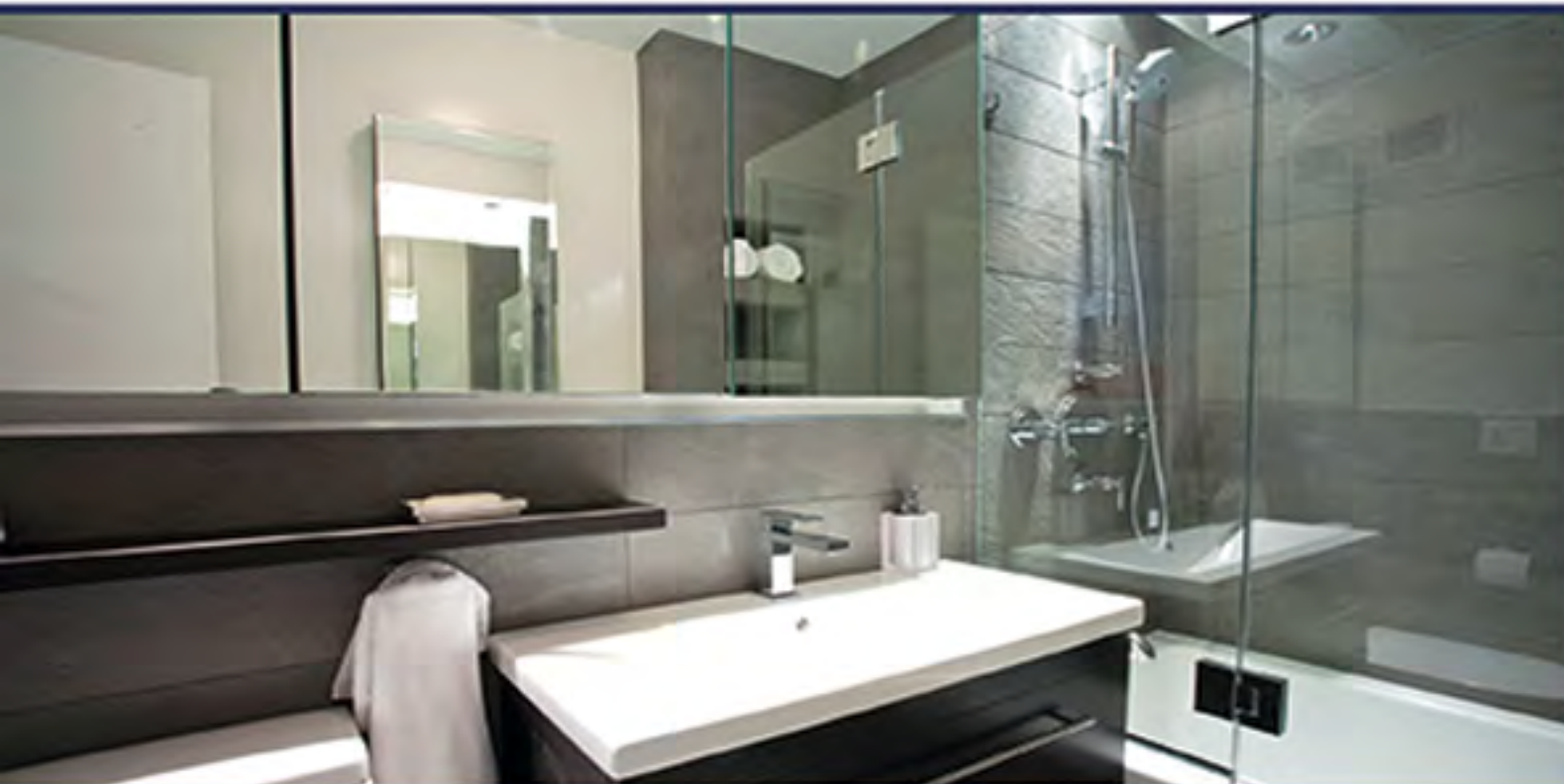




**Design & Arrangement**

# Bathroom

**Arash Mohajerpour Iravani**



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## Summary

### History of Bathrooms

Bathroom History actually stretches back further than you might imagine. Originally bathrooms were not developed with hygiene in mind, and the first records for the use of baths date back as far as 3000 B.C. At this time water had a strong religious value, being seen as a purifying element for both body and soul. It was not unusual for people to have to cleanse themselves before entering a sacred area. Baths are recorded as part of a village or town life throughout this period, with a split between steam baths in Europe and America and cold baths in Asia. It was common for communal baths to be erected in a separate area from the living quarters of a village; the belief was that by doing this they were preventing evil spirits from entering the domestic quarters of the village.

Not all ancient baths were in the style of the large pools that often come to mind when one imagines the Roman baths; the first surviving bathtub that we are aware of dates back to 1700 B.C. It hails from the Palace of Knossos in Crete. The amazing thing differs so little from our own.

Both the Greeks and the Romans recognised the value of bathing as an important part of their lifestyles. Writers such as Homer had their heroes bathe in warm water so as to regain their strength; it is perhaps notable that the mother of Achilles bathed him in order to gain his invincibility. Palaces have been uncovered throughout Greece with areas that are dedicated to bathing, spaces with clay bathtubs, and sophisticated drainage systems.

The Roman attitudes towards baths and bathing are well documented; they built large purpose-built thermal baths, marking not only an important social development, but also providing a public source of relaxation and rejuvenation. Here was a place where people could meet to discuss the matters of the day, and enjoy entertainment. During this period there was a distinction made between private and public baths, with many

wealthy families having their own thermal baths and bathrooms in their houses. In addition they also made use of the public baths, showing the value that they had as a public institution. The strength of the Roman Empire was telling in this respect; imports from throughout the world allowed the Roman citizens to enjoy ointments, incense, combs and mirrors. Personalisation is not something novel to our time!

