

TenPlus GUIDES

10+ Tips For A Magnificent Bathroom Remodel



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Ten+ Tips For A Magnificent Bathroom Remodel
by John Clark of @designREMODEL



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Everyone loves a good top ten list. Read on for our list of our 10+ favorite must do's for remodeling your bathroom:

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+MORE POWER OUTLETS

Install a Pocket Door

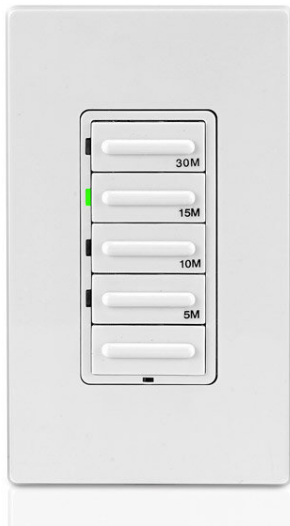


Install a Pocket Door. Converting the swing door into the bathroom to a pocket door will significantly improve the look and sense of space in the bathroom. **Warning:** Pocket doors should always be installed by a professional as the installation often involves dealing with structural components of your home. Another option is to install a sliding barn style door on the exterior of the bathroom wall.

One of our favorite pocket doors is one with a frosted or etched glass insert. This allows for light to filter through when the door is closed. We have even seen them with the letters W.C. (For water closet) painted on the glass.



Improve venting



Improve venting Always, always, always ensure your bathroom is properly vented. Many homes lack venting in the bathroom, resulting in black spore-like stuff growing from the ceiling. Also many homes have undersized fans that often sound like an F-15 fighter taking off. When it comes to venting, our favorite fan/light is one that looks like a recessed light. (See picture to the left.) The air flows up and around the bulb and thus no grill for dust to build up on. (We would also suggest you install an LED bulb which can last for several years.) The actual fan can be controlled by a timer with push button presets ranging from 10 minutes to 60 minutes. *We recommend that the fan be allowed to run for at least 20 minutes or more after showering.*

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Just Better Toilets

Kohler is one of our favorite brands to use in a bathroom. They design and manufacturer high quality stylish fixtures and fittings. They are often on the forefront with innovations and improvements. See the examples below:

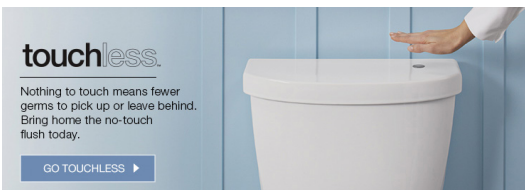


Comfort Height Toilets are just so much better!

Comfort height or chair height toilets are much more comfortable for users. They are about 2" taller than the old standard height toilet. Do keep in mind however, if you have young children, you may want to have one toilet in your home that is at the lower height.



Dual Flush Toilets allow you to choose how much water you can use when you flush. This saves water and reduces the environmental impact.



Touch-less Toilets this is another innovation by Kohler. You wave your hand over the top of the toilet tank and it will automatically flush.

Painted Beadboard



Painted Beadboard lends an elegant classic look to any bathroom. Beadboard usually consists of 1×6 pine milled with a tongue and groove and beaded on the edges and center. Because most beadboard is wood, it is subject to moisture changes. A nice tight paint job looks great until the heating season when the beadboard shrinks and shows cracking in the paint.

Enter stage right, a product made by Nantucket Beadboard Company in the form of 4' x 8' (and larger) sheets of bead-board. Manufactured from premium medium density fiberboard, the sheet beadboard is much more dimensionally stable and less prone to movement, i.e. which results in a tighter paint job. We also like it because it installs much faster than the piece by piece method of wood planks. If you want to install the beadboard in your bathroom, make sure you use the moisture resistant grade rather than the standard grade.

Heated Floors and Towel Racks

Heated Floors and Towel Racks. Quick Quiz. Can you name the healthiest, safest kind of heating system? If you said radiant heat, give yourself an A! Yes, we're big fans of radiant heat, especially in the bathroom. Nothing beats stepping out of a shower on to heated tile on a cold winter morning! Our preferred brand of radiant heat is Warmly Yours. They have a system that is well thought-out and easy to install. The cost of running radiant heat is very minimal for a small area such as a bathroom. An alternative if your budget is tight, is a wall-mounted heated towel rack. Not only can a heated towel rack keep your towels toasty warm, it can provide additional heat to a space that is often times cold. To find out more about in-floor heat and heated towel racks, visit WarmlyYours.com



Handheld Shower



Handheld Shower. One feature we suggest to clients who are upgrading, is to include a handheld shower (as pictured right) in addition to the standard shower head. Handhelds are more flexible than a fixed shower head and allow you to do everything from bathing the dog to cleaning the tub or shower, as you can put water where you need it.

Very Important: Be sure to install a handheld shower system that has a wall mounted diverter. We have found the diverter that is mounted into the fixed shower head, is either too hard to use or too high. One system we often install is made here in America by Symmons. (Symmons.Com)

Taller Vanities



Taller Vanities. Like the toilets we mentioned above, vanities have grown up which is a godsend to those who spend any time stooped over sinks designed for the vertically challenged! The taller height is more comfortable to use.

Don't forget however, to have a stepstool handy for the little ones. And you can top the vanity with a one piece vanity top and sink for a seamless look that is easy to maintain. Quality tops made this way are usually fabricated from Corian or Swanstone. The countertop material flows into the bottom of the sink creating a seamless bowl making for easy cleaning. (Also called a one piece vanity top.)

One Piece Shower Base



One Piece Shower Base. Instead of using a custom shower base which is very labor intensive in construction, consider using a manufactured base that is less expensive, easier to install, leak-proof and once installed and used, is significantly easier to clean and maintain. (Who has time to scrub all those little tile joints?) Manufactured shower bases are made with gelcoat fiberglass, acrylic and cast iron. One limitation with these type of bases, it that they come in standard shapes and sizes. For those looking for a large showering space, Kohler makes a 5' x 5' shower base.

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Toilet Seat Bidet



Toilet Seat Bidet. Simply put, everyone who remodels their bathroom should install one of these! Without going into great detail, this is one thing that I would take with me if I were ever to sell my house and move. For cleanliness and great hygiene, a toilet seat bidet is heavenly! I highly recommend TOTO washlets. Installation is simple. To find more about this great addition to any bathroom, visit TotoUSA.com...Did I mention that the seat is heated?

Creative Storage



Creative Storage. One example is recessing mirrored cabinets in locations other than over the sink. Another is by removing a 60" tub, installing a 36" wide shower and then using the left over space for a deep storage cabinet. One cool thing we've done on past projects is to recess a cabinet into the closet of an adjacent room, keeping the face frame of the cabinet flush with the bathroom wall.

Kohler offers custom storage configurations with their tailored vanity line. The example pictured to the left, shows under-sink storage that includes power outlets and a slide out drawer.



+ Hooks

+ More Power Outlets



+ Hooks. Sometimes towel bars can be just too fussy and formal. Big hooks to hang towels allow you to hang and run and you have more hanging space. Some we have used, can be found at RestorationHardware.com. Be sure to use the large ones to allow towels to hang freely so they may dry.

+ More Power Outlets. Ever find yourself removing a nightlight to plug in a hair dryer or electric toothbrush? Bit of a pain! When you remodel your bathroom, have your electrician double up on the wall receptacle so you have 4 places to plug in all of your electrical devices.



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