



TrueSource
C A B I N E T S

BATHROOM PLANNER
Bringing your dream to reality





Designing your new bathroom



While decorating shows on TV are fun and inspirational, the real life process of creating a new bath – whether it’s a master bath or powder room – takes longer and involves many more “behinds the scenes” steps than first meets the eye. Here, TrueSource Cabinets spells out the steps to achieving your dream. The following pages will tell you about the process in more detail.



SO HOW LONG WILL ALL THIS TAKE?

Longer than a TV episode!

The size and scope of your project will determine the time frame, which could be anywhere from four to six weeks for simple improvements or changes, to six or eight months or more for a full-scale remodel.

Be aware of delivery times

Timing also depends on product choices. Special plumbing fixtures can require weeks for delivery. The same is true of custom cabinets. Then there are some things that just have to wait their turn. Grout or sealants, for example, may have to dry before work can continue.

Sometimes, things happen

Unexpected delays can occur if structural deficiencies are found when walls or floors are opened up. Especially in a bath, there can be hidden water damage. It's best to tell your designer if you have a deadline for your new bath. They can give you a realistic time estimate based on the parameters of your specific project.

What do you want to do?



Determining your priorities for a new bath –and sticking to them– will help you and TrueSource Cabinets make the best decisions about budget, design, layout and products. Here's a questionnaire to get you started.

About your project

- Y N Are you remodeling?
Y N If so, are you remodeling an existing full bath?
Y N A powder room/half bath?
Y N Are you thinking of expanding the existing bath?

Approximately how big is your bathroom now?
_____ ft. x _____ ft.

- Or are you adding:
Y N A full bath?
Y N A powder room/half bath?

How old is your home?

How long are you planning on staying there? _____

- Y N Building a new home?

If so, how many full baths are you planning? _____

How many half baths or powder rooms?

Would you like to have

- Y N Whirlpool tub
Y N Large shower instead of a tub
Y N Steam shower
Y N Vanity with sit-down dressing
Y N TV
Y N Laundry area

About your family

Number and age of household members

Do you anticipate:

- Y N New children arriving?
Y N Children leaving the home?
Y N Adult children returning home?
Y N Parent(s) coming to live with you?

Does anyone in your family have physical issues that should be considered (difficulty standing, walking, bending, poor eyesight, arthritis?) Describe:

Who will be the primary users of this bath?

- Y N Adults
Y N Children
Y N Guests

Your goals

- Y N Update the look of the room
Y N Update the bath for resale of our home
Y N Add more space
Y N Create a master suite for relaxation
Y N Create a bath for the kids to use
Y N Create a good-looking guest bath
Y N Improve the function of the room
Y N Improve the storage

Other:

Have you thought about...?



As you plan your new bath, you may have some special personal priorities. They could be environmental concerns, health and safety issues, longer-term family needs. Many health, safety and usability factors are addressed by TrueSource Cabinets with Access Standards. But no matter what your concerns, your TrueSource Cabinets professional will be able to address them.

ECOLOGICALLY RESPONSIBLE...

Can some materials from your old bath be recycled? Or donated?
Or reused in a basement?

Will fixtures (toilets, faucets, showerheads) carry the EPA's WaterSense label? If so, they are 20 percent more water efficient than average products in that category.

Will the wood in your new vanity cabinets come from a sustainably managed forest? Sustainable wood products — products made from forests that grow quickly and are easily replenished — have become more popular. Examples of fast-growing species are bamboo, Lyptus, cane, and some maple.

Can you use recycled countertop materials?
Flooring?

How energy-efficient will your new lighting be?

Is this a good time to change to new, more efficient windows?

If any walls are going to be opened, can you add more insulation?

Will new finishes and materials be low-VOC?

HEALTH FRIENDLY...

A thoughtfully designed bath can contribute to your family's health, safety and well-being. For example:

Proper ventilation removes humidity that can contribute to mold.

Water quality issues can be addressed with a variety of filter types.

Medications and cleaning products can be stored safely out of the reach of children.

If anyone in your home is highly sensitive and/or allergic, special cabinet finishes and materials can be specified to minimize problems.

Non-slip flooring can help prevent falls.

Proper use of GFCIs (ground-fault circuit interrupters) can prevent shocks.

Adequate lighting can increase safety.

Whirlpools and steam baths can foster relaxation and soothe sore muscles.

Aromatherapy and chromatherapy can offer health benefits.

Grab bars, which are now very attractive, can enhance safety for people of all ages.

USER FRIENDLY...

All bathrooms should function beautifully for their users, but it's worthwhile to think about any long-term changes anticipated in your family.

Will the bath be used by someone who might prefer to dry their hair, apply makeup or perform other grooming tasks while seated?