Although some of the sources we have suggest that bathing declined following the collapse of the Roman Empire, this is not completely accurate. It was actually the Middle Ages that saw the beginning of soap production; proof that bathing was definitely not uncommon. It was only after the Renaissance that bathing declined; water was actually feared as a carrier of disease and so sweat baths and heavy perfumes were preferred.

In fact throughout the ۱۶th, ۱۷th and ۱۸th centuries, the use of public baths declined gradually, and private bathrooms were favoured, thus setting down the foundations for the modern bathroom, as it was to become, in the ۲۰th century.

The builders in the ۱۹th Century carried on from this base; the house came to be organised around what was perceived as the usefulness of the rooms, and at a time when fears concerning germs and hygiene were rife, the bathroom rose to prominence within many households, while mass showers were provided for the poor.

Thanks to the Industrial Revolution, steps were taken to mechanise the bathroom. Hot water could be produced for use in the home, and so personal bathing became much more common. By the end of the ۱۹th century, there existed a room that could be used by all members of the family, with a growing trend towards replacing the wooden elements of the room with decorated and elegantly tiled patterns.

Now the time had begun where the bathroom was seen as more than simply a room of function.

**Creative tiling can instantly add warmth and beauty to Your Home and Just Look at the Benefits**

Tiling is a wonderful way to add instant beauty and warmth to your home, and it's available to everyone.

It doesn't matter if you're planning a cosmetic upgrade or a total renovation. It doesn't even matter if this is your first time.

You will soon see your decision to decorate with tile is a good one. The beauty of the bathroom and kitchen designs is already prepared for you. You only need to lay them in your desired space.

### **Type of Tiles**

Ceramic tile designs are an excellent choice for bathroom tile. They come in a wide variety of eye-catching patterns, colors, and textures. They can range anywhere from the lightest of ceramic wall tile, to the tough-



est of ceramic floor tiles.

