

design and remodeling trends



trend watch:

Top Four Trends in Bath Remodeling from KBIS 2015

The annual Kitchen and Bath Industry Show (KBIS), where the premier kitchen and bath brands showcase the newest innovations and products, recently ended. Here are some of the trends from the show in bath design.

Universal Design

While universal design is not a new concept, there has been a shift in the industry to pay more attention to products that are accessible to everyone, including the elderly and those with disabilities. Some of the universal design products showcased at KBIS included shower seating, accessible hand showers, drop down cabinets, wall hung vanities, and an emphasis on illuminated cabinetry.

Warm Gray Tones

The clean, crisp and cool gray color palette we once knew is giving way to much warmer and more inviting gray and brown tones. This warmer tone is often paired with white or cream to create a crisp finish. This color palette was seen in everything from tile to textured porcelain, counter

tops to cabinetry, paint to fixtures.

Dimensional Tile

The tile work on display at KBIS was largely neutral, featuring the warm gray khakis and creams we mentioned before. But the styles were anything but bland. Designers added drama with tons of textured tile, including intricate patterns and lustrous metallic finishes. This tile could be seen in showers, tubs, backsplashes and full statement walls.

Showpiece Fixtures

Taking cues from classic design, the latest bath faucets are meant to be noticed. Faucet design took inspiration from just about everywhere. While some pieces were influenced by traditional antique faucets, others were inspired by everyday objects like chess pieces or an architect's lamp. These pieces were meant to stand out and draw attention.

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innovations

in bath design



Curbless Shower

More homeowners are replacing bathtubs with the practicality and sensibility of walk-in showers. One of the main reasons for a curbless shower is the greater ease of use and accessibility for everyone from older family members to children. This universal design feature is also safe for wheelchair use. Some of the other benefits of a curbless shower include lower maintenance because there are fewer nooks and crannies to clean. And design-wise, it also creates cleaner lines in because there's less visual clutter. We often pair these showers with full glass doors which also create a feeling of open space.



Low Profile Drains

Shower drains have come a long way, from being a mere utilitarian feature to a statement piece in showers. Traditionally, drains were installed in the center of a shower and required four slopes and small tiles. Now low profile and linear drains are being used in curbless showers with a single slope and can accommodate large format tiles. These new drains reduce barriers and increase accessibility. They can also be installed at the exit of the shower for barrier-free showers. The grates of these drains also feature modern patterns and bronze or stainless steel finishes.



Rising Wall Bath Tub

Another universal design feature is the Kohler Elevance™ Rising Wall bath tub. Unlike traditional or walk-in baths, this product allows the user to sit comfortably and then raise the side wall for use. A stylish alternative to walk-in and institutional-looking options, this bath is designed to fit a standard five-foot alcove. It is engineered to meet the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) guidelines for years of independence, comfort and safety. The extra-wide opening and chair-height seat provide a safe and comfortable way to enter and leave the bath, while the specially designed waterfall fill eliminates the need for a spout.

HOW TO: *compare quotes*

Ever heard that saying,
"comparing apples to oranges"?

This is basically the reason why you can't compare remodeling quotes based on price alone. While it may be tempting, you need to look beyond the numbers to really compare apples to apples.

What's included, and not included, in the preliminary specifications?

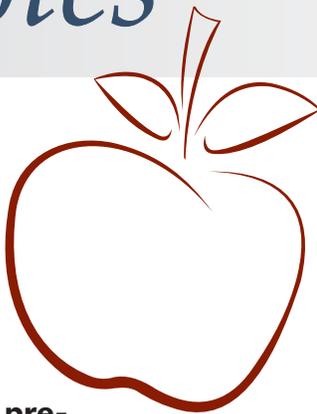
A reputable contractor will provide extensive details about what products and services they're delivering. Equally important is what is not included. This eliminates any surprises or gray area. If you can't tell exactly what is and is not included, this is a sign of trouble in the future.

Is it a fixed-rate quote?

There are two basic ways to estimate a project. One is fixed cost for work, while the other is "cost plus." The latter means the remodeler charges based on time and materials plus a percentage, which means you risk not knowing the final cost of your project. A "cost plus" quote gives you a rough idea of the cost, but the remodeler will charge you more if the project takes longer than expected or if they did not estimate the materials properly. A fixed-rate quote gives you an accurate price with no surprises.

Who's working on your job?

It's true that one's work gets better with experience. When comparing two quotes, look to see how many years each remodeler has been in business and working on projects like yours.



PROJECTS

HOMEOWNERS
SHOULD **NOT** DO
THEMSELVES

- Install grab bars
- Change a regular electrical outlet to a GFCI outlet
- Install custom heavy glass shower doors
- Install custom granite, quartz or solid surface counter tops
- Install curbless walk-in showers
- Install under floor heat
- Install a vent fan in a non-existing location

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PROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATIONS & MEMBERSHIPS



Project Files

Creating Storage in Limited Space

problem

In this bath remodel, we faced the challenge of a plumbing pipe that could not be removed. In addition, the door frame was only 12 inches from the wall, limiting space for traditional vanities.

solution

With custom cabinetry and shelving, we created storage space along the entire wall. We also created a panel to cover the pipe and give the homeowner maximum usage of the space.

from the client

All the people at BRHI were wonderful to work with. They were clear communicators, upheld timelines and price-points, and responded to the individual needs of our project. Thank you to Tim, Susan and Richard. We will recommend BRHI to others without reservation."

- Colin & Becca, Bathroom Remodel in Christiansburg, VA

