

How to plan a **successful bathroom renovation:**

Materials, trends and advice



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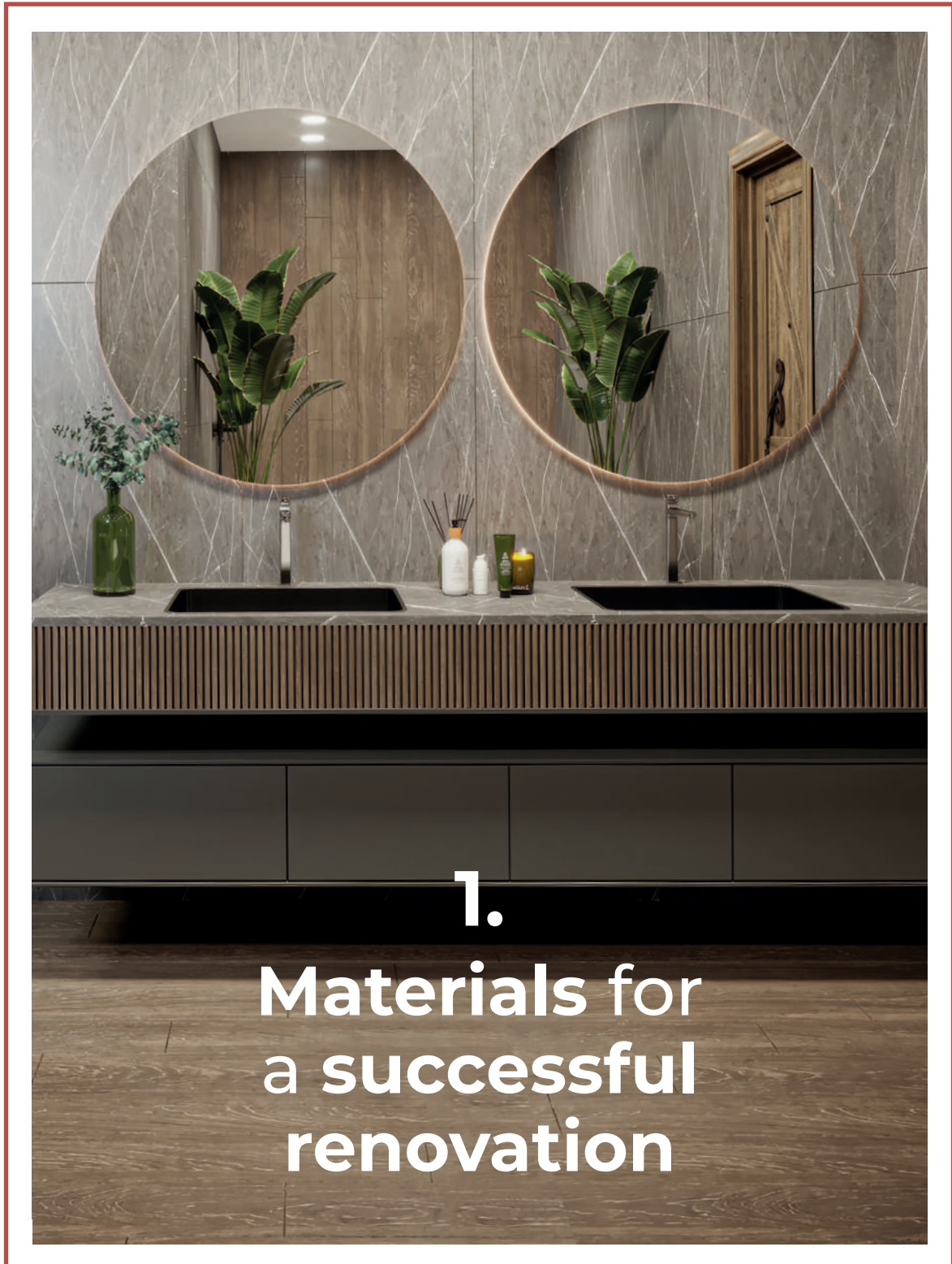
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Along with the kitchen, the bathroom is one of the most important rooms in any home. It fulfils essential functions, such as **maintaining proper hygiene for the whole family**. For this reason, if you are planning a renovation, it is vital to address a number of key questions.

Which materials should you use for the renovation? Is it necessary to replace everything? **Should you keep the current style or go for a completely new look?** Is the layout of the furniture and other elements suitable? These and many other questions are likely to run through your mind, making it essential to organise them and find the right answers.