Ceramic tile designs can be broken up into two major categories glazed and unglazed unglazed tile usually has a matte finish, so it looks more like natural clay or stone these tiles's color is identical to the color of the clay.

The most common unglazed ceramic floor tiles are unglazed porcelain and quarry tile.

The glaze on glazed ceramic tile designs adds both color and a hard protective surface to the tile. The glaze also gives the tile a satin, texture or glossy finish. Glazed ceramic tile resists stains, scratches and fading, and they're easy to maintain.

Glazed ceramic tile can have either a single glaze or a double glaze.

Single glazed ceramic tile offers more vivid colors and are typically more durable than double-glazed or unglazed tiles, making them a great choice for bathroom or kitchen ceramic floor tiles.

When choosing ceramic wall tile for your bathroom , you can choose just about any ceramic wall tile you like but for areas that will be getting extremely wet, such as a shower or tub surround, you'll need a ceramic wall tile that's water and stain resistant and also easy to clean.

Single glazed ceramic wall tile or glazed or unglazed porcelain floor tiles are both excellent choices, because these tiles are very resistant to both water and stains and they're both very easy to clean.

When choosing your ceramic floor tiles you'll want to be careful to specifically choose Ceramic floor tiles and not ceramic wall tile. Ceramic floor tiles are much harder and tougher than ceramic wall tile. They have to be in order to stand up to the continuous foot traffic, they're expected to endure. You can always use floor tile for a wall tile, but you can never use wall tile as a floor tile or countertop tile. Some glazed and unglazed ceramic tile designs are tough enough to use as ceramic floor tiles, ceramic tile countertops or even outdoors, while other glazed or unglazed ceramic tile is better used for the light duty of a ceramic wall tile.

Porcelain floor tiles can mimic the look and texture of glazed ceramic tiles, polished marble, or even rough stone tile. Manufacturers are even making Faux stone porcelain tiles to replicate the multicolored look of stone.

Porcelain floor tiles are extremely resistant to stains and abrasion. They are an excellent choice for a kitchen counter tile, wall tile and floor tile.

## **Bathroom Planning**

Until recently, more attention was given to the living rooms or kitchen in house design, as these traditionally serve a much more social function than the bathroom. Yet the very purpose of the bathroom means that it should be one of the most appealing rooms in your house - being a place to get ready for the day ahead, or to relax in after a stressful one. This means that it should not be a cold and badly decorated room, but instead a warm and luxurious haven within your house. Sometimes it will not take much to change your

bathroom into such an inviting place; a simple change of colour, and perhaps the addition of a large mirror, the right heating and lighting can make it perfect without having to completely renovate the room. If a larger overhaul is needed, then make sure that you take the right steps to create a bathroom that is both practical and appealing.

First try looking around various shops and also utilise the internet, as this will help you to decide upon a design that you like. Keep in mind things such as the tile or paint colour you may wish to use for the room, and how this might affect your choice of suite, as well as thinking about the different finishes that you'd like to incorporate.

If you decide to go for a new suite, then think carefully about the choices that you make - here you have an opportunity to get everything perfect within the room, and if you make the proper plans then the end result should be very satisfying.

With the obvious complications of drainage and piping within a bathroom, it is important to have a clear idea of how you want the room to look before you call the plumber. Although you may want to completely change the look of your bathroom, you have to take into account the position of pipes within the room, as well as the position of the main soil stack (the pipe which your toilet is connected to that usually runs down the outside of your house). It is much more cost effective if you leave your toilet in the same place, as it is difficult to change the position of the stack. Also think about how the pipes in your room will work - once again it will be cheaper and easier to install if you have the bath, sink and toilet in a line within the bathroom, this way they can be served by continuous water pipes in the wall. Make sure that you measure your bathroom (in metric), and perhaps sketch out a scale plan of where you want to have your fixtures and fittings. There are many factors that you have to keep in mind when planning out your room; take into account what is wrong with your current room as well as the how your new bathroom is to be used. Such factors include:

- How is the room to be utilised fully? It is a personal room and so must reflect the priorities of the users in its layout. For instance you need to take into account how often the bathtub or shower would be used, or how much storage space is needed.

