

Hints on bath remodeling

How do you remodel a bathroom? Basically, you proceed in the same way as you would with a kitchen project.

Here's a suggested procedure:

1. Start a bathroom scrapbook. In it put notes of all deficiencies of your present bathroom. Note if lighting is inadequate, or in the wrong places.

Note if you tend to bump knees or elbows and where. Note if you would like some plants for decoration, or a magazine rack for reading.

Note if the tub is too slippery, and if it needs a shower or space for soaps, lotions, etc.

2. Make a list of what each family member wants in the bathroom. Write everything down. Don't worry if there isn't enough space in the bathroom. Put it in writing.

3. Visit bathroom showrooms. This does not mean boutiques where they specialize in towels and other soft goods.

These showrooms usually will be those of the kitchen and bath professional remodelers who show several kitchen and bathroom displays. They are the only ones who really know the products available.

4. In your showroom visits, be sure you see the 1-piece, 2-piece and 3-piece plastic tub and showers with surrounds. Be sure you see cultured marble vanity tops with bowls, and plastic laminate tub and shower

surrounds.

5. Look for the space that isn't there. If there is a closet adjacent to the bathroom, on any wall, is it available for conversion to bathroom space?

Closets often are unused, or can be replaced with cabinetry elsewhere in the other room. Or, if it is a bedroom adjacent, can you borrow space from it? Even one or two feet of space can make a world of difference.

6. Now draw a picture of your present bathroom, to scale, with 1/2" on your paper representing one foot of actual floor space.

Include the doors, windows and radiators, if any. Mark light locations, and mark the location of the toilet drain. Other plumbing can be moved without big expense, but the toilet always will be expensive to move.

7. Draw a picture of your "expanded" bathroom, including any space you can borrow.

8. Now, call a family meeting and go through the scrapbook. What does everyone really want? Talk it over and keep an open mind. Be mindful of the costs.

In your showroom visits you found out what many of these things cost to buy, and you know installation will double any price if you have it done by a contractor.

9. What can you do yourself? A basic bathroom remodeling job with new fixtures will cost \$6,000



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If your family spends time in the den during the winter, check that the room is efficiently heated.

Windows should be fitted with shades, blinds or curtains which are kept open during sunlight hours and closed at night.

With the fireplace, install a fitted glass screen rather than using a wire mesh type. When the fire burns, the heat will radiate through the glass into the den, but the inside warm air won't be drawn out of the chimney.

Consider using a special air vent which pulls cold, outside air in to fuel the fire. Close the damper completely when the fireplace isn't in use.

Your flooring should also keep the room warm. Ceramic tile absorbs the sun's heat and conducts it to a "collector" area below, then releases the stored heat at night when the room cools.

Tile is widely available and the variety.



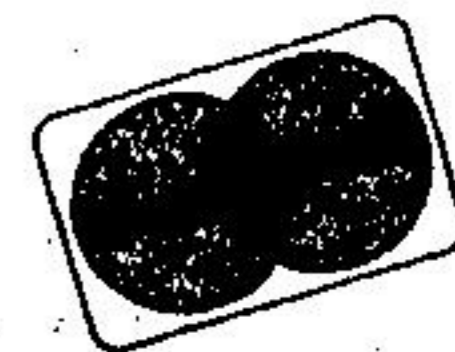
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