To help ensure your renovation is a success, this guide introduces **the most popular materials on the market**, the latest design trends and a range of practical tips to help you make the right decisions. This will make it much easier to take the first steps towards your new bathroom.



One of the key stages in any bathroom renovation is choosing the right materials. Today, you can choose from a wide range of options, from metals to stone and wood, as well as synthetic materials such as PVC. Your choice will define the character and style of the room, but it will also have a direct impact on the overall cost of the project.



Flooring and wall covering

When choosing materials for both walls and floors, you should opt for **those that can withstand humidity and wear**, while also contributing to the style you want for your bathroom. The most common options are the following:

* Ceramic tiles

They withstand water and humidity without difficulty and are easy to clean. One of their main advantages is the almost unlimited range of designs, colours and textures available. From classic to modern styles, try to choose one that matches your ideal bathroom.

* Porcelain tiles

They stand out for their durability and their resistance to humidity and temperature changes. They can also replicate the texture of other materials, such as stone or wood, making them an excellent alternative in terms of both price and ease of installation.

* Vinyl flooring

If your budget is tight or you are looking for a quick renovation, vinyl is an excellent choice. It is water-resistant and probably the easiest material to install, as it does not require building work. It can also imitate other materials and finishes and may include decorative patterns or motifs, expanding your design options.

* Microcement

This material has attracted growing interest from designers in recent years. Its main features include waterproofing and anti-slip properties. It is ideal for creating modern and industrial-style bathrooms and can be applied to both walls and floors.

* Marble and natural stone

These are classic, durable options that add a touch of luxury that never goes unnoticed. However, they are more expensive than other materials due to the complexity of installation and the higher level of maintenance required. That said, no other materials offer the same level of elegance and sophistication.





Bathroom furniture

Given the conditions they must withstand, furniture materials must offer moisture resistance and long-lasting durability. The most recommended options include:



* Treated wood

A very popular choice that adds warmth to any bathroom. Make sure the wood has been treated against humidity or opt for naturally resistant species such as oak or bamboo.

* Lacquered MDF and chipboard

These are affordable yet versatile materials. To protect them from moisture, they are coated with layers of lacquer or melamine, which also allows for a wide range of finishes.

* Metal

Choose furniture made from stainless steel or aluminium, as these materials withstand water exposure without long-term damage. They are also ideal for modern, industrial or contemporary bathroom designs.

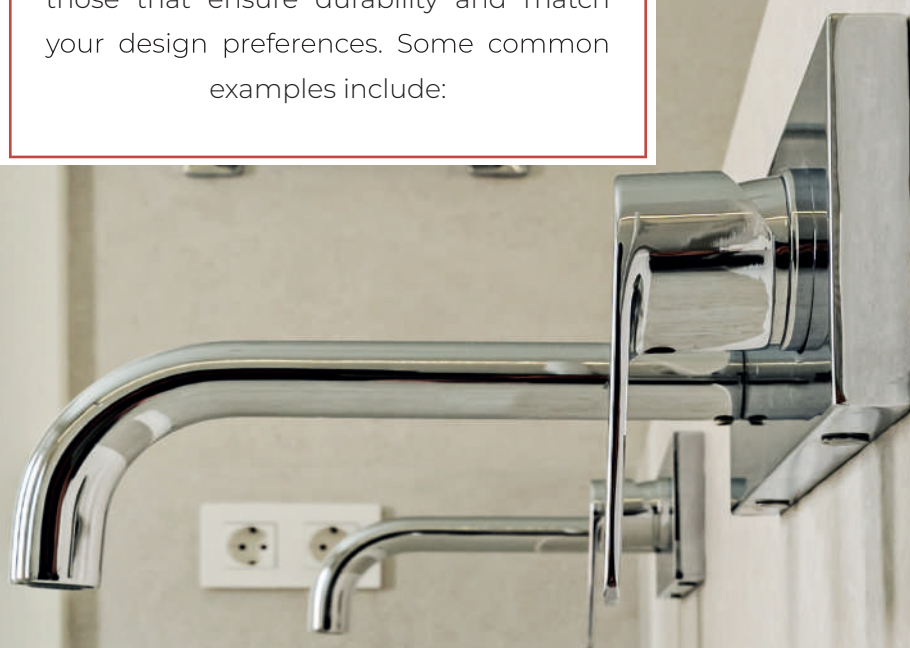
* Resin

An innovative and versatile material that can be moulded into different shapes and produced in a wide range of colours. It offers good resistance and a modern appearance.



