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Study all options available before choosing faucet finish

Your bathroom has been in the midst of a huge remodel for some time now. Fortunately, the weeks are winding down and it's nearly complete. All you have to do is choose the finish for the faucets. As you're about to discover, though, that might not be so easy with the multitude of finishes available today.

One look at any home improvement center or designer showroom will provide you with a variety of finish options. Along with the traditional brass and standard chrome, you'll find bronze, copper, nickel and more. To make the best choice, you need to study all of the options available and find out the following:

- How durable is the finish?
- What steps have been taken to prevent the finish from tarnishing?
- What kind of warranty is the finish under?
- How much care does the finish require?
- How noticeable are smudges and fingerprints?
- Does the finish reflect the look you are striving for?

As you are examining the various fin-

ishes available, make sure you take note of the cost and any subtle differences among finishes of the same material. How does polished nickel differ from brushed nickel, and brushed nickel from satin nickel? Which one costs more and why?

Don't be afraid to mix and match finishes. Polished brass light fixtures, hardware, towel bars, shower doors and faucets can add ambiance to any elegant bathroom, while brushed nickel light fixtures, hardware and towel bars combined with satin nickel shower doors and faucets can make for a



sleek, contemporary look. If metal isn't your style, try looking at the various shades of baked-on enamel. You're sure to find a wide range of colors to suit any decor.

Changing out faucets can be a demanding, expensive task, so take your time when choosing a finish. The right one can make all the difference between having a well-designed bathroom that pleases you or one with a teeny-tiny glitch that makes your brow furrow.

—By Tresa Erickson special

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