



## When planning your bathroom renovation, keep the following tips in mind:

**Indulge yourself.** Give your bathroom the atmosphere of a comfortable European spa. When installing a new tile floor, consider installing a thin electric heating roll under the floor and turn a cold bathroom floor into a warm, luxurious surface. A heated towel rack and a fog-free mirror are other popular upgrade features.

**Make your bathroom your oasis.** Install multiple shower heads or a large soaking tub to rejuvenate your tired body at the end of a long day. If your tub is large plan for a dedicated hot water heater so the tub won't be a drain on other household hot water needs.

**Clean up countertop clutter for a more spacious bathroom.** Plan for adequate bathroom storage and deep medicine cabinets. If your bath backs up to a bedroom closet or linen closet, extend your storage into that area with a recessed cabinet.

**If you can't steal space from another room,** add a skylight, a pedestal sink, or a clear shower enclosure to open up your bathroom. Using light, neutral colors is another way to expand your feeling of space.

**Incorporate energy-saving concepts into your bathroom design.** New toilets can save up to 70% on water usage. A remodeling project is also the perfect chance to install replacement windows, upgrade plumbing systems, fix weak water pressure or replace leaky faucets.

**Make safety a top remodeling criteria.** Twenty-five percent of all household mishaps occur in the bathroom. If you have older family members—consider installing grab bars in the tub area, slip resistant floors, and wider doorways to accommodate walkers or wheelchairs.

**Another safety tip.** Move electrical switches away from water sources. Make sure all bathroom outlets have ground fault circuit interrupters (GFCI). These circuits monitor the flow of electricity through the outlet's circuit. If there is any variation in the current, the GFCI automatically cuts off the flow of electricity, preventing injury.

**Plan for heavy use.** Heat, moisture and heavy use make the bathroom vulnerable to deterioration and structural damage. Use the highest-quality materials and fixtures your budget will allow. Also be sure to plan for exhaust fans that vent to the outside.

**Plan your lighting needs before installing walls and cabinets.** You will need shadow-free lighting for applying makeup, shaving and hair care. Plan for at least 120 incandescent watts. You may need other lighting fixtures if your bathroom is large.