

# Plenty of options in modernizing your bathroom

When it comes to revamping bathrooms, today's consumers have more choices than ever before. Modern sinks and tubs come in a wide array of colors, shapes and price ranges - with something to suit virtually every taste and budget.

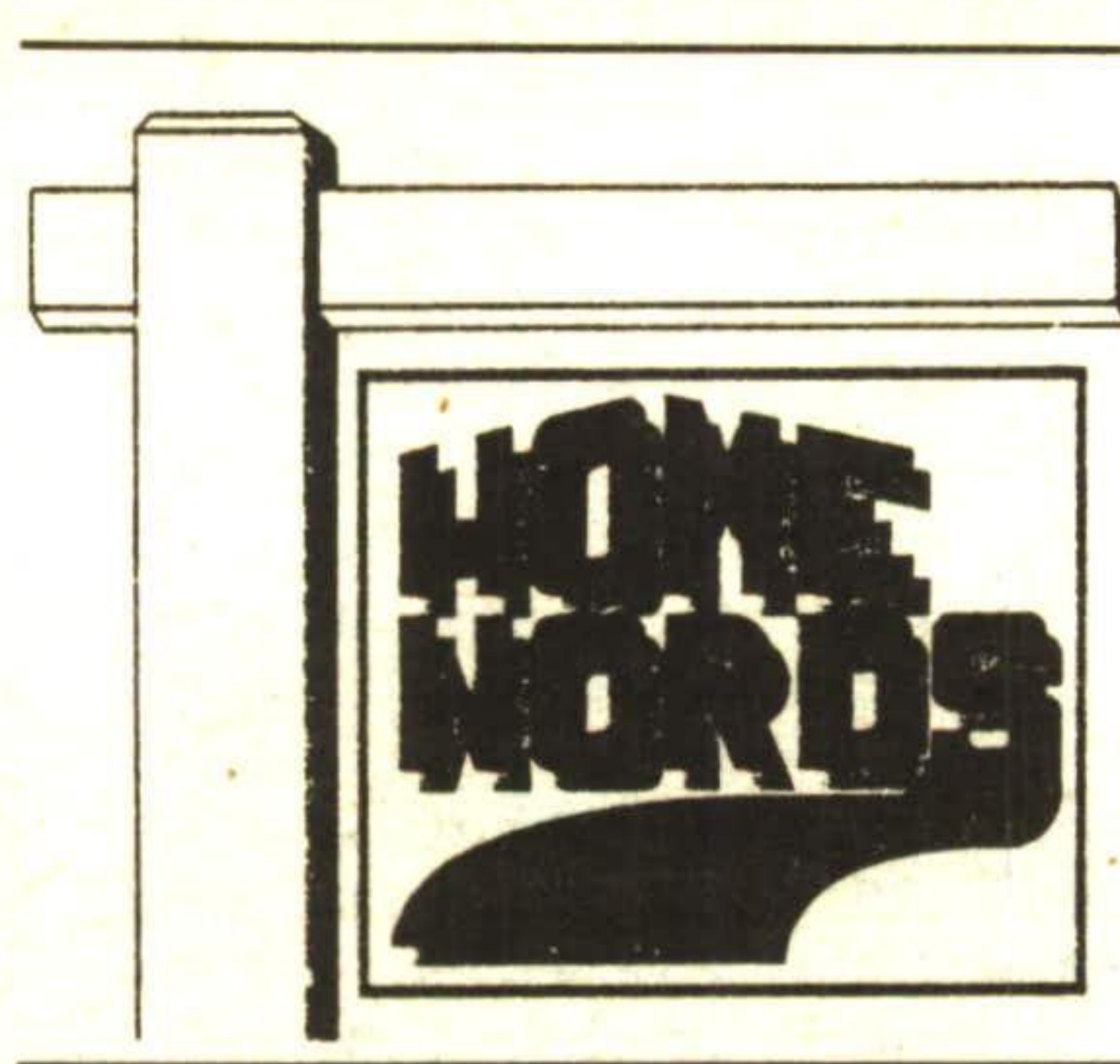
However, if you have a small bathroom and a limited budget, you don't have a lot of options when it comes to remodelling. Short of knocking down walls, there isn't much you can do to increase the physical size of a small room.

If you fit into this category, but want to give your bathroom a new,

roomier look, don't despair. By using just a few simple and fairly inexpensive tricks, you can make your bathroom appear much more spacious.