Taps and accessories

These are key elements in any bathroom, as they provide functionality and help define the overall style of the room. As with other components, the best materials are those that ensure durability and match your design preferences. Some common examples include:



* **Stainless steel**

If you're looking for the most popular option, this is it! Its polished or satin finish suits minimalist designs, it is highly durable and very easy to maintain.

* **Brass**

Resistant to corrosion and available in a wide range of finishes, from chrome to antique gold. This makes it suitable for modern, classic or industrial-style bathrooms.

* **Brushed nickel**

With a smooth, elegant appearance, it is ideal for a sophisticated decorative style. It is also resistant to stains and scratches.

* **Bronze**

Adds warmth to the bathroom but requires more maintenance. Nevertheless, it is an excellent choice for a rustic or vintage-style bathroom.





Shower tray and screen

These are two essential elements, as they will be used intensively for many years. For this reason, their materials must be durable, easy to maintain and, above all, safe to use.





* Resin

This material allows for the manufacture of non-slip shower trays that are very easy to install and integrate into a wide variety of designs.

* Ceramic shower trays

This material allows for the manufacture of non-slip shower trays that are very easy to install and integrate into a wide variety of designs.

* Acrylic

Lightweight, affordable and easy to install. However, its resistance to impacts is limited.

* Toughened glass

The best option for shower screens. If it breaks, the glass shatters into small fragments, reducing the risk of serious cuts. It can also be customised, whether you prefer a transparent finish or a decorative design.

In addition, one of the main reasons for choosing a shower tray is that it makes everyday life easier for elderly people. Whether for long-term planning or simple practicality, replacing a bath with a shower is a worthwhile investment that will pay off over time.



Ceilings and lighting

Ceilings are often overlooked, but it is important to take care when choosing their materials. They must be able to withstand humidity and **allow for the safe installation** of both lighting and ventilation in the bathroom.

* PVC panels

As with other applications, they resist moisture and are easy to install and maintain. They are available in a wide range of designs and allow pipes or cables to be concealed without the need for costly building work.

* Metals

Aluminium is one of the best options thanks to its resistance to humidity and its durability. It is worth noting that spas and commercial bathrooms often use metal ceilings in areas with high exposure to water.

* Plasterboard

There is a specific type of plasterboard designed for installation in rooms where humidity is present. It can be painted or finished with the covering of your choice.





Once you have decided on the materials that interest you, let's look at current decoration trends. Although trends change over time, **some styles remain consistently popular**, such as rustic design. If you are not sure which direction to take, here are seven on-trend ideas to inspire you.

Black and white minimalism

If you are looking for an **elegant, timeless and versatile** style, few can match this one. Its aesthetic is based on simplicity, visual clarity and functionality achieved through a reduced colour palette. Although they are basic tones, black and white create an atmosphere of sophistication and modernity.

The essence of this style lies in combining the purity of white with the natural elegance of black. The contrast creates clean lines and uncluttered spaces that are highly appealing.

To put it into practice, **use materials that enhance brightness**, such as white wall tiles combined with a black tiled floor. Furniture should feature straight, simple lines in neutral tones, creating a calm and orderly atmosphere.

If you want white to stand out, black can be applied subtly in selected details such as shower screens, mirrors or towels. The result is a functional, elegant and visually balanced bathroom.



Colour contrasts

This trend is based on **combining harmonious shades**. What does it achieve? For example, a dynamic bathroom that is visually stimulating, especially when you opt for vibrant and complementary colours. It is an easy way to break away from traditional design, give the room personality and ensure every corner has a distinctive touch.

To apply this trend successfully, harmony is essential; otherwise, **the result may be visually**

overwhelming. A good example is combining white with navy blue, or adding touches of orange with green. On the walls, you can use tiles in these colours or even include geometric patterns that blend them together.

A good way to integrate furniture is through solid colours, while accessories such as towels provide contrast. **Just remember not to overcrowd the space**, as too many elements will compete for attention.



The power of nature: wood and flowers

The aim here is to **create a calm and relaxing bathroom inspired by nature**. To achieve this look, organic materials such as wood are combined with floral decorative motifs, which can be incorporated through wall coverings such as tiles or decorative vinyls featuring plant designs.

