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Assess

The KOHLER® Bathroom Planning Guide

We’ve created this guide to help you understand the remodeling process and better navigate tough decisions when it comes to remodeling your bathroom. Whether you’re remodeling yourself or with a service provider, this document will help you make better informed decisions about your project.

How Do I Begin?

Sometimes the easiest way to get started is to simply list what you like or don’t like about your current bathroom. Answering some of the following questions will help you get started in identifying your needs for remodeling.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Question</th>
<th>Y</th>
<th>N</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Does your bathroom have an outdated color scheme?</td>
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<tr>
<td>Does it reflect your tastes and personal style?</td>
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<td>Does it make the most of the space?</td>
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<td>Is your bathroom too small?</td>
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<td>Is the layout user friendly?</td>
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<td>Is it conveniently located and accessible for all users?</td>
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Who Uses the Space?

The type of room layout and design you consider can be informed by who will actually be using the space.

A **master bath suite** is often a private retreat from the rest of the household. It should have space to indulge extra relaxation and luxury features, such as an oversized chair for reading or resting.

A **full bath** is often shared by family and comfortably accommodates two people at once. “Zoning” your fixtures—isolating the toilet from the bath and sinks—will help add privacy and reduce congestion.

A **powder room** or **half bath** typically requires less space than a full bath and is usually located on a home’s first floor, providing guests access to facilities without impeding your private spaces. With this in mind, however, be sure that you don’t sacrifice comfort and adequate storage for space.

Universal design should be a consideration if you have elderly relatives living with you or family members with disabilities. Be sure to take functional or safety needs into account. Kohler provides a walk-in bath estimating program that helps simplify the selection and installation of universal design products. Find out more at kohlerwalkinbath.com.
What Are the Possibilities?

Although functionality is constant, the possibilities for your new bathroom are virtually endless. It all depends on your individual vision for your new space, both aesthetically and experientially. Perhaps you may consider:

- Steam shower
- His and her vanities
- Deep-soaking bath
- Built-in linen storage
- LED illuminated mirrors
- Mixed materials
- Heated floors
- Integrated music features
- Robern® mirrored cabinets with media and technology
- Tile and surface options

Color Is an Extension of Your Style

Color adds dimension, warmth and character to your home. Whether your preferred palette is soft, stimulating, rich or harmonizing, choose colors that reflect your individual style. However, in order to achieve your desired results, it is important to consider the amount of natural light that enters your environment, as well as the architecture and scale of that environment.

Along with color, creating visual interest in your bathroom involves incorporating a wide variety of materials, finishes and textures. When you add these elements to your space, the possibilities for transforming your bathroom into a rich sensory experience are as limitless as your imagination.

Finding Your Style

At Kohler, we’ve worked with leaders in fashion and design to help you identify today’s forward-thinking trends. Start by exploring our six trends researched through a series of inspired rooms and high-profile case study homes, all showcased to help you find your style and create the bathroom of your dreams. Each trend features three rooms ranging from classic to contemporary. So whether you’re looking for an elegant spa-like retreat, an efficient, streamlined space or a combination of the two, you’ll find everything in our expertly designed rooms. You can explore these trends in more detail and learn how to express your styles through your product selection by downloading the KOHLER Bathroom Catalog.

There are also great sites for inspiration, such as ideas.KOHLER.com, us.KOHLER.com, Houzz.com and Pinterest that let you browse thousands of completed bathroom projects to help you find a trend or style that suits your interest.
KOHLER Bathroom Trends

Traditional
- White
  - Nantucket Prep

Transitional
- White
  - Empire Elegance

Modern
- White
  - Palm Springs Connected

Transitional
- Smoky
  - Victorian Edge

Transitional
- Smoky
  - Ember Prism

Transitional
- Noir
  - Minimalism Unveiled

Transitional
- Noir
  - Regency East

Modern
- Noir
  - Cufflinks & Curiosities

Modern
- Noir
  - Bourbon & Bronze
KOHLER Bathroom Trends

Traditional
- Pale: Low Country Retreat
- Pattern: Craft Curation
- Color: Primary Play

