

# KITCHENS BEDROOMS & BATHROOMS

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## PERFECT BATHROOM

*Ideas and advice for small and large spaces*

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RENOVATION  
CHECKLIST  
INSIDE

# Make time for you

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Treat your bedroom to the best new-season updates  
Find which bathroom style suits you best



## TRADITIONAL COUNTRY STYLE

This design cleverly retains its old fashioned charm yet mixes it with twists of ultra-modern technology for great performance and durability. First pick your era. Victorian as well as Edwardian-style products are easy to source and it is possible to buy restored vintage pieces. However, to ensure everything works well, it's better to choose replicas from companies such as Heritage Bathrooms, Drummonds and Burlington that benefit from modern technology without losing any charm. Roll top baths, pedestal basins, and bold patterned tiles are all hallmarks of Victorian bathrooms, while step-edged profiles and glamorous mirrors are key details of Edwardian and Art Deco designs. Combine rustic woods and rough-hewn stone if you want a more country feel. One of the simplest ways to achieve a relaxed period look is to choose wood paneling or tongue and groove. It will add instant country house character and has the benefit of hiding imperfect walls without having to get them replastered. Pale, tonal shades inspired by nature or the classic pure white will give the space a calming feel, while shades of soft blue and green are more reminiscent of the seashore. And remember, you don't have to forgo the mod cons of power showers and eco-efficient WCs in pursuit of authenticity as there are plenty of brassware companies that produce period-style taps and shower fittings with modern technology included. >

**below** If you're after tradition with a bit of a twist, a freestanding bath with a metallic burnished finish will add a touch of Edwardian elegance to your scheme. The Geminus Plinth bath from Albion, from £1917, comes in three sizes and can be finished in any Dulux Trade or Farrow & Ball colour or a burnished gold, iron or bronze finish.



Echoing the industrial trend but still erring on the side of classic period styling, this bathroom features a roll-topped bath, white ceramic double basin unit, traditional radiator and window shutters, paired with a Nova Graphite star patterned monochrome tiles, from £60 per sq m, from Ca' Pietra.



If your floorboards aren't quite up to scratch but renewing them isn't an option, hard-wearing floor paint is a clever alternative in a traditional bathroom – try Little Greene for a range of colours. Using cool white, with touches of wood, stone and chrome finish brassware gives this room a restful aura. Orbit towel rail, from £558, Bisque.



# Need to know: Bathroom lighting

This space plays a key role in the morning routine, as well as providing a sanctuary to escape to at the end of the day, so it's important to strike the right balance between functionality and style.

Compared to other areas of the home, your options for lighting are more limited in the bathroom, as your fittings have to meet certain safety standards depending on how close they are to water. Your space is split into zones to make expressing this easier. The IP (Ingress Protection) rating is a minimum requirement for each zone – turn to page 77 for our useful graphic explaining what can go in which zone. The good news is brands are increasingly adapting their designs to be bathroom friendly, but always double-check a fitting's suitability and placement with an electrician before ordering. You should aim to have two circuits on dimmer switches; one to control automatic night lights, and the other for everyday illumination and – potentially – an extractor fan.

Ceiling lighting is usually the main source in the bathroom, but there are plenty of options to choose from. Recessed downlights are particularly useful and the best way for illuminating a shower, thanks to the fact that they come in a high IP rating. Chandeliers and large-scale pendants can look beautiful over a freestanding bath and in spaces with generous proportions. If you don't have the height for a statement design but want something more visually interesting than spotlights, decorative flush-mounted ceiling designs are a good compromise.

Wall fittings are also key, with sconces, for example, doubling up as both accent and task lighting. These are often best-placed either side of a mirror, rather than above, as they can cast unwanted shadows on the face. Fluorescents or cool bulbs are a no-go, as they create a harsh and unflattering illumination, so opt for a warm-white instead and avoid light temperatures above 3500K. Shop around to find the right design for your space and look out for the latest looks in aged brass and brushed steel, as well as matt black, which has a industrial feel.

Concealed LEDs are great for highlighting details and adding an extra layer of warmth. Installing uplighters behind a freestanding bath will add grandeur and height, or use them to wash a textured wall with light to create a focal point. Strip solutions underneath wall vanity units or backlit cabinets can give the illusion that they are floating, enhancing the sense of space. ➤

**right** When installing lighting either side of a bathroom mirror, the sconces should be positioned ideally 60-70 inches from the floor or at eye level. Pictured are the Jarrow wall cabinet, £595, and Brunswick wall light with shade, £72 each, Neptune.

**below** Washing light down a shower wall creates a more relaxing atmosphere than ceiling spots directly above. A pair of glass wall sconces provide a warm glow and task lighting. Ladybower vanity basin, £4782, by Martin Brudnizki for Drummonds; Single Dalby light with antique conical shade, from £396 each; Carron shower with ceiling arm and 30cm rose, from £3144, all Drummonds.





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A sculptural pendant can add a contemporary twist to a more conventional bathroom. Kingston Lafferty Design created this scheme using Abigail Ahern's Cranleigh pendant light, £298, for a project led by Brazil Architects. Drummonds' Double Derwent wall light, from £545.