- How many bathrooms and showers do you already have, and is this going to be the main bathroom? Will any safety provisions have to be made for children?

- Where are the doors, windows and ventilation areas placed within the room, and will they impact your layout?

- Does your current system supply enough hot water?
- Where is the hot water cylinder and airing cupboard? Will you have easy access to it when the bathroom is finished?
- Is there anything you want to keep within your current bathroom, and if so, is it moveable or fixed?
- Do all of your current fittings need replacing, or are some in an acceptable condition?
- The characteristics of any furniture should be considered; will you opt for fitted or freestanding furniture? Decisions on the types of heating, lighting and ventilation should not be neglected. When having lighting installed, make sure that it coincides with the installation of any cabinets and fittings, just in case wiring has to be run behind them. Also ensure that it complies with all the current legislations.
- Most importantly, consider your budget - how much can you afford to spend, and how will this impact upon the designs that you choose? Have a look around; if you cannot afford a designer brand of a certain style that you like, there are companies that offer very similar designs for a much-reduced price.

The bathroom today is usually designed so that numerous members of a family can use it, and yet personal space is still required. For this reason it is important that certain divisions are made within the room, giving connected but distinct areas to be used. Three basic areas often used are the washing area, consisting of the sink and any storage needed, the bathing area, made up of the bath and/or shower, and the sanitary area, which includes the toilet and perhaps a bidet as well. Partitions and doors can help make this distinction between areas clear, such as between a shower area and the toilet area. One could also make use of a layout that emphasises independent zones, almost separating one area from the next.

The amount of space available will obviously have an impact upon the layout of your bathroom. There are numerous measures that can be taken even if the space available is limited. Make sure that there will be enough space around each of your fittings to ensure that they can be used properly, and without any snags. There should be room to get in and out of the bathtub without obstacle, while access to the toilet and sink should be likewise unhindered. A space of around ۷۰۰ mm should be left from the bath, with distances of ۱۰۰۰ mm maintained around the toilet and sink if possible. If you choose to use a shower cubicle, make sure that you have room to open the door and get in and out without any problems.

Space saving measures will be discussed in more detail elsewhere, but can include installing a shower cubicle

instead of a bath, fitting one of the new combination shower baths, using a corner sink fitting, a wall hung toilet, or using a built in sink, in place of a freestanding one. Using simple designs and maximising the use of light will mean that a room will not have a cluttered feel to it.

### **Small Bathrooms**

For a small bathroom, you may have to consider your choice of colour carefully, as this is going to have an impact upon the feeling of space within the room. The natural light that comes into a smaller room is likely to be limited, and so steps will have to be taken to make the room appear bright and spacious. Try using lighter tones and colours to give the appearance of space. Opting for blinds instead of curtains will increase the light within the room, whilst maintaining your privacy. In terms of artificial light, down lights that can be positioned offer a good personal touch to the bathroom, while spotlights will brighten the whole room and make it much brighter, without adding clutter. Perhaps try adding mirrors to help make the room appear larger through the reflection of natural light.

Making use of wall hung fittings will help save much space and give a much more modern feel, but make sure to check whether the internal walls will be strong enough to support any such fittings. Look for sleek and compact bathroom suites, where the pipes can be hidden away from sight. Remember that while ornate fixtures may look good in a showroom, they are probably to be avoided in small bathrooms. They not only attract dust, but will also overpower a small bathroom and create a sense of disorder. Simple patterns will provide clean, crisp lines that will give a spacious feel.

