

How should I budget for my bathroom renovation?

When planning a project, it can be hard to know what to invest versus where you can afford to save to balance the books. We've asked the experts for their best advice to ensure you can achieve your dream suite for what you have to spend

Words: Yvette Murrell



Margaret Talbot, marketing manager, Vitra



Nest Trendy washbasin unit, £1027; countertop washbasin, £248; mirror with LED lighting, £572; Miniworx tiles, around £50 per sq m; and Silence bath, £3340, all Vitra.

Work out what you need

"When budgeting for your bathroom, it is essential to focus on you and your family's needs now and in the future in order to determine how much you'll have to spend. If you are only looking to replace existing sanitaryware without moving pipes and drainage, a modest budget of under £2000 can create a fresh new space that will still add value to your home. But if you want to completely change your layout, the cost can quickly escalate. A tip for making the space look more luxurious without blowing your budget is to opt for wall-hung sanitaryware – you'll save on floorspace, too."

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Lily Pad encaustic tile in Blush Rose, £3.96 per 20 x 23cm tile, Ca'Pietra.

2 Bring in your personality

"Think about your style and how you can incorporate it into your new space. A recess in your shower and behind your bath with contrasting statement tiles would create a great feature, without the need for a high square meterage of a more expensive, intricate design. Invest in beautiful materials – whether that's luxurious marble or an encaustic cement tile – that will lift your space and add character. You can then make savings with plain but practical sanitaryware."



Hamish Smith, creative director, Ca'Pietra



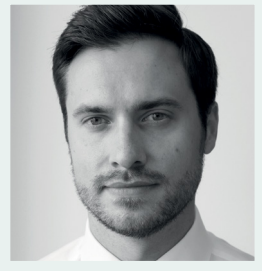
Floyd Case, projects and branding manager, Toto

3 Invest in the best

"Buying quality sanitaryware that stands the test of time is a must. Although a large spend, shower toilets are growing in popularity thanks to their additional benefits. For example, the Neorest washlet features an automatic open-close lid and remote-control wash settings, as well as self-cleaning and deodorisation. There is also a warm air dryer to reduce paper consumption and an automatic flush, which detects the need for a 3- or 6-litre flush and helps reduce your water consumption."



Neorest AC washlet with remote control, £11,268, Toto.



David Cole, sales director, Perrin & Rowe



Deco 3135 monobloc single-lever basin mixer in chrome, from £527.16, Perrin & Rowe.

4 Buy quality brassware

"You'll likely be using your taps every day, so choose top-end fitting where possible – it will look better, last longer, and provide you with a better daily experience. I always recommend seeing fixtures in person before making a purchase, as when you're investing in products to last a lifetime, you want them to be right for you. Look at the quality and finish in your own hands first. If you do buy online, make sure it's from a reputable retailer who can offer aftercare if needed, and ensure you check the small print so you know the product will fit and be compatible with your plumbing."



Martin Carroll,
managing
director,
Duravit UK

“It’s wise to consider who will use the bathroom – both now and in the future.”

Designed by EOOS, this combination of a walk-in shower and bathtub features an integrated glass door, which allows you to easily switch between the different uses. Shower + Bath with mirror screen, £5745, Duravit.

5 Think about the future

“As more of us live in multi-generational households, it’s wise to consider who will use the bathroom – both now and in the future. What is desirable today may not be practical in a few years, which could then involve additional and costly alterations. A walk-in shower is more practical for older generations, while an anti-slip surface prevents accidents. If space is limited and you don’t want to forgo a bath, look for an accessible two-in-one version, for example one with an integrated door.”

6 Remember storage

“Bathrooms are primarily functional, so don’t skimp on storage for all those toiletries and towels used on a daily basis. It can be tempting to opt for a smaller vanity unit or shelving to save money, but investing in a more substantial design will help keep your bathroom clutter free. And at every stage of your renovation process, ensure you shop around for the best deals – getting a minimum of three quotes is always recommended.”

Rectangle lay-in basin, £239.28; AquaClean Tuma Comfort, £2654.03; and Sigma70 flush plate in brushed stainless steel, £426, all Geberit.



Holly Aspinall,
marketing
manager,
Geberit



Adam Teal,
head of sales,
Kaldewei

7 Create a focal point

“It’s possible to create an opulent statement within a bathroom by selecting only one ‘hero product’, such as a countertop basin or freestanding bath. Look out for designs with interesting shapes, features, or colours to add a sense of luxury and drama to your space. Chose simpler fittings elsewhere to stay within your budget.”



Puro S countertop washbasin in Alpine White, from £447.60, Kaldewei.



Kelly-Jane Everest,
marketing and communications executive, Grohe

8 Indulge in wellness
“For a spa-like experience on a smaller budget, showering products that offer multiple spray patterns – from an intense jet to a relaxing massage spray – are available. This adds a simple but opulent aspect to your showering experience, giving you the chance to tailor the water flow to suit your mood. For bigger budgets, showers are available with music, steam, and lighting options to create a personal spa in the comfort of your own home.”



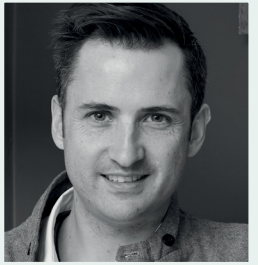
Royo Structure 120cm two-door, two-drawer unit with solid surface basin, £1555, and Aquaglass+ Velar black framed walk-in shower enclosure, £495, Frontline Bathrooms.



Michael Sammon,
sales and marketing director, Frontline Bathrooms

9 Prioritise your list
“Consider the three Ps: planning the layout, prioritising your needs, and plotting out the space. Take accurate measurements of the space so you know exactly what you are working with, then decide what you need from your room and how much it’s going to cost. Don’t try to include too many different things, as this will lead to pressures on your budget as well as the success of the scheme. Choosing products with dual functionality, such as a heated washstand and basin, will help you save both money and space. Bear in mind the age-old adage ‘you get what you pay for’. It’s better to invest in a few high-quality products that are guaranteed to last.”

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James Lentaigne,
creative director, Drummonds



Tweed compact freestanding roll top bath, from £3430, Drummonds.



10 Make minor tweaks
“Small investments can make a big difference to your bathroom’s functionality, such as a mirror with a demister pad or LED lights, which are much more energy efficient compared to normal bulbs in the long run. A towel rail with a painted finish can have up to 30% better heat output than chrome or stainless steel. It’s also worth budgeting for a reputable installer, as you may choose some lovely products – but if the bathroom is poorly fitted, it will be a wasted effort.”

Freestanding boat bath painted in Farrow & Ball Stiffkey Blue, £2150; bath mixer with lever handles, bath spout, and jet hand shower with porter set, wall outlet, and hose in brushed brass, £1196; white gloss metro tiles, £1.02 per 5 x 25cm tile, all available from Ripples.



Leanne Robey and Chris Payne,
senior designers, Ripples

11 Bring back the basics
“Focus a portion of your budget on flooring. You don’t want to be replacing it again and again, so invest in good tiles that will withstand water and heat. Quality comes at a cost, but it is important to buy the best you can afford as these will last longer.”