Transitional
- Pale: Flight of Fancy
- Pattern: Desert Damask
- Color: Nordic Lights

Modern
- Pale: Petal Pink
- Pattern: Graphic Infusion
- Color: Rose Reflections
Act

Budgeting

Next you’ll want to consider your bathroom remodel budget before making any decisions on products or contractors. Budgeting for bathroom remodeling is one of the biggest points of confusion for homeowners. Kohler works with remodelers and designers from across the country, and one fact remains clear: almost all consumers underestimate the costs that go into a bathroom remodel. Let’s explore the reasons why.

Bathroom renovation can vary greatly depending on the size of the space being updated, the proposed design and the existing conditions of the space. It’s important that your space as well as your proposed scope of work is reviewed by a professional.

Some contractors lack the experience and formal estimating tools that capture all project costs that go into the project. Make sure your contractor has a solid reputation and a history of accounting for his projects.

Several tools can help you appropriately budget a bathroom remodel. One good tool available to help you is Remodeling magazine’s annual Cost vs. Value study. The national average in 2017 for a midrange bathroom is $18,546. A midrange bathroom remodel assumes updating a 5’ x 7’ bathroom with new fixtures. The national average in 2017 for an upscale bathroom remodel is $59,979. An upscale remodel assumes expanding the bathroom space to 10’ x 10’, updating and moving fixtures and installing a ceramic tile floor.

Remember, a bathroom is an investment in your home. A bathroom remodel is typically going to recoup about 60% of its value immediately upon completion. That means you would recoup about $18,000 of resale value on your $30,000 investment.
How Do I Choose Fixtures, Faucets and Tile?

If you haven’t already been inspired by specific products, it’s time to explore KOHLER® products to make your selections. Make the most of your experience by recording your first—and perhaps second—choices. This will help you and your design consultant design a customized portfolio that’s perfect for your project.

Planning Guidelines

**Clear Space**
There should be at least 30” of clear floor space between the edge of a fixture and any opposite fixture or wall. (Check with your general contractor for local code requirements.*)

**Bath/Shower Controls**
The NKBA recommends that shower controls should be located 38”–40” above the floor and bath controls should be located 33” above the floor. Both sets of controls should be accessible from both inside and outside the bath or shower.

**Bath/Shower Control Valves**
Pressure-balancing, thermostatic-mixing or combination valves are recommended.

**Shower Seat**
For comfort and safety, a shower seat should be 17”–19” above the shower floor and at least 15” deep.

**Bath/Shower Surround**
If you decide to put a shower in your new bathroom, waterproof materials should cover the walls surrounding the shower at least 3” above the showerhead. If you are considering a steam shower, waterproof materials are necessary throughout.

**Grab Bars**
These can be a good idea for easy maneuvering in and out of the shower area. To hang the grab bars appropriately, you will need to reinforce the walls at the same time of construction. They should be able to support up to 300 pounds. The grab bars should be placed 33”–36” above the floor, and must be 1” in diameter and 1” away from the wall. A grab bar or handrail is necessary if steps are installed outside the bath.

**Electrical Receptacles**
GFCI receptacles should be located at all electrical appliance points. (Check with your general contractor for local code requirements.*) Switches should not be installed within wet locations (i.e. bath or shower) unless they are a part of the bath and shower assembly.