Give plenty of thought to the sanitary ware that you will use, as there are many different choices that allow for the optimum use of space. Many pieces of pottery are now designed so that they can be placed in the corner of a room, thus creating more space. A corner sink or a corner-fitting toilet may be the perfect solution to your problem of limited space. Similarly, think about how you can save space by placing a shower over your bathtub to combine the two. Space saving baths can be used; these have tapered sides and therefore create more floor space. If you are going to choose a shower enclosure, there are many options available to you; corner or pentangle enclosures will fit in smaller areas, while bi-fold or in-slide doors will allow access without obstructing the rest of the room.

### **Large Bathrooms**

If you are fortunate to have a large bathroom, it does not mean that any less planning is needed. You still need to take into account the position of plumbing fixtures, whilst maintaining enough space around each

of your fittings. Simple things must be kept in mind such as having a space to store towels near your bath so that you do not have to walk across the bathroom when you get out of the tub. Grouping fixtures together will allow you to use the extra space created for additional relaxation areas, or for space to install fitted cabinets and other storage areas.

You may wish to think about providing a focal point for your bathroom; this can be centred on the bath to create a feeling of luxury within the room. A large room will accommodate a much more extravagant bath. Such a bath may be a freestanding model, or a large hydrotherapy or whirlpool bath, allowing for extra comfort within the bathroom. If the room is to be shared, then perhaps you might consider using dual basins to allow more than one person to use the room at the same time. While lighting will not be as important to create a feeling of space, it must still be considered carefully. If you wish to create a degree of intimacy within your bathroom, then you may wish to choose darker tones and colours to make the room seem cosier. You should also make sure that light can reach all areas of the room effectively by planning your lighting around the natural light provided by any windows and making sure that the areas not reached by natural light are properly illuminated. Variable lighting could be used in order to highlight the more prominent areas, or mood lighting could be used to create a very personal feel to the room.

When thinking about furniture, you do not have to be bound by the constraints of fitted cabinets, and can instead experiment with more unusual ideas for storage. You could make use of freestanding cupboards for towels, or have a larger cabinet in which to keep any toiletries. You could even make use of a moveable storage unit, which provides convenience without clutter. Having extra space means there is more scope for extending the use of the bathroom. You have the opportunity to install a dressing table and mirror, or additional relaxation/exercise equipment to truly individualise the space.

### **Bathroom Furniture**

Storage is becoming a more and more important part of any bathroom; this is obviously a room where clutter is unwelcome and hygiene important. Storage solutions offered by bathroom furniture therefore become highly desirable. Whilst many storage items tend to be placed around the washing area, it is also common for there to be secondary pieces around the toilet for holding toilet paper and cleaning products. In addition there may be fixtures around the bath to hold soap and shower gels etc .

Bathroom furniture has to be specially designed and treated to withstand the unique environment that a bathroom creates. The heat and humidity that can be generated means that wood has to be specially treated, alternatively materials such as glass and chrome plated metal are used instead. Bathrooms are not always the biggest rooms in a house, so a degree of creativity must be used when trying to create space to store all



the various toiletries and cleaning materials that might need to be contained within the room. Fortunately there are numerous bathroom units available nowadays that help solve such problems.

Fitted bathroom cupboards and cabinets can help reduce the space taken up for storage. Shelves and niches can be used to provide even more space, whilst one should also think about the possibility of using the space beneath the sink. In most instances the space here is rarely used, but can provide an additional space for storage. In small rooms, a multitude of small shelves for shampoos, deodorants and aftershaves can be effective, whilst a towel rail can help make efficient use of any spare wall or floor space.

### **Bathroom Decoration**

The challenge in designing a bathroom often lies in deciding on the finishes and materials to be used. Any materials that are used have to be not only resistant to the day-to-day use of the bathroom, but also be attractive and pleasant to look at. When planning out your room, you could perhaps try a combination of different materials to help ensure the room is fully functional whilst also being eye-catching. For instance, wood whether real or artificial, will add warmth to any room, and is increasingly found within bathrooms. Iroko, Teak, Oak and Wenge (Dark Walnut) are just some of the most common types of wood found within the bathroom. However, almost any type of wood can be used in a bathroom providing they have been treated for such use. Cedar, Maple and Birch can also be found in bathroom furniture. The different shades of wood mean that it is perfect for the creation of different moods, from modern through to traditional, or even rustic.

