

Bathroom Design & Planning Guide

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TABLE OF CONTENTS

- Section 1:** Bathroom Design
- Section 2:** Bathroom Design Questions
- Section 3:** Bathroom Styles
- Section 4:** Bathroom Trends
- Section 5:** Tips for Hiring Remodeling Contractors
- Section 6:** Questions to Ask Home Remodeling Contractors
- Section 7:** Questions to Ask References
- Section 8:** Product Resource Guide
- Section 9:** Remodeling Lingo
- Back Cover:** About Pittsburgh's Best Remodeling

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BATHROOM DESIGN

Remodeling your bathroom can be an exciting experience. It also can be overwhelming because there are so many decisions that need to be made and choices to make when planning your bathroom remodel. One decision is design. How do you know the best way to layout your bathroom to be functional and efficient? One way is to write out your needs and desires. The following questions are designed to prompt you to find out exactly what your needs, desires and goals are to design and build your dream bathroom.

BATHROOM DESIGN QUESTIONS

What are the primary reasons I want to remodel my bathroom?

- More space
- Add features
- More storage
- Update look

What activities will take place in the bathroom?

- Bathing
- Grooming
- Ironing
- Showering
- Dressing
- Leisure
- Makeup
- Laundry
- Whirlpool/Spa

Who primarily uses the bathroom?

Will guests use the bathroom?

What do I like about my current bathroom?

What don't I like about my current bathroom?

Do I want my bathroom to be a retreat or oasis?

Do I need a new?

- Tub
- Vanity
- Floor
- Tile on walls

- Toilet
- Shower
- Tile around shower
- Towers
- Sink
- Faucet
- Tile around tub
- Fans

Do I need a double or single vanity?

Do I want a vanity that has pull out shelves?

What tub/shower configuration do I want?

- Tub only
- Tub separate from shower
- Shower only
- Tub/Shower combo

What kind of tub do I need?

- Cast iron
- Fiberglass
- Acrylic
- Steel
- Tile
- Stone

What style of tub do I want?

- Free standing
- Whirlpool/Spa
- Drop-In
- Built-in
- Deep soaking



What do I want on the wall above tub or shower?

- Ceramic
- Acrylic
- Porcelain
- Corian
- Stone
- Marble

For splash protection, do I prefer?

- Sliding glass door
- Shower curtain
- Swinging glass door
- Nothing

Does the shower need to be curbed?

Do I want a separate shower?

Do I have any mold or mildew problems with my existing bathroom?

What do I need to store in the bathroom?

- Towels
- Hair dryer
- Medications
- Linens
- Toilet paper

What kinds of lighting do I want?

- Vanity lights
- Dimmer lights
- Pendant lighting
- Make-up lights

Do I want an enclosed area for the toilet?

Do I want a bidet?



BATHROOM STYLES

A bathroom is more than just a washroom. It is a place of renewal. A sanctuary away from the stressors of everyday life. It is a place to relax and reinvigorate oneself.

A bathroom is the place where we start and end our days. The time we spend in our bathroom is immense. That is why it should be tastefully decorated in materials, colors, textures and ornaments that are reflective of our personalities.

At right is a list of popular types of bathroom styles. Which bathroom style is right for you?

STYLE TYPE	CHARACTERISTICS
<i>Beach style</i>	Ocean themes, watery hues, shades of blue and turquoise, lush green foliage, sand, seashells and crisp white accents for that beachy feel.
<i>Contemporary</i>	Open space, straight lines, clutter free, clean, fussy free environment.
<i>Craftsman</i>	Expertly crafted artisan furniture, ornate cabinetry, practical and functional.
<i>Farmhouse</i>	Casual country, sliding barn door, wire baskets, distressed paint, vintage hand-crafted details, open ceiling, exposed beams.
<i>Modern</i>	Crisp, clean, sparse, bold colors, chrome accents, high contrast elements.
<i>Mediterranean</i>	Old-world feel, ornate rugs and tapestries, intricate tile mosaics, large natural or terracotta tiles.
<i>Shabby-Chic</i>	Sweetly romantic, pink, pastels, lavender, flowers, lots of distressed white paint for a vintage effect.
<i>Transitional</i>	Best of both worlds, mixes a little bit of the old with a little bit of the new world, stone, glass, patterned floor and dark finished metals.
<i>Victorian</i>	Jewel tones, gold accents, ornate rugs, marble, porcelain, clawfoot tub and pedestal sinks.