To bring this trend to life, **treated wood is a key material for furniture**. It adds an organic

element that withstands humidity while providing a warm, welcoming feel. In addition, bathroom accessories, especially textiles, are ideal for introducing floral patterns and a wide range of colours.

Of course, **adding real plants**, such as ferns or succulents, will help complete the décor and contribute to a fresher, cleaner atmosphere.



Modern rustic style

Its strength lies in blending the warmth and authenticity of rustic design with the clean lines and contemporary details of modern style. It is characterised by the **use of natural materials** such as wood, stone and metal, combined with neutral colours and modern elements that bring functionality and elegance to the space.

The result is a **welcoming and relaxing environment** that can be easily achieved in your renovation. Once again, reclaimed and treated wood capable of withstanding humidity takes centre stage.

It should feature in the furniture and in architectural details such as exposed beams. For flooring, stone or ceramic tiles that imitate wood will **reinforce the rustic character of the bathroom**. In addition, countertop stone basins with a matt finish add a natural and sophisticated touch.

To introduce the modern element, lighting is key. Industrial-style lamps or recessed spotlights will be more than sufficient.



Stone

The use of stone adds elegance, durability and solidity to the bathroom. It is also a **timeless material that can be incorporated in many ways**, whether in its natural form or polished finishes. In any case, it offers a wide range of textures, colours and styles that are sure to impress.

One of stone's main advantages is that **it helps create a serene and sophisticated atmosphere**, ideal if you are looking for a space that stands out for both its aesthetics and functionality.

When incorporating this trend, certain stones are particularly popular. Marble, **granite, slate and travertine** are all versatile options that can be used for wall and floor coverings or worktops. Best of all, their resistance to humidity is excellent.

However, one of the drawbacks of this trend is its cost. Natural stone **requires a generous budget**. A more affordable alternative is to use ceramic or porcelain tiles that imitate the stone of your choice, such as marble.

In terms of furniture and fittings, the shower tray can be **made from or clad in your chosen stone**, turning it into a striking focal point. To complement it, taps with metallic finishes, such as matt black or bronze, will highlight the stone's texture.



Industrial style

Another enduring trend is industrial design, inspired by early 20th-century factories and urban lofts. It is defined by a combination of **functionality, minimalism and exposed materials**. Dark tones, rough textures and metallic finishes dominate.

To create an industrial-style bathroom, materials such as concrete or exposed brick are commonly used. However, **a more versatile alternative is microcement**, which can be applied to both walls and floors.

By using these materials, you can create a rustic base and complement it with furniture

featuring clean lines in wood or aged metal. Taps and accessories will help reinforce the overall style. Choose pieces in stainless steel or antique bronze, as they **stand out for their robustness and striking appearance**. Adding shower screens with black iron frames and clear glass will introduce a modern touch.

Ultimately, by taking the time to apply this trend properly, you can create a contemporary and functional bathroom with a unique character, based on a careful balance between rustic and modern design.





Wallpaper

Wallpaper offers a **versatile and eye-catching solution** for transforming a bathroom. At first glance, it may seem counterintuitive, as humidity would normally damage paper quickly. Even so, there are products specifically designed to withstand moisture without any problems.

A good example is vinyl wallpaper, which **resists humidity and wear** over long periods of time. Its easy installation also makes it ideal for a quick, low-cost refresh, with plenty of options available to achieve exactly the style you want.

A simple way to integrate it is to **choose a vinyl wallpaper design that complements the overall style of the space**. In addition, tropical, geometric or stone- and marble-effect patterns are very popular choices that add character. You can also use wallpaper to highlight a specific wall and turn it into a feature.

Thanks to its easy installation, **results are immediate**. However, there are a few important points to bear in mind: the wall where the wallpaper is applied must be smooth, clean and completely dry beforehand. Otherwise, any roughness or imperfections underneath will remain visible.



A successful bathroom renovation requires careful planning and foresight. You need to think carefully about what you want to achieve with the changes, whether a new layout is necessary, and **analyse the overall cost of the project**. The following advice will provide you with a series of key points to help you make the right decisions.





1

Plan the project

Good planning is the foundation of a successful renovation. Before you start, **define your objectives**, how much you want to spend and the needs you want to address. This will help you avoid setbacks, overspending and unnecessary omissions.

The first step is to assess the available space so you can identify and prioritise the changes. **Not all renovations have the same scope.** You may simply need more storage, improved functionality or a refreshed look. In any case, it is essential to be clear about what you want to achieve.