Tiles are perhaps amongst the most versatile materials that can be put to use within a bathroom. Coming in all shapes and sizes, and available in a mass of patterns and designs, they are extremely useful. Thanks to being impermeable, they can be used in shower or bathing areas, in addition to being an attractive decorative option. Marble is also increasingly sought after, used as both a decorative and a waterproof finish.

The colours that you choose for your bathroom will go far in the creation of a mood or theme. Whilst accessories and coverings can help in this respect, the environment that is created by the tones of the walls and surrounding furniture should be addressed first. Don't use colour simply to decorate the room, make use of it to enhance the feeling of space. The tone that you use will have an impact upon the feeling of the room; while red or orange will give a feeling of warmth, blues and violet can be used to create a cooler feeling.

Using yellows and whites, will serve to enhance the light within a room and create a better sense of space throughout. Such a technique would be extremely useful in a room that is limited in available space. The opposite is also true when trying to create a feeling of intimacy within a much larger space. If one uses darker colours and tones, then a bathroom can feel smaller in size, and help with this feeling of cosiness.

The use of colour is valuable in helping to portray certain moods and feelings within a bathroom. There

are no set guidelines that dictate which colours should be used within your bathroom; at the end of the day the choices you make will reflect your own personal tastes. However there are some things that must be taken into account when choosing colours. In setting the mood there are certain conventions that should be adhered to throughout your choice of colour. If you opt for bright colours such as white or cream, then you will portray a feeling of cleanliness and hygiene within your bathroom. Cooler tones such as light blues or greens will help create a feeling of serenity and relaxation, something that many people wish to achieve with their bathrooms. The use of bright colours will bring about a feeling of vitality within the room. Part of the fun with designing the bathroom, as with any area of the house, is in choosing a colour that reflects your personality perfectly!

### **How to Make a Small Bathroom Seem Bigger**

If you have been cursed with a small bathroom, there are options that can add a little space to it or make it seem larger. Some are inexpensive, while others should only be considered if you are planning to do some major remodeling. Either way, here are some tips on how to deal with a bathroom that makes you feel claustrophobic.

Let's start with fixtures. The standard tub is about ۶۰ inches by ۳۲ inches. If yours is larger than that, you may want to consider replacing it. Installing a lower-walled bathtub is also helpful because it will give the illusion of more space.

However, a couple square feet of space is not always worth the cost of replacing the bathtub. A cheaper alternative is to install a clear shower door. Removing ornate designs and replacing it with a clear door will remove the visual barriers that block the light and make a small room seem cramped.

Another feature that can take up more space than necessary is the toilet, especially older toilets. Check out some new toilets hitting the market as many - not all - are designed to take up less space. A bonus of replacing an older toilet is that the newer models also generally use less water. A newer water-saving toilet can cut about ۹۰ dollars from your annual water costs.

Pedestal and wall-mounted sinks will take up less room and make the room appear larger. In general, the more visible floor space in a room, the more spacious it will feel. You might also consider installing suspended cabinets instead of a standard vanity.

If you are convinced that you need a vanity, consider installing a smaller version. The standard vanity

measures about ۲۴ inches wide and ۱۸ to ۲۱ inches deep. However, you can get them as small as ۱۸ inches wide and ۱۳ inches deep. Make sure your sink lies flush with the counter because this will also help make the room seem larger. In addition, install a single-control faucet that will take up less space than the two-handled models.

If possible, replacing a standard hinged door with a sliding door will give you more room. If this is not possible, consider turning the door around so that it opens to the outside, rather than the inside of the bathroom.

