



# 6 Features Of Your New Bathroom to Plan For Before A Renovation



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# 6 Features of Your New Bathroom to Plan For Before a Renovation

A bathroom remodeling project can add a significant amount of comfort and value to your home. Whether you're looking to incorporate more storage and updated fixtures in a shared family bathroom or expand the square footage of your current bathroom for a true master bath, it's important to make sure every aspect of the renovation meets your needs.

When you first meet with your custom bathroom designers, it's a good idea to have a vision. Tell them what everything you're thinking, from an overarching theme to any nitpicky details: They'll work with you to make it happen or present you with other viable options.

As you start planning your renovation project, consider six important bathroom features before construction begins.

## 1. THE SIZE OF YOUR BATHROOM

The scope of the project is a critical part of a new bathroom's design: Many people decide to tackle a remodeling project when the size of their bathroom no longer suits their needs. Whether your family is expanding or the space's potential just isn't being maximized, you should figure out the scope of the job first.

Expanding a bathroom often requires the movement of major fixtures: the sink, the shower and the toilet. However, because plumbing changes can be expensive, design experts recommend that you do a cost benefit analysis before starting the project.

Adding space should also add value to the bathroom. You'll want to get the most out of your money by improving the space's overall function. For example, installing a larger shower with more square footage can be a financially smart move, while adding a little more elbow room may not be worth the investment in the long run.

**One quick tip on a common scope problem to avoid:** Make sure you have enough space in adjacent rooms to steal from when expanding your bathroom. You won't add value to your overall house by making a lavish master bathroom, but reducing a guest bedroom to the size of a closet.

## 2. STORAGE

Despite whether you increase the dimensions of your bathroom, you'll want to install some custom storage options to fit your family's needs and maximize space.

Recessed closets are a popular option that can provide an enormous amount of additional space. With a recessed closet, you'd be expanding your design project into another room without increasing the footprint of the actual bathroom. These closets can have any number of pull-out drawers and shelves for towels, cloths, hampers, cosmetics, toiletries and cleaning supplies.

Drawers and cabinets under vanities are also useful for storing many bathroom items without creating clutter. Floating shelves, vanity towers and cabinets above the toilet are also feasible options.

**One quick tip on a common storage problem to avoid:** Plan for the future. Don't limit your storage needs to what you currently use. Think about adding extra space for what you might need in the future, especially if you have a young family.

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### 3. SHOWERS AND BATHTUBS

Showers and bathtubs can be the centerpieces of bathroom. Many people opt for more comfortable and luxurious custom showers or bathtubs when they redesign a bathroom. Designers can help you plan for a space and style that'll look tasteful and fit your requirements.

Various factors go into designing a custom shower or bath. With bathtubs, think about which type of experience you're looking for. For instance, a classic utilitarian design is very functionable, particularly for parents of small children. However, whirlpool and air bubble tubs may be better suited for master bathrooms if you're going for a spa-like relaxation or therapeutic experience.

Showers can also create a unique atmosphere. To get that spa feeling, many people opt for showers with steam features or custom seating options. Mood lighting, programmable settings and music are also fun and popular features that can be installed when designing a custom bathroom.

Ultimately, it's up to you whether you want a tub, a shower or a combination. If you're unsure, your designer can always provide a recommendation.

**One quick tip on a common shower or tub problem to avoid:** In addition to comfort, many homeowners prefer a shower or tub that's easy to clean. Talk to your designer about using materials and movable faucets that make cleaning simple.

### 4. SINKS

When thinking about the type or style of sink that you want in your bathroom, try to visualize your new space. You want a bathroom sink that meshes with the rest of the room's design. Sometimes, sinks can even set the tone for the room.

A popular and elegant bathroom sink style is the pedestal sink. Although it doesn't feature storage underneath, its sleek, narrow design makes it a luxurious option for a fancy powder room or a fashionable master bathroom.

Vessel bowl sinks are another option. True works of art, these sinks aren't as durable as other styles but can be perfect if you're going for aesthetics as opposed to functionality.

A durable option is the Kohler Archer undermount sink. This model is decorative and rarely needs maintenance or replacement, despite how many people are washing their facing and brushing their teeth each day.

**One quick tip on a common sink problem to avoid:** Don't go with a vessel bowl sink if you're redoing a busy bathroom. The fixture simply won't hold up well against wear and tear and will eventually lose its stylish look.

*Mood lighting, programmable settings and music are also fun and popular features that can be installed when designing a custom bathroom.*



## 5. COUNTERTOPS

With all the flash and glamour of showers, sinks and other fixtures, you might overlook the importance of bathroom countertops, which are critical for getting ready in the morning or before a dinner party. You'll want a bathroom countertop size and material that'll match your needs and style.

Bathroom counters can vary drastically in size. For instance, consider what would be the most beneficial for you: a busy counter space, like a two-sink double vanity with tower shelving or a single sink with a more uninterrupted counter area. If you're unsure about logistics, your designer can advise where and how large a counter should be.

When it comes to material, granite and quartz are both durable and tasteful. Quartz is a simple and easy option that won't scratch or stain, and requires little maintenance. Granite, on the other hand, needs to be sealed every so often but lasts forever.

**One quick tip on a common countertop problem to avoid:** Experts advise against using marble in bathrooms. Although it might look attractive during the planning phase, it isn't durable and won't look that great after it's installed.

*A bathroom renovation can truly change the way you see and experience your home on a daily basis. Don't hold back any needs or desires from your designers. Think about what you want in each of these bathroom features and discuss it with your designer to find solutions that'll fit your dreams and your budget.*

## 6. OTHER BATHROOM SURFACES

It's not just the countertop material that's important in a bathroom. Unlike most rooms in the home, the bathroom is unique in both its surface needs and variety of options. Rather than just tile and drywall, there are glass, stone, mosaic, steel and dozens of other material options for every square foot of the room.

Talk to your designer about the feel you're trying to create with your bathroom. Stone and river rock offer a spa-like look, while metals and glass can modernize its design, or mosaic can create an artsy decor. If you're thinking about tile, consider porcelain above ceramic. It's colored all the way through, so scratches and chips won't show.

Using a variety of tiles or colors is also an option, so don't be afraid to use multiple materials for different surfaces throughout the bathroom.

**One quick tip on a common surface problem to avoid:** Surfaces are there to be stylish, as well as functional. Listen to your designer about what materials work best in wet or hot areas to avoid problems down the line.

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