**Ventilation**
If your building structure allows for it, a mechanical exhaust system should be installed. (Check with your general contractor for local code requirements*)

*In all renovation and remodeling projects, Kohler Co. recommends that you consult your general contractor, plumber or electrician for specific information pertaining to local installation and building codes.
The Remodeling Process—Setting Expectations

The most difficult part of the remodeling project occurs when the job is in progress—from demolition to final completion. In our survey of over 600 homeowners who completed a recent remodeling project the majority of negative emotions happened during this phase. Key pain points homeowners expressed:

- **Schedule not provided**
  - Ask your contractor to provide a detailed timeline, highlighting major milestones for the project
- **A dusty and dirty job site**
  - Drop cloths, daily cleanup and dust mitigation systems can help keep the rest of the home clean
- **Changes made to the project scope**
  - Request a fixed price contract, with all details determined prior to agreeing on a final price

Bathroom remodels typically follow the basic schedule outlined in page 11.

“If you aren’t sure what your style is, think about your favorite clothes. Or the shoes you wear the most. We’re all wearing our style every day.”

Benjamin Nortega-Oritz, Designer
Build

Choosing the Right Team for Your Project

There are many types of professionals you might interact with on your remodeling project. The most common are:

**Designers**
Designers have expertise in several areas of the home, including layout, furniture, flooring, lighting and more. Some of the more technical and complicated areas are in the kitchen and bathroom. Look for designers who have passed rigorous training from the National Kitchen & Bath Association. The NKBA is the certifying body for kitchen and bath designers, requiring a demonstrated level of professionalism before designers can even take the certification exam.

**Specialized Contractors or Subcontractors**
Types of subcontractors include electricians, plumbers, rough and finish carpenters and painters. Several subcontractors typically come together under the guidance of the general contractor to complete the bathroom at various stages of the project. Look to your general contractor to ensure strict quality standards with subcontractors are upheld, and longstanding relationships are maintained.

**Professional Remodelers**
There are big differences among the types of people you may select to manage your project. A remodeler or general contractor will work with you to coordinate your bathroom project. Some remodelers also employ designers that help you with both the design and construction of the project. Looking for a licensed contractor is just one way to evaluate your contractor. Kohler is an Industry Partner for the National Association of the Remodeling Industry. Look for NARI remodelers who have achieved a certification that represents a commitment to professional conduct. You can find more information on contractors at nari.org.
The Remodeling Process

A typical pull and replace remodeling project takes about five weeks from start to finish depending on the size and scope. Here are a few things you should prepare for and expect during the process of creating your dream bathroom.

1. Preparation
Empty your bathroom cabinets and closets and remove all other bathroom accessories or decor.

2. Demolition
In the demolition stage of your remodel all fixtures, flooring and impacted surfaces will be removed.

3. Framing
The amount of framing needed varies based on changes to the overall bathroom design. Changes may be required to accommodate recessed mirrored cabinets, storage niches, shampoo alcoves, etc.

4. Plumbing and Electrical Rough-In
Plumbing and electrical work that will end up behind walls will be completed according to specifications in the bathroom layout for lighting, ventilation, fixtures and shower fittings.

5. Wall Installation
Drywall and Durarock (used in wet areas) will be installed, taped and prepared for painting, tile or any other surface desired.

6. Tile Installation
Tile is installed to the desired layout with minimal grout lines for a sleeker look and easy cleaning.

7. Fixture Installation
Fixtures and fittings are installed, and all products are tested to ensure proper look and functionality.
Three Ways Kohler Can Help

**Bathroom Design Service**
Kohler provides several solutions when it comes to bathroom design. One option is to work with the Kohler Bathroom Design Service. This 30-day virtual service allows you to work in the convenience of your own home to collaborate with your designer on your new bathroom design: KOHLER.com/DesignService.

**Kohler Partner Network**
Kohler has partnered with a network of local remodelers and installers that align with Kohler standards. This network operates with customer service in mind and has the tools and the resources to specify and install the latest Kohler product innovations.

**KOHLER® Signature Stores**
KOHLER Signature Stores offer personalized design services, and enable you to experience inspirational KOHLER kitchen and bathroom products firsthand. The Store Consultants can help take your project from start to finish with cabinetry, tile and plumbing selections. All KOHLER Signature Stores currently offer in-home and in-store bathroom design services.