Light is important in a small room. Make use of as much natural light as you can. A skylight is the perfect way to add light. One skylight will add five times more light than a window and is a great way to save on electricity bills.

Get rid of any dark corners that close in the space by illuminating them. A good way to do this is to install shelves on the walls near the ceiling and fitting lights underneath them. This not only gives you more light, it also gives you more storage space. Paint the ceiling in a light, high-gloss paint. The high-gloss surface will reflect and amplify the room's available light and make it seem larger. Perfection is critical with a high-gloss finish, as every flaw in the surface, no matter how small, is magnified.

Placing light fixtures near mirrors is another good way to add light to the room because the light will be reflected. The more reflective surfaces you can add to the bathroom, the more spacious it will seem.

Mirrors can also add depth to the room. Place a mirror across from a window because it will create the illusion of an additional «window» in the bathroom. If this is not possible, consider installing mirrors across from each other. This is an old trick that works really well when combined with lots of light. You could also mount a wall sconce onto, or right next to, a mirror. This will make it seem like there is a sconce and space on the other side of the mirror.

Using a monochromatic color scheme for the walls, floors, and fixtures will also help make the room seem larger. It does not have to be white; any light, cool color will work. Simplicity is essential to decorating a small room. Stay away from busy wallpaper patterns, because they will make the bathroom seem small and cluttered. Stick with a small, subtle pattern. You want to stay away from contrasts that will break up the space.

Drawing the eye upwards is also important because it will make the room seem taller. Vertical patterns are the best way to do this. This can be done with the right wallpaper or by painting stripes in the bathroom. You could also extend wall tile up to the ceiling or add a patterned tile around the top of the walls. Any type of border along the top of the walls will help bring the eye upward. Consider adding crown moldings to both the tops of the walls and the edges of the ceiling. This fools the eye into seeing more height in the space.

Another trick that will make a rectangular room seem larger is to paint the shorter end walls a shade slightly lighter than the longer walls. Simply add one cup of white paint per gallon of color to get the right hue. Add a little more white paint and you have the perfect color for the ceiling. You could also paint clouds on the ceiling, which will give the illusion of wide-open spaces.

Larger tiles in lighter colors will also help create a sense of space. Lay the tiles diagonally because it will lead the eye away and makes the space appear larger. You should also use rectified porcelain tile. Rectified tile is more consistent in size because it was cut after it was baked. Other tile is cut before it is baked, which causes the tile to have a greater size variance. This variance is sometimes as large as one-sixteenth of an inch. Because of their consistent size, rectified porcelain tile can be placed closer together, which will minimize any visual pattern that could make the room look smaller.

If possible, consider skipping bathmats. If you feel they are necessary, choose ones that are lightly colored--preferably in a color that closely match your floor covering. Contrasting colors will break up the space and make it seem smaller. The trick is to make everything blend together.

Finally, when decorating it is important that you try to find a way to eliminate as much clutter as possible. Clutter will only make a small room seem smaller. Recessed or floating cabinets are a good option because they leave visible floor space while hiding clutter.

While it is not always possible to add more space to a cramped bathroom, you can always add the illusion of more space. This can be as expensive as you want it to be - the choice is up to you.

#### Bathroom Cleaning Problems Solved

۱. My shower curtain is crawling with mildew.

Wash it with a bleach solution. Shower curtains can be tricky to clean because they are big and cumbersome. Getting rid of mildew, especially during damp weather, can be especially challenging. Here's a solution that's quick, easy, and low-cost: Pour ۱ gallon (۳,۷ liters) of warm water and ۱/۲ cup of household bleach into



a plastic bucket. With plastic gloves on, soak a sponge in this cleaning solution, give it a squeeze to avoid drips, and wipe. The mildew will vanish. Rinse using the showerhead.

