

BUYERS' GUIDE

BATHROOM RADIATORS

Not only practical, a heated towel rail can transform your space into a warm, welcoming environment. Here is all you need to know before purchasing one

Words: **Yvette Murrell**

Toasty towels are a real treat and something we now want at home as well as during hotel stays. Plumbed into your central heating or as a standalone electrical radiator, a range of designs, colours, and materials is now available to suit an array of schemes. Great for busy families, both towels and the room will dry quicker and many provide extra storage, too.

Buying tips

Always begin by determining what heat output – measured in British Thermal Units (BTUs) – you need. This will vary depending on the size of your room, how large windows and doors are, and the type of walls encasing it. A plumber will be able to calculate this for you – alternatively, many retailers offer online tools which can provide you with a guide number based on a few measurements.

Also consider whether you want an electrical heater, which can be turned on and off as you please, or a plumbed-in one which will only operate at the same time as your central heating. There are also dual-fuel models, which are powered by a combination of both. In all cases, professional installation is recommended.

Design decisions

The look of your radiator will come down to the floor area available as well as your style. Wall-mounted or floor-standing heaters often have plenty of rails to hold towels, while a sleek modern one may need you to think about storage elsewhere – for example some shelving for your towels. Take into account the overall projection and any extras to ensure it will fit. Colours and finishes now also go beyond the classic shiny chrome to include bright hues or on-trend finishes such as brass and black.

Need to know

If your chosen design is plumbed into your central heating, you may need to buy valves, too, as these are not always sold together. There are different types – straight if the pipework rises out of the floor, or angled if it comes out of the wall. Speak to a plumber to find out which one you need. All electric heaters must have a minimum IP rating of IPX4 – which means they're protected against water splashes – and be at least 0.6m away from a bath or shower.

Pricing

Cost depends on the quality, heat output, and functionality your towel rail has. Expect to pay upwards of £200. **KBB**

For stockists turn to p156



↑ The Joanna Designer heated towel rail by Frontline Bathrooms, £395, measures 50 x 80cm with plenty of hanging space and comes in stylish rose gold.



A matt black finish on Heritage Bathrooms' Clifton heated towel rail modernises this classic style, which is suitable to be plumbed into closed central heating systems. Priced £650, including chrome valves.



Made from recycled marble, Livingstone's Trendy panel comes as an electric or a plumbed-in radiator and is available in a variety of sizes and shades, starting from £1123. Shown are the 180 x 30cm and 180 x 55cm (which includes the towel rail) sizes in the Tortora colour.



↑ Powered by central heating, electricity, or a combination, The Albion Bath Company's floorstanding Demi Baroque towel radiator, £1961, has a traditional look.



#TRENDING
Go for a bold colour to make a statement in a contemporary bathroom scheme



↑ Choose from four matt finishes – white, Quartz, bronze, or Anthracite (as shown) – of Aestus' horizontal Without heated towel rail. With a heat output of up to 2129 BTUs it costs from £241.20.

