

2015

# Bathroom Design Guide

Considerations for Designing Your Dream Bathroom



# Designing the Perfect Bathroom

## *10 features for consideration when creating your dream bathroom*

Homeowners often dream or think about a bathroom remodel by collecting pictures, pinning their favorites and doing research. This is done while trying to imagine how it will improve their home and their daily routines.

At some point, it comes time to take those pictures and ideas and make them a reality, but the questions are... “What do I really want?” and “What should I absolutely consider incorporating into my new space?” Here are the top 10 most wanted features when creating the bathroom of your dreams.

### **1. Larger Shower**

The ideal, if there isn't a tub to consider, is to increase the size of the shower to be the biggest it can be depending upon spatial parameters. The best way to achieve this is to stay away from one piece shower pans that are available in standard sizes. Pouring a custom pan and tiling not only allows for any shape but also any size. Therefore utilizing every inch! Another consideration is whether or not to have a tub.

### **2. More storage**

Who isn't all about storage? Drawers are king (or queen) in a bathroom. If the vanity size permits (anything 30" or over) then you should include drawers. Another under-utilized space in a bathroom is under the sink. Don't miss this; instead, add a “U” shaped drawer or a rollout shelf at the bottom. Not taking advantage of this space is like having a closet without shelves. Lastly, if your overall space is on the smaller side, there is almost always a place to build a niche into the wall.

### **3. More counter top**

Sometimes a bathroom needs to be reconfigured to pick up more surface area and other times a banjo top might do the trick. If you are already maxed out and you don't have any other options for additional counter top space, how about adding a floating shelf or two?

#### **4. Heated flooring**

Depending on the climate you live in, there may be nothing better than waking up on a cold winter morning only to walk into a nice warm tiled floor. The heating systems can also be installed on the shower floor or on the shower seat. They typically come with a programmable thermostat that allows you to personalize the settings of the heated floor with your schedule. Costs have come down quite a bit from when [heated flooring options](#) first took off. Inquire with your design professional if it is an option for your new bathroom.

#### **5. Easy/Low maintenance**

When it comes to selecting materials, now-a-days everyone wants low maintenance materials. For instance, they want tile that doesn't have to be sealed, buffed and restored, grout that doesn't have to be replaced or repaired every year, plumbing fixtures and glass shower enclosures that don't show every water spot, cabinets that are built to last and the list goes on.

Since the item you have the most of in your bathroom is typically tile, let's first start there. The number one recommended tile for any bathroom is porcelain. Porcelain can look like stone but won't have the long list of the maintenance requirements attached to it that stone does. Porcelain is applicable to a contemporary space as well as a very traditional bathroom remodel. The possibilities and offerings are endless.

Another low maintenance solution is to have your custom bath designer or remodeler order your glass shower enclosure with a protective application that causes the beads of water to run off it so as to eliminate the need to squeegee. The protective application acts like Rain-X would on your car.

#### **6. Lighter and brighter spa like feel**

Whether you are remodeling a kid's bathroom or a master bathroom, more times than not, the idea is to make the space seem larger and relaxing. Therefore you want to keep your color palette, for the most part, on the lighter side but still incorporate contrasting colors and textures for balance.

Lighting is just as important as the color scheme of the room when creating a spa feel for a lighter and brighter space. Having the option for light fixtures to be dimmable and the flexibility of how they are switched is a must. It's nice to have the option to turn the lights on above the tub independent of the rest of the room or to have the exhaust fan on without the light being on at the same time.

## **7. High durability Countertops**

Some high durability materials can also be listed under the easy or low maintenance items. However, very durable items like granite countertops will require some maintenance over time versus a quartz countertop that requires very little upkeep. Both are high durability items but as mentioned above, the granite *will require* sealing at some point. Natural stone (e.g. marble) tile is highly durable but requires maintenance over time to keep it looking beautiful as opposed to porcelain which has very minimal upkeep and can last a lifetime.

## **8. Comfortable Heights**

If you haven't remodeled since the late 80's or prior you will be pleasantly surprised with all of the changes and options when it comes to heights of your bathroom materials. For instance, bathroom cabinets are now standard at 34-1/2" high. This is the same as kitchen counter height. Versus prior they were closer to 28-30" high. Also most homeowners today are choosing the comfort height toilet (used to be referred to as an ADA toilet) over the standard lower toilet. Shower heads are even being installed at higher heights. Simply put Americans are taller on average today than they were previously.

## **9. Safety**

Some very small material selection decisions can end up making a huge difference. For instance, we recommend choosing a textured or matte tile for the bathroom floor rather than a polished or glossy floor tile that may be extremely slippery. Select a 6" or smaller non-skid tile for the shower floor to provide more traction. If space permits, a seat in the shower is a nice option with a personal handheld shower. Depending on the needs of the homeowner, install a decorative grab bar where appropriate. These are just to mention a few.

## 10. Classic and Timeless

Let's face it, a bathroom can be expensive and the chances of you remodeling it again in the near future (a few years) are very low. It is wise to choose your design and materials without getting too trendy so that your bathroom isn't outdated in 5 years. If you want to go trendy, choose trends that are easily changeable, for example, paint color.

White cabinetry is not only a classic choice but a versatile choice. Anything goes with and compliments white. It can also be dressed up to be very elegant or downplayed to be very casual. There isn't another color or finish of cabinetry that can hold a candle to white.

*We hope you have found this information helpful. If you would like to receive a complimentary consultation for your bathroom remodeling project please feel free to contact our design team to get started today!*

**Kitchens & Baths Unlimited: 847-729-1212 or visit us at 1232 Waukegan Rd, Glenview, IL 60025.**

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## ABOUT US

[Kitchens & Baths Unlimited](#) is a full service kitchen and bath remodeling firm of 30 years, doing business predominantly in the North Shore and Chicagoland areas.