

# HOMES & GARDENS®

**HOW TO  
SLEEP BETTER**  
COLOURS, LAYOUTS,  
FURNITURE,  
BEDDING AND TECH  
— ALL YOU NEED  
TO KNOW

## Create a sanctuary

INTERIORS TO INSPIRE — COSY, CONSIDERED AND CHIC

**ALL IS CALM**  
DECORATING  
WITH GREEN  
10 STEPS TO A  
HYGGE HOUSE  
WHERE TO SHOP  
FOR WELLNESS



**SMART  
STORAGE**  
THE MOST STYLISH  
WAYS TO BRING  
ORDER TO YOUR  
LIVING ROOM

JANUARY 2023



## LINGER FOR LONGER

A bathroom may not seem the obvious home for upholstered seating but if you are planning to enjoy rest and relaxation in there it makes perfect sense. Painting toenails, lotioning legs, flicking through a magazine or waiting for a face mask to set – all moments where comfortable seating will prove far more decadent than perching on a cold toilet seat. In this warm, inviting bathroom, a generous conversation seat encourages lingering in a big way. Reupholstered in vintage striped fabric in similar tones to the tadelakt walls, it's big enough to accommodate a shared pampering session or family catch-up at the end of the day.



Vintage **seat**, Howe London. **Fabric**, Howe at 36 Bourne Street. The Tay **bath**, from £4,770; Bestwood Lever floor standing **bath & shower mixer**, from £3,372; Bestwood Lever 3-hole **basin mixer**, from £1,536, all Drummonds. **Project** by Orla Read, Nicola Harding and Studio Faeger

## SMALL WONDERS

Rejuvenating your wellness reserves in a smaller space requires thoughtful planning. Interior designer Natascha Dartnall of ND Studios worked hard to capitalise on every last inch in this bathroom, while keeping the aesthetic elegant and sleek. 'The most luxurious spas exude purity and you can achieve this at home by incorporating hidden storage, plus mirrors to create the sense of space and light,' she explains. 'Double basins also give a feeling of luxury and don't require as much space as you may think. A quick tip for creating a luxe vibe is to transfer your lotions and potions into glass bottles. It's amazing what a transformation this makes for little effort.'



Fantini Venezia 3-hole basin **taps** in gold and Murano glass, £2,248, West One Bathrooms. Bespoke White Thassos and Gris Grey **marble**, price on request, Euromarble. **Project** by ND Studios →



# BATHROOM COUNTERTOP MATERIALS EXPLAINED

VISUAL APPEAL, PERFORMANCE AND PRACTICALITY – EVERYTHING IS COVERED

**MARBLE** All surfaces in a bathroom need to be practical as well as pleasing – and this is especially true of countertops, which are likely to be splashed with water, not to mention toothpaste, soap and more. ‘Marble is perhaps the ultimate luxury ingredient in a bathroom,’ says interior designer Samantha Todhunter. ‘Bold or pared back, it is an instant elevator.’ However, marble is more porous than other natural stones, so it will usually be supplied sealed and need ongoing care to keep it looking its best. Some feel the odd mark adds to its natural beauty, but if this is likely to worry you, a man-made surface may be best.

**QUARTZ** This man-made stone is about 90 percent quartz mixed with resin, making it a resilient and water-resistant material. ‘Ideal for sink countertops and splashbacks, quartz is non-absorbent, non-porous and easy to clean,’ says Jonathan Stanley, VP of marketing, Caesarstone. It comes in a variety of designs and colours, including marble, natural stone and concrete effects, offering the beauty of the real thing but with high-performance characteristics.

**SOLID SURFACE** Another man-made material, solid surface is smooth and non-porous, typically made from acrylic resin mixed with natural minerals. It is a solid material that cannot delaminate and slabs can be joined together for a virtually seamless look, and thermoformed into flowing, streamlined shapes. Acquabella’s Dolotek is one such

material, as product manager Fernando Maceda explains. ‘It can be moulded into complex, precise shapes to produce basin countertops with subtle design features,’ he says. ‘It is also antibacterial, easy to clean and has a strength that belies its pure look.’

**PORCELAIN** A new generation of porcelain and ultra-compact materials are made in striking marble and stone effects, using new production processes. They are typically fused under pressure to create dense surfaces that are well suited for use as bathroom countertops, as well as flooring and wall cladding. Simon Boocock, managing director, CRL Stone, which offers Inalco MDi, says, ‘Ultra-compact surfaces are perfect for the humid and wet bathroom environment. They are non-porous, hygienic and easy to clean – stress-free surfaces that really look the part.’

**WOOD** ‘Timber works well in a bathroom setting, as it adds a sense of warmth, nature and tactility,’ advises Yousef Mansuri, director of design, C.P. Hart. ‘However, it is important that any wood elements are correctly protected to ensure they look beautiful in years to come.’ Most real-wood vanity units and countertops are pre-treated with an oil or varnish, as they are intended for bathroom use, but further sealing may be required in the future. If you prefer a low-maintenance option, a wood-effect countertop may be a better choice. ‘This can offer more flexibility and durability, but doesn’t always have the same organic qualities of the real deal,’ he adds. ☑

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## SOURCEBOOK: VANITY UNITS & WASHSTANDS

### ALAPE

Available with your choice of quartz stone or ceramic countertop, the Arkta vanity comes in a host of sizes, from £1,573. [alape.com](http://alape.com)

### DRUMMONDS

The Thames, from £5,880, is available with a countertop in White Arabescato, Black Marquina or Green Verde Guatemala marble. [drummonds-uk.com](http://drummonds-uk.com)

### LUSSO STONE

Topped with Matte White stone resin composite, the Vanita freestanding bathroom vanity, £1,195, is available with Designo countertop basins, £247 each. [lussostone.com](http://lussostone.com)

### WEST ONE BATHROOMS

Antonio Lupi’s Ilbagno vanity has a countertop in Cristalplant solid surface with integrated basins, from £6,695. [westonebathrooms.com](http://westonebathrooms.com)