Next, prepare a budget that includes **both materials and labour**. If you have any doubts, consult professionals. They will provide recommendations, explain the costs and estimate how long the work will take. To make their job easier, feel free to draw a plan, even a rough one, to communicate your ideas.

Take the time you need before making a final decision, especially if this is your first renovation. This will allow you to consider every aspect carefully and avoid unnecessary mistakes. That said, do not worry excessively about getting everything perfect — experience is also part of the learning process.

2

Find the best layout

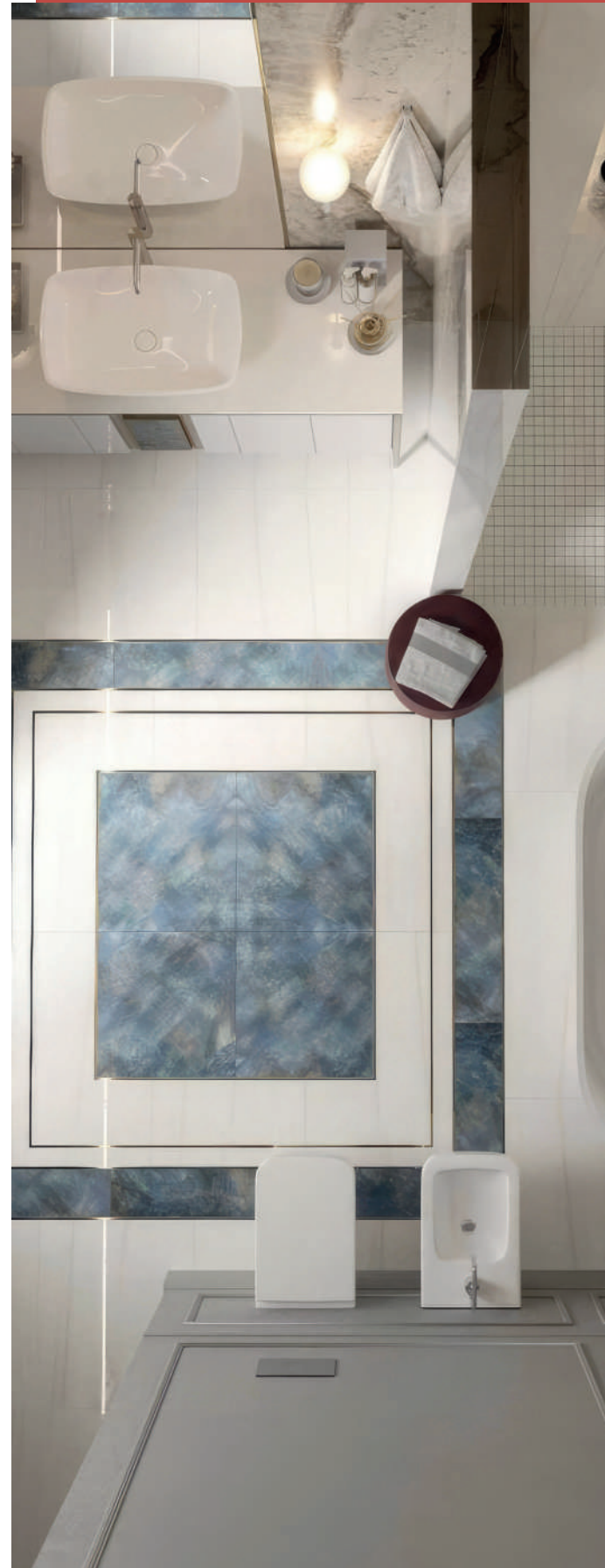
A well-planned layout is essential to make the most of your bathroom space and ensure it is fully functional. Before starting the renovation, analyse the size and shape of the room, as well as the needs of those who will use it, as this will directly influence how the elements are arranged.

If your bathroom is small, **an efficient layout is a priority**. Opt for space-saving solutions such as wall-hung furniture, sliding doors and showers instead of baths. Placing the toilet in a corner or against a less visible wall and keeping the washbasin close to the entrance can help optimise the use of space.

In larger bathrooms, you can **create separate zones**, such as an independent shower area or a dedicated storage space. It is important to keep plumbing and electrical connections accessible in order to avoid additional costs.

Lighting is also very important. Make sure there is enough natural light and **position light fittings strategically** to highlight key areas while ensuring good visibility.

