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PLANNING BATHROOM RENOVATIONS



You have decided: this is the year where you will finally be getting the bathroom of your dreams! To help you plan your project - without forgetting any important elements - we put together this small guide.

Deciding what kind of a “look” you want

Visit specialized stores, look through decorating magazines and talk about your needs and preferences. Seeing as bathrooms, along with kitchens, are the rooms that cost the most to renovate, make sound decisions, to ensure that you are at peace with your choices.

Determining the use that will be made of the room

Will the bathroom be used by all members of the family or only the grownups? If multiple people will be using it, at what times of the day will this be the case? Are two washbasins required? Do you have a preference: shower versus bathtub? Who will be cleaning the room and how often? All of these questions should be given careful thought.

Costs

Unless you do all the work yourself, a complete bathroom renovation will cost a minimum of \$15,000. A DIY project will let you save around half of this amount.

Measure, measure and measure again!

- Leave at least 30 in. in front of the bathtub or shower.
- Allow at least 30 in. to 40 in. in front of both the toilet and the vanity (with sink).
- Install counters at a height of 32 in. to 34 in. (depending on how tall family members are).
- Leave a space at least 42 in. wide for a separate shower.

The convenience of separate “areas”

Whenever a bathroom will be shared by several people, it is always a good idea to create separate areas or zones: installing a toilet in a distinct space, a separate shower and two washbasins. It is obviously easier to create these separate areas when the bathroom is large, but it is nonetheless possible in a smaller space, as long as the various items (toilet, etc.) are carefully positioned and low walls or separations added.

Ample storage

When planning your new space, you will need to take into account the storage needs of all family members. This will require thinking about:

- laundry baskets;
- towels and washcloths;
- make-up and hair products;
- soap and personal care products;
- medication;
- cleaning products;
- supplies of toilet paper, tissues and other items such as diapers (which often come in large formats).

Living through the renovations

- Reach an agreement with the contractor as to the duration of the works, the work schedule and any rules applicable in your home (regarding smoking, music, etc.).
- Arrange a space where you can quickly wash up, apply make-up, etc. during the renovations.
- Make sure workers have access to a toilet and a telephone, and provide a spot where they can leave their tools.

- Make sure the contractor isolates the room being renovated from the rest of the house (with plastic tarps). This will avoid the spreading of dust.

Little extras

Certain small additions can make a bathroom a more efficient and comfortable space. These include:

- a heated floor;
- a second sink;
- faucets with a temperature sensor (so the water is always exactly like you want it);
- a rain effect showerhead;
- a heated towel holder;
- a dual flush toilet system;
- a deep tub;
- a well-lit vanity;
- additional storage;
- well-thought out lighting with dimmers;
- a full-length mirror;
- a stacked washer and dryer.