BATHROOM TRENDS

Underfloor Heating – can be used with vinyl and wood.

Undercounter appliances – a beverage center or frig near the make up area or vanity for your medicine or your organic facial remedies.

Brass and Gold Tone Fixtures – a perfect complement to cooler gray paint colors. The warm gold tone adds just the right amount of luxury feel to any space.

Vanity Lighting – There are many lighting styles such as light bars, wall sconces, and small pendant.

High Tech Toilets – seat warmers, automatic lid openers, slow close features and built in deodorizers.

Smart Showers – automatically knows your preferred temperature and turns on your favorite music with a touch.

Suspended Cabinets and Vanities – also called floating vanities, can make a small bathroom look bigger. It provides additional storage space typically lost by the tow kick area of a traditionally build cabinet.

Big Walk-In Showers with Benches and Niches – benches are must haves for seniors and for women to shave their legs. Niches so that shower supplies don't end up on the floor.

Bigger Tiles with Slimmer Grout Lines – everyone hates grout! They hate how it looks when it gets dirty and how hard it is to clean it.

Water Saving Fixtures – dual flush technology allows for two different flushing options.

Hands Free Faucet – equipped with a proximity sensor that opens its valve to allow water to flow in response to the presence of a hand in close proximity. The advantages are they reduce water waste, alleviate the need for parents to have to make sure kids turned off faucet. Benefits the elderly suffering from arthritis since there's no handles to twist and eliminates the risk of sink overflow.

Concealed Commodes – a decorative solution for hiding away the toilet. It also can double as a bench.



Sunbathing – a whirlpool tub that can go anywhere in the home. A cover is designed to keep warm water in while concealing the tub and offering a surface to lay on.

Wood Vanities – wooden furniture-style vanities that look like free standing furniture pieces.

Shades of Grey – these tones look well with dashes of wood and other natural materials. A soft gray is an excellent choice that makes a room appear larger than it is.

Free-Standing Tubs – everyone is obsessed with the idea of work-life balance and what better way to achieve that than a hot relaxing bath after a hard day? A free-standing tub is not just any tub, it is a tub that is deep enough for complete immersion and great relaxation. These tubs have rounded bottoms which are far more comfortable than regular tubs.

TIPS FOR HIRING A HOME REMODELING CONTRACTOR

For most homeowners the hardest part of any home renovation project isn't the work itself, it is finding a competent and reliable home remodeler to do the job. There are steps you can take to find the right home remodeler.

QUESTIONS TO ASK HOME REMODELING CONTRACTORS

- How long have you been in business?
- How much liability insurance do you carry?
- Do you carry Worker's Compensation on all of your carpenters and laborers?
- Will I be getting Proof of Insurance?
- Are you a member in good standing with the Better Business Bureau?
- Do you use company paid employees to perform the work on my home or do you subcontract the work out?
- Do you have a company paid in-house design team or do you subcontract the design work out?

- Do you have a one stop full service kitchen and bath design center showroom or will I have to make many trips to different stores to pick out my selections?
- Do I receive a detailed bid from you or just a numerical price?
- Are you licensed with the state?
- Do you pull all of the necessary local and municipal permits?
- Will I receive a written contract with everything we agreed upon?
- Do you assign a specific Project Manager to my home remodel that is fully in charge of the project or do I get my information from just a carpenter?
- What is your process?

- How do we communicate with each other – email, phone, text or how?
- Do you give me a written warranty?
- Will you give me a list of references I can call?

RESEARCH HOME REMODELING CONTRACTORS

Check out each remodeler's:

- Online reviews
- Galleries of work
- Testimonials
- Awards
- Website
- Facebook page
- Houzz page
- Team page
- Showroom

QUESTIONS TO ASK REFERENCES

- Were they easy to work with?
- Were the employees respectful to your home?
- Do they communicate with you on a weekly basis as to how project was coming along?
- Did they keep job site clean?
- Were there any additional charges they did not make you aware of?
- Did you give them a five-star review?
- Would you use them again?

PRODUCT RESOURCE GUIDE

These are some of the manufacturers we use.