۲. I'm ready to toss this filthy shower curtain liner.

Toss it in the washer. Don't throw away your liner just because of mildew and dirt buildup. Extend its life by cleaning it in your washing machine. Set the machine on the gentle cycle with warm water and ۱ cup of regular laundry detergent or ۱/۲ cup of vinegar. Afterward, whirl it in your drier, set on Low Heat or Fluff, for about ۲۰ minutes. Your liner will come out clean and wrinkle-free. Rehang it immediately.

۳. My brass fixtures look dull.

Polish them with baking soda and lemon juice. Don't rush out to buy an expensive brass cleaner. Save time and money by making a paste with equal amounts of baking soda and lemon juice. Dip an old toothbrush in the mix and lightly scrub the fixtures. Let the solution dry a few minutes and then buff the fixtures with a clean cloth. They'll look brand new.

۴. The nooks and crannies in my bathroom are hard to clean.

Use an old toothbrush. An old toothbrush is the perfect time-saving bathroom-cleaning tool. For example, you can use it to clean the tracks of your bathtub's sliding glass doors. Simply spray bathroom cleaner on a paper towel and wrap the towel around the bristle end of the toothbrush. Then scoot the brush along the tracks to dislodge dirt. Or put the little bristles to work on the grime that collects around the rim of a bathroom sink. Once the bristles have loosened the dirt, just mop it up with a damp sponge.

۵. I hate those mineral deposits on my bathroom faucet.

Remove them with white vinegar. No one likes crusty white deposits on a faucet. Try this easy solution: Before you go to bed one night, head to your kitchen for a bottle of white vinegar and three paper towels. Saturate the towels in the white vinegar and wrap them around the faucet like a cocoon. In the morning, remove the towels. Fill the basin with warm water, plus a squirt of dishwashing liquid. Dip an old toothbrush in the solution and scrub the faucet to remove the final bits of mineral deposit.

۶. I have scum buildup on shower doors.

Use furniture oil to prevent buildup. Cleaning soap scum off a shower door is a tough, time-consuming job. Try using lemon oil furniture polish as a barrier against the scummy buildup. The next time you clean the door, follow up by wiping it with furniture oil on a soft rag. Let the oil sit for two minutes and then polish off the excess with a dry cloth. The furniture polish will leave a slight film of oil that will act as a buffer against future soap scum. Using a shower squeegee (available at discount stores and supermarkets) after every shower will also discourage the buildup.

۷. My glass shower doors are filmy.

Clean them with vinegar, baking soda, and salt. Stubborn mineral buildup on glass shower doors is no competition

for a few common household ingredients—white vinegar, baking soda, and salt. Spray vinegar on the door and let it sit for a few minutes. Next, create a paste with equal amounts of baking soda and salt. Use a damp sponge to rub this paste over the door; then rinse well.

۸. My bathroom grout is grungy with mildew.

Spray it with vinegar. Mildew on grout is no match for that miracle household cleaning dynamo called vinegar. Just pour some white vinegar into a container, dip in an old toothbrush, and scrub away at the mildew. Or pour the vinegar into a spray bottle, squirt it on the mildew, and let it sit for ten minutes. Rinse with water and apply the old toothbrush if necessary. Bleach is effective in removing mildew from tile grout. Fill a spray bottle with equal parts of household chloride bleach and water. Spray the grout, let it sit a few minutes, and then wipe with a clean white cotton cloth.

۹. Those nonslip bathtub stickers won't peel off.

Loosen them with laundry presoak. You know the ones: They're shaped like flowers and fish and are stuck on with industrial-strength adhesive. Instead of ruining the smooth surface of your tub trying to scrape them off, follow these simple steps for removing them: Carefully lift corners on each sticker using your fingernail or a plastic scraper. (Metal will scratch most tubs.) Spray the stickers with a good dose of laundry pretreatment product, such as Shout or Spray 'n Wash. Let the stickers soak in the spray for a few hours. This should loosen the stickers and allow you to peel them off. Wipe up any adhesive residue and the laundry spray. Clean and rinse the tub thoroughly.