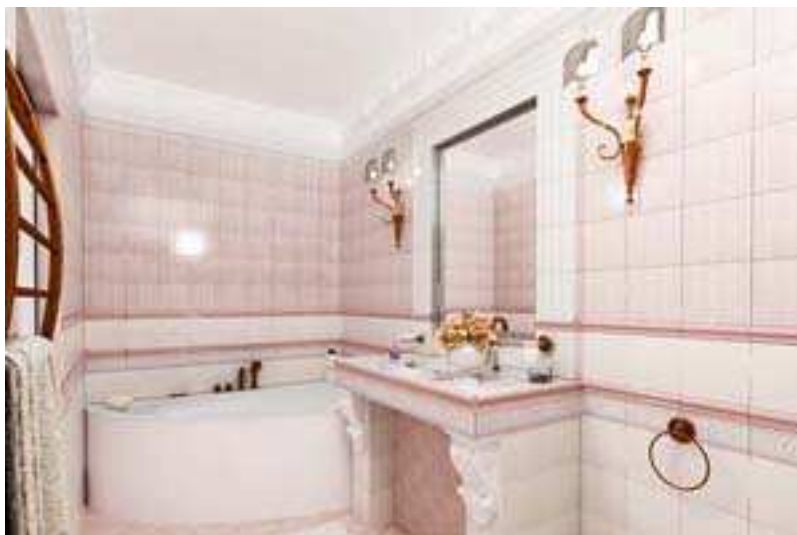
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## Complete Your Bathroom Remodel with the Right Decor

Selecting the decor of the bathroom can be a lot of fun or it can be dreaded event. To make it a better experience, select a fun theme with pleasant colors. The bathroom is supposed to be a relaxing place to enjoy the surroundings while in use. Take the steps to make it a place where everyone in the family can enjoy and relax while they are there.

There are many different options for creating the decor. For women, it is the one place they can use the pretty things men do not usually want in other parts of the home. It is a place where they can make their mark and create a pleasant place to relax in the tub and soak while being surrounded with calm peaceful things.



Take the time to find things that will generate the tranquility desired when relaxing in the tub after the long hard day. Use calm colors that will provide peacefulness to the mind. Use colors that will be subtle and calm. The colors that create this feeling are pastels and light colors such as peach, mint, beige, pink, yellow, light blue, lavender, and any other soft colors. Different trends have used these colors and have created a very calming effect.

Use a theme such as angels, plants, and other calming things. This will create a nice theme while being stylish and beautiful. Angels represent peace, love, and harmony. The designs can be cherubs or angels in clouds. The soothing effect of angels is a wonderful theme to use for the bathroom.

Plants represent life and tranquility. They are lively and inspirational. They tend to make people think of calmer times and provide a sense of living life. Themes with plants include ferns, flowers, and jungles themes. The jungle themes are a winner with children who enjoy the idea of having the wildlife on the walls and shower curtain.

The other calming themes can be wild life or landscapes that include flowers and meadows. They will make the person using the bathroom have a sense of being in a different location. They will be able to imagine the scenery as being real. It will help them to relax and have inner calmness.

Softer colors can also provide the calmness and tranquility most people want for the bathroom. Pastels and softer shades of colors make the bathroom lively. The colors are refreshing. The bathroom is supposed to be a room for feeling refreshed. Using the soft colors will help to achieve the refreshing feeling in the bathroom.

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