As you begin to plan that new look, keep in mind the old adage 'simpler is better'. This certainly holds true for small rooms. Excessive decoration and bold, overpowering patterns can dwarf a room, making it appear much smaller than it really is.

Try to avoid choosing loud wallpaper or too many ornate accessories. Remember, you want a clean, uncluttered look.



Color is another factor to consider. Dark colors may make a room seem more cosy and inviting, but they make it appear smaller as well. Bulky, dark medicine cabinets and vanities can also emphasize the smallness of a room - appearing to gobble up more space than they actually take.

You should also keep in mind that dark-colored flooring or floor

tiles with large, busy patterns can make the floor space of a small bathroom appear to shrink.

Try using lighter colors on the walls and ceiling. A monochromatic scheme can open up a room. Basic colors like cream or white look attractive and allow you greater versatility when it comes to choosing accessories.

If you have dark, decorative wall tiles with large patterns, you might want to consider replacing them with something simpler - perhaps plain tiles with an attractively-patterned border.

Clear or pastel shower curtains with a light, airy pattern can help open up the room. Use of area rugs as opposed to wall-to-wall carpeting also helps create space because the smaller rugs visually break up the floor space.

Installation of a sleek and stylish pedestal sink can create more room, both visually and physically.

However, the drawback is the loss of storage space which a standard vanity unit provides.

Many older, smaller bathrooms have wall-hung sinks. Though often small in size, these sinks can be given a new look when fitted with attractive skirting - this covers the exposed pipes and provides extra, out-of-sight storage space.

Corner sink units are another space-saving option for a small bathroom or powderroom. These units can fit easily into a corner, taking up much less room than a conventional, full-size vanity.

Mirrors are one of the easiest and least expensive ways to visually increase space in a small bathroom. A large, wall-hung mirror or over-the-sink cabinet with mirrored panels works well.

Bright lighting also helps open up a room. A skylight or luminous ceiling are two lighting options, but can be expensive.



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## Your Week Ahead Horoscope

- ARIES** Mar. 21-Apr. 19 Good time to resolve long-standing dispute. Paperwork needs to be eliminated. Don't give in to unreasonable demands.
- TAURUS** Apr. 20-May 20 Expect visit from uninvited guest. You need not change your plans to suit them; make them conform to yours.
- GEMINI** May 21-June 20 Depend on one who has assisted you in the past to provide insight into current problem. Steer clear of controversy.
- CANCER** June 21-July 22 Don't be overly critical of younger persons. They need time to grow. Adapt more youthful outlook.
- LEO** July 23-Aug. 22 You would do well to maneuver opposition into your corner. A little cunning on your part would be in order.
- VIRGO** Aug. 23-Sept. 22 Be witty and romantic. Throw caution to the wind and accept unusually invitation; it could be the start of something big.
- LIBRA** Sept. 23-Oct. 22 You deserve more than you are receiving. Career move not advisable. Procrastination will not solve prevailing problem.
- SCORPIO** Oct. 23-Nov. 21 Share difficult duties with those around you. Don't attempt to carry the whole load. Deliberate and delegate.
- SAGITTARIUS** Nov. 22-Dec. 21 A celebration is in order. Rejoice in someone else's good fortune; do not be catty about your lack of it.
- CAPRICORN** Dec. 22-Jan. 19 Working alone suits you better, but you must respect other opinions. Take time out to talk with peers.
- AQUARIUS** Jan. 20-Feb. 18 Finances will be drained due to unexpected development. With some monetary expertise you will be able to handle it.
- PISCES** Feb. 19-Mar. 20 The opportunity you have been waiting for arises from nowhere. Be prepared. You may not recognize it.



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## Fascinating house facts

You maybe very aware of many of the realities of the real estate market in the Greater Toronto area, but did you know these housing-related facts?

- The average cost of land in the Metro area comprises more than 40 per cent of the total price of a new single-family home.
- Nearly 40 per cent of immigrants to Canada locate in Toronto.
- One and one-quarter million Canadians move annually; nearly three-quarters of this group move within the same province.
- The country's homebuilders contribute \$43 billion

each year to the Canadian economy.

- Greater Toronto Home Builders' Association members built more than 85 per cent of all new homes in the Greater Toronto area.
- Turning your thermostat down from 22 degrees Celsius (72 degrees F.) to 20 degrees C. (68 degrees F.) during the day and to 17 degrees C. (63 degrees F.) at night can save you as much as 15 per cent on your energy bill.
- For a family of four, a water-saving showerhead can reduce water consumption by 27,000 litres (6,000 gallons) per year.

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