

Bathroom Remodel Checklist

The reasoning behind each step: www.honey-doers.com/blog/how-to-plan-a-bathroom-remodel-from-budgeting-to-design/

Before you call a contractor

- ☐ Write down who uses this bathroom and how long you expect to stay in the house
- ☐ Walk through the busiest fifteen minutes of your household's day and note every conflict: sink, outlets, storage
- ☐ Pick a budget tier before you collect inspiration
- ☐ Set aside 10–15% of the budget as contingency, especially in a home built before 1980
- ☐ Save about six inspiration photos, each with a note on exactly what you like in it

Hiring

- ☐ Get bids from more than one remodeler
- ☐ Ask each for proof of licensing and insurance
- ☐ Ask for references from projects finished in the last year
- ☐ Get a written scope of work, not a lump-sum number
- ☐ Ask how they handle change orders and who your day-to-day contact is
- ☐ Ask how they keep the site clean: dust barriers, floor protection outside the bathroom, daily cleanup, and who hauls away debris
- ☐ Confirm the contractor pulls the permit

Schedule

- ☐ Order the vanity and any specialty tile during planning; lead times can run six to ten weeks
- ☐ If the work opens an exterior wall or moves a window, schedule it between April and October
- ☐ If this is your only full bathroom, decide where everyone showers for three or more weeks

Layout and fixtures

- ☐ 30 inches of clear floor space in front of the toilet
- ☐ At least 15 inches from the toilet centerline to any side wall or fixture
- ☐ A shower at least 30 by 30 inches; 36 by 36 is far more usable
- ☐ A WaterSense-labeled toilet (1.28 gallons per flush or less) and showerhead
- ☐ Blocking in the walls for future grab bars
- ☐ Finishes chosen: floor, wall tile, grout color, shower door, faucet finish, vanity height, mirror, towel bars

Behind the walls, before tile goes up

- ☐ Ask which waterproofing system goes behind the tile: a membrane over a cement or foam backer
- ☐ Flood-test the shower pan before tile
- ☐ Exhaust fan sized to the room and vented to the exterior, never into an attic or soffit
- ☐ At least one GFCI-protected receptacle within 36 inches of the sink, plus any extra outlets you need
- ☐ Lighting on both sides of the mirror and a dimmer on the overhead light
- ☐ A dedicated 20-amp circuit for the bathroom

Before the final payment

- ☐ The city's final inspection is passed
- ☐ Run the exhaust fan and confirm it moves air outside
- ☐ Press the test button on every GFCI outlet
- ☐ Run every fixture and check under the vanity for leaks
- ☐ Walk the room with your contractor and get the punch list in writing