Will it be used by anyone relying on a wheelchair, walker, cane or other device? If so, is space adequate for turning in a wheelchair? Is the shower designed without a threshold? Is there a seat in the shower? Are there properly installed and located grab bars (towel bars are not a substitute).

Is there enough lighting for someone with diminished eyesight?

Can the vanity be raised to a more back-friendly height?

Can drawers, rollouts and pullouts make items accessible without bending?

Are faucet handles easy to operate?

Are there thermostatic and/or pressure-balanced valves to prevent scalding?



White, wood tones, colors?
Streamlined or decorative?
Traditional, Casual, contemporary?



What's your look?

Visit a friend's bathroom you love and take pictures, use magazine clippings of featured bathrooms, photos you've found online, or bring any other material you want to show us the things you like. This will help TrueSource Cabinets professionals pinpoint your favorites. Note what you love about the rooms you brought in: the color, the materials, a special detail or just the overall tone. The more specific you are, the more TrueSource Cabinets can work with you to define your style.



DIY? Yes, No or Maybe?

The success of your bath depends on the quality of the installation and attention to fine details. In inexperienced hands, vanity doors and drawers may not align properly, tile may not lay out attractively, different materials may meet in awkward ways, and the overall look can be a disappointment.

If you're thinking of doing it yourself, realistically consider your skills and time available. Are you generally handy? Do you have the right tools? Have you tackled a project like this before? Do you have any help? Do you like doing projects like this? Would you be better off handling some tasks like painting, wallpapering or installing a sink or floor; versus doing the whole job?

TrueSource Cabinets can work with DIYers to create a plan and supply cabinets and other materials.

Setting your budget range

What does a bathroom cost? You ultimately decide by the scope of your project, the products you select and the services you'd like. (Of course, labor rates in your area have some bearing too.)

WAYS TO SAVE



Set priorities so you know where to allocate your dollars.

Don't move plumbing or walls unless it will greatly improve the space.

Avoid changing your mind once products are ordered and installation begins.

Have a clear set of specifications before comparison shopping.

Be sure to compare exactly the same products, not just similar ones. The price for the same model of faucet, for example, will vary by finish. Granite prices vary by grade.

Everyone shops online, but it's important to visit showrooms and be sure what you see online is what you think it is.

On a cost-per-square-foot basis, a bath can be one of the most expensive rooms to remodel. That's due in part to the complexities of plumbing and to the need for multiple contractors to work sequentially in a small space.

However, with a wide variety of quality products available, there's a bath for almost any budget, ranging from the very attractive to the super deluxe.

To share a few examples: a master suite with all the amenities and luxurious materials in a major metro area could reach \$100,000. However, a lovely yet modest makeover in a smaller town might be achieved for less than \$10,000.

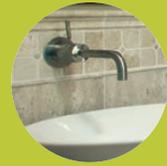
Bath Remodeling Cost

<u>Design Fees</u>	4%
<u>Installation</u>	20%
<u>Fixtures</u>	15%
<u>Cabinetry & Hardware</u>	16%
<u>Countertops</u>	10%
<u>Lighting & Ventilation</u>	5%
<u>Flooring</u>	9%
<u>Doors & Windows</u>	4%
<u>Walls & Ceilings</u>	5%
<u>Faucets & Plumbing</u>	14%
<u>Other</u>	1%

HERE ARE SOME TIPS FOR SETTING YOUR BUDGET

- **Keep your priorities front and center.** A designer faucet for several thousand dollars or one that's about \$100? A \$100 sink or one that's \$3,500? A \$4 polished brass knob or a \$98 crystal model? What's important to you?
- **Cabinetry and hardware generally run about 16% of your investment, and fixtures are about 15%.**
- **Remember that installation can be about 20% of the budget.**

How will it come together?



While it may not be fun having your bathroom torn out and your household disrupted, proper planning can alleviate some of the stress. Get a jump start with our checklist here.

1 – THINK ABOUT...

- Where will products go before installation? In the garage? On a porch? Living room or dining room?
- How will they be delivered? A back door into the bathroom? Or through the rest of the house?
- How will your old bathroom be removed?
- Where will you put a dumpster if needed?
- What hours will the crew be in your home?
- Who do you talk to if you believe there's a problem? The crew or someone else?
- What happens if I want to make a change after the project starts? Whom do you contact?

2 – REMEMBER TO...

- Ask for a written schedule
- State your preferences about music, smoking and eating on the premises
- Keep pets and children out of the work area
- Close off the rest of the house as much as possible
- Remove items on adjoining walls, since hammering can jar them
- Communicate in advance with neighbors so they know what to expect
- Be accessible... let the crew or general contractor know how to reach you

3 – KEEP ON SCHEDULE BY...

- Have products you supply on hand before work begins (remember there can be long lead times)
- Don't substitute a product without telling your designer (even small changes can have a big impact)
- Keep any changes to a minimum after construction starts

