

BUYERS' GUIDE SHOWER TOILETS

High-tech WCs with multiple functions are growing in popularity in modern bathroom design. Here's what you need to know before you invest

Words: Yvette Murrell

Us Brits may not often have open discussions about innovation in toilet technology, but there is a lot to be said for smart designs with body cleaning features. Originally from Japan, these advanced WCs were first designed to make the experience of going to the toilet more pleasant and hygienic. They also eliminate the need for toilet paper, so are kinder to the planet. Functions vary from model to model, but the standard offerings include bidet-style washing and drying facilities that can be adjusted to your personal preferences, a heated seat, and automatic sensors to lift and close the lid hands-free. More advanced features are also available, such as built-in lighting to help guide you during night-time bathroom trips, deodorisation, and self-cleaning technology so you don't have to scrub the toilet quite so often. Available with certain models, automatic flushes help reduce water consumption by detecting exactly how much is needed, which is good for the environment as well as your water bill.

Buying tips

Like with many things, it's often best to try before you buy. Showrooms offering shower toilets have display models so you can see how each function works – and some even have them installed in the customer WCs, so you can test one out properly if you wish.

Design decisions

Shower toilets are designed to look discreet and like traditional fixtures, but there are a few accessories to consider when it comes to choosing a model. Some feature remote controls, others have a panel on the side of the seat. It is also worth noting that the WC pan, toilet seat, and flush plate can sometimes be sold separately. In these instances, the smart technology of the shower toilet is built into a seat that can fit onto a range of different WC pans to suit your style and needs.

Need to know

As well as a water supply connection, these designs will need an electrical access point behind the wall – so take this into account when planning your bathroom layout. Ideally, you will want to have a concealed cistern for a clean, smart look and it's recommended to have your new shower toilet fitted by a qualified installer.

Pricing

Prices start from around £2000 for a complete shower toilet, but you can expect pay more than £10,000 for the most advanced designs. **KBB**



Grohe's Sensia Arena shower toilet comes with a variety of body cleaning functions, including massage, oscillating, and lady sprays for intimate areas. Priced £3358, it includes an additional frame for behind-the-wall support.



Featuring WhirlSpray technology with five adjustable shower pressure settings, Geberit's AquaClean Mera Comfort has user recognition technology and can save preferences for multiple people. Shown here in chrome, it is priced around £5770.



↑ To remove odours after each use, Laufen's Cleanet Riva WC has a replaceable carbon filter, as well as the brand's exclusive Clean Coat glaze and a rimless design to prevent bacteria build up. Priced around £3990.



The SensoWash slim seat from Duravit features three remote-controlled functions – Rearwash, Ladywash, and Comfortwash – as well as a night light and remote control. The seat can be removed fully for cleaning and fits onto a range of Duravit's WC pans. Priced £1104.



Controlled via a remote, VitrA's wall-hung V-Care Comfort WC eliminates the need for toilet paper with a variety of wash and dry functions and also comes with a heated seat. Priced £2059, it is shown here with VitrA's Select flush plate with glass back, £150.

"If you are thinking of investing in a shower toilet for your family bathroom, look out for models that offer multiple user profiles. This way, each member of your family can customise washing and drying preferences to suit them."

Yvette,
features writer



↑ The In-Wash Inspira wall-hung smart toilet from Roca has an integrated nozzle, which cleans itself before and after each use, and buttons on the side of the lid for ease of use. Priced £2470.



Toto's wall-hung Washlet RX, £2772, has a soft-closing lid, heated seat, and two user profile settings so you can adjust the position, temperature, and pressure of the cleansing function.