

essential

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Ideas for freestanding bathrooms

Plus TARA BERNERD | BOLD TILES | SABRINA GHAYOUR | PLANTERS





ALL WHITE

Left This sculptural standalone console would pretty up any environment. Prices from £539 for ceramic basin and legs with mirror, £199, at Arcade Bathrooms



TRIPLE EFFECT

Above Why have one sink when you can have three? This glitzy new product is called Dark Iron and has a special metallic sheen which shimmers in different lights. Prices are available on request, by Alape at West One Bathrooms

HIGH SOCIETY

Below Channel some Art Deco 1930s vibes into your space with these white gloss units from Crosswater. This four-drawer basin unit is £3,380, with three-hole set basin and white lever handles, £475, and light-up mirrors, from £235



JAMES LENTAIGNE
SALES & MARKETING
DIRECTOR AT
DRUMMONDS

Why has freestanding furniture for the bathroom become so popular again, do you think?

The resurgence of interest comes from the growing trend within interiors to mix new and old pieces and decorative and modular styles. This means that when you are out shopping for freestanding pieces you can happily combine new and antique and be as creative as you like in the elements you want.

Is there a weight you need to look out for in terms of baths?

Yes, cast iron pieces can be extremely heavy. If in doubt, ask a builder or surveyor to check the weight-bearing capacity of your floors.

Do you always need a large space to work with? Freestanding pieces can have a big footprint, but they do have the compensatory advantage of leaving corners free

which creates an airy feel. So, while ideally you need a large space for a completely unfitted bathroom (with perhaps a freestanding bath and shower) it's just as impactful to have one element, say, a freestanding bath in a small space.

How can you make freestanding work in a smaller bathroom?

Scale is crucial so be selective. Look for smaller pieces and/or focus on just one key freestanding piece such as a bath or shower.

Are freestanding showers becoming popular again?

Yes, both as ultra-contemporary wet rooms and as magnificent classic designs. It's not about practicality, it's about making a big design statement. The important thing is not to block off the flow of the bathroom, so any freestanding piece does need to be well sited.



Q&A



'Even the most petite of bathrooms or delicate of renovations can benefit from a roll top tub'

Advice from THE EXPERTS

FIVE IDEAS FOR ACHIEVING A SUCCESSFUL FREESTANDING SCHEME

- 'Plan storage from the outset,' says Helen Shaw, Laura Ashley Bathrooms. 'Will one drawer do or do you need more to make sure you're clutter-free? Take into account how many people use the bathroom and the kind of toiletries. You'll need to factor in space to open drawers and doors without worrying how to keep them clean.'
- 'Think small double sink units,' says interior designer Neville Knott from Crown Paints. 'They help redefine the space as shared, with natural wood tops supporting the artisan sink bowls that look as if a master potter has sculptured them on their wheel. Use deep blues and greens as feature walls to define freestanding elements.'
- 'A freestanding bath mixer is the perfect partner to a freestanding bath and transforms any bathroom into a luxury space,' says Sarah Evans, head of channel marketing, Hansgrohe UK. 'Strong architectural shapes catch the eye and can be ordered in soft metallic colours to enhance the design scheme.'
- 'Taking inspiration from the Victorian period is very now,' says Sarah Escott, laying patterns designer at Amtico Decor. 'Bold geometry and colour in tiles and floors bring in a beautifully decorative look that can set-off the whole modular scheme.'
- 'Copper freestanding baths are comparatively light,' says Marc Howlett at William Holland. 'They look as fabulous placed against one wall as they do in the centre of a room, so even the most petite of bathrooms or delicate of renovations can benefit from the opulence of a roll top tub.'

SERENE SCENE

Above Think washbasin, dressing room and storage all in one, in this chic new line from Cielo Ceramica at C.P. Hart. This utilitarian design even has a leather laundry basket affixed. It comes in 16 colourways with storage and dresser facilities in six veneers or eight lacquer finishes

SPLASH OUT

Right Move over roll top baths. It's time to meet the style ingredient to your modular bathroom look – the freestanding shower. This bathtime beauty is the Spittal shower and is from £20,340, from Drummonds