BACKSPLASH

- Daltile
- American Olean
- Interceramic
- Elements

CABINETS

- Wellborn

COUNTERTOPS

- Caesarstone
- Cambria
- Hahnstone

FAUCETS

- Kohler
- Moen
- Delta
- Blanco
- Pfister

REMODELING LINGO

If you are starting a home remodeling project and feel overwhelmed, below is a guide to all the jargon and lingo you need to know before you start.

Addition – any construction that increases a building's size by adding to its structure. For example, another room or an additional story,

Bid – an offer to perform a specified amount of work under certain conditions with cost estimates included.

Blueprints – mechanical drawings, prepared by an architect, that show precise detail of a building or space used during the planning and construction of a project.

Change Order – they are like addendums, except they are changes to the construction contract after work begins, it is an agreement between the owner and contractor to change the scope, price, schedule or similar term of the contract. Sometimes called "extras" or "add-ons."

Construction Contract – legally binding, formal agreement between two parties recorded in document form. It outlines each party's responsibilities, cost estimates, project timing and conditions for changing the contract.

Contractors – combine managing, planning and designing all in one. All stages of a large project, estimating costs, drawing plans and getting building permits.

Designers – designers use their creativity to plan the look and aesthetics of your project, the layout of a space, location of fixtures, fabric types and color schemes.

Draw Schedule – a schedule of payments usually included in the contract that describes at what points the customer will pay the contractor. May include a deposit, periodic payments for materials, work performed and of course a final payment.

Estimating – the process of determining the cost of a project, typically results in a ballpark cost estimate and usually occurs prior to signing a final contract.

Fixture – a term which is used to describe many items within the home, typically in bathrooms and kitchens. Examples include sinks, faucets, bathtubs, almost anything exterior to the wall.

Floor Area – the square footage of a building or space

Hearth – the floor area in front of a fireplace, or the actual floor of the fireplace. The hearth is usually constructed of brick, stone or cement.

HVAC – Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning, all appliances of the system to condition the air within the home.

Insulation – material used to prevent heat loss in a structure; is usually placed within ceilings, and walls and sometimes floors. Quality home insulation can help to reduce heating or electricity bills.

Jamb – the molding around a window frame. The "side jamb" is vertical while the "head jamb" is horizontal.

Joint – any piece where two building materials come together and leave a gap or space.

Joist – parallel framing members installed horizontally to carry floor and ceiling loads.

Miter – a 45 degree cut, unlike a compound miter cut, the saw

blade remains at 0 degrees.

Remodel – renovations are a facelift, a remodel would be considered plastic surgery for your home, transforming the structure and style of a space; changing the floor plan or layout of a room. For example, creating an open layout by removing a wall in your formal dining room to connect the kitchen would be considered a remodeling job. Adding an island counter top to your kitchen floor plan would also be a remodel.

Renovation – a facelift for your home. Common home renovations are replacing light fixtures, repainting, changing out cabinet hardware, installing new appliances, countertops and other similar project. No major plans to the room's layout are made, instead features of that room are updated to give the room a fresh new look.

Sconce – a light fixture attached to a wall.

Shim – a thin piece of wood used during installation to

ensure that countertops are level.

Subfloor – boards or plywood mounted over joists on which the finish floor is laid.

Substrate – any surface to which a paint, stain or sealant is applied.

Tongue and Groove – a way of connecting materials, such as wood, in which the tongue of a board is placed into the groove of the other board.

Vanity – a storage cabinet for bathrooms that sits under the sink/counter.

Vessel – a style of sink that is not fully installed into the counter. It sits partially above the counter. This type of basin is often glass or porcelain and can be very colorful.

Walkthrough – the Designer, Project Manager Contractor and/or Subcontractors meet at the project site to evaluate the project and scope of work.



About Pittsburgh's Best Remodeling

Your Kitchen, Bathroom or Basement Remodel should reflect your personality and lifestyle. Through our knowledgeable and creative design team, skilled craftsman, competent Project Manager and One Stop Shop Design Center Showroom we can help you turn your unique vision for your home into a reality.

We specialize in:

- Home Design Consultation
- Kitchen Remodeling
- Bathroom Remodeling
- Basement Remodeling
- Home Additions
- Flooring

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