Using a floor plan or design apps will help you visualise the layout and ensure every element fits perfectly. With good planning, your bathroom will not only be more functional: it will also be visually balanced and highly comfortable.



3

The importance of budgeting

The budget is a fundamental part of any bathroom renovation, as **it helps you control costs and avoid unpleasant surprises during the process**. Before you begin, it is essential to decide how much you are willing to invest and break down each item to gain a clear overview of the costs.

Start by making a **list of the main elements you want to renovate**, such as wall and floor coverings, taps, sanitaryware and furniture. Research material and labour costs, and include a contingency margin of between 10% and 15% for unforeseen expenses. This will allow you to deal with any setbacks without affecting the progress of the renovation.

It is advisable to **prioritise quality for essential materials** such as flooring, the shower and plumbing, as their durability will help you avoid frequent repairs. If your budget is tight, you can opt for more affordable alternatives for decorative elements such as accessories and textiles.

A very useful way to get an idea of current prices is to **consult several professionals** and request different quotations. This will allow you to compare costs with no obligation and help you make an informed final decision. To reduce expenses, consider which tasks you can carry out yourself.

4

Choose the right professionals

Choosing the right professionals for your bathroom renovation is a decision that will determine the quality and success of the project. **An experienced team** can help bring your ideas to life and resolve any technical issues.

Start by seeking recommendations from friends, family or online review platforms. A **professional with verifiable references** and a proven track record is always a safer choice. Make sure they have specific experience in bathroom renovations, as these projects require technical knowledge of plumbing, electrics and moisture-resistant materials.

Before hiring, **check that the professional holds the necessary licences and certifications**, and has public liability insurance. It is essential to establish a written contract that clearly sets out the project conditions, deadlines and costs.

5

Storage

Storage is a key element in any bathroom, as **without it organisation becomes impossible**. During the renovation, it is important to plan storage solutions that suit the size and needs of the space without sacrificing style or comfort.

In small bathrooms, **make use of the walls with open shelving** or wall-mounted cabinets. Multifunctional furniture, such as vanity units with integrated drawers, is an excellent way to maximise space. Mirrored cabinets are also a very practical option.

In larger bathrooms, **you can include bigger pieces of furniture**, such as chests of drawers or freestanding cupboards. Make sure they complement the overall style of the bathroom and maintain visual balance. Internal organisers, such as drawer dividers and baskets, are useful for keeping everything in order.



6

Humidity and ventilation

There are two major issues that can affect a bathroom: **humidity and ventilation**. Both can cause damage and have an impact on the health of the whole family, so they must be addressed properly.

If your bathroom does not have natural ventilation, which would be ideal, an extractor fan or a dehumidifier is a highly effective solution. **These remove stale, humid air** produced during showers or baths. If this air remains in the room, it will accumulate on walls and ceilings and eventually cause damage.

Another way to tackle humidity is by using **waterproof materials and wall coverings**. There are specially designed tiles, moisture-resistant paints and PVC panels provide effective protection in damp conditions. Do not forget to use sealants or silicone around joints near the shower tray to prevent water infiltration.

In short, renovating your bathroom does not have to be a stressful experience. **With the right materials and a coherent design style**, you can achieve results that live up to your expectations. Just be sure to plan well in advance and, if you have any doubts, do not hesitate to ask the professionals carrying out the work. After all, you are not expected to be an expert in building works.

You have a wide range of options to choose from, from materials to furniture, to achieve exactly what you are looking for. **There are also**

solutions to suit every budget and scope of renovation, allowing almost anyone to make significant improvements to their bathroom.

Now **all you need to do is start thinking** about what you want and then carefully plan how to approach the project. You are already one step closer to a successful bathroom renovation.

7

Safety first

Finally, safety should never be overlooked when renovating a bathroom. This room has specific characteristics that can **pose health and safety risks**. For example, installing electrical sockets near taps or a bath is unsafe and, therefore, not advisable.

One of the key points is to **choose non-slip flooring**, especially in wet areas such as the shower. Likewise, consider installing grab rails or seats if there are elderly people or individuals with reduced mobility in the household.

Electrical safety is another crucial aspect. **Make sure all sockets are protected with safety systems** and install bathroom-rated light fittings to prevent moisture ingress.

Lastly, **check that ventilation is adequate**, either through windows or extractor fans, to reduce humidity build-up and prevent mould problems.

