

5 Ways to Save Money on a Bathroom Renovation

You're either about to start on a bathroom renovation or you're thinking about it. Your current bathroom might not be functioning well, or maybe kids are growing and you need more storage. Maybe you just want a fresh look – your bathroom is one of the most important rooms in your house after all. It's where everyone gets ready for the day and winds down for the night. It's a living space, not just a place.

As with all home improvements, cost and budget is generally the first obstacle. Here are 5 ways to save money on a bathroom re-model:

- 1 Keep the Original Layout**

Keep as many of your new plumbing fixtures – sink, toilet, tank, tub – in the same locations as the old ones. In a second-floor bathroom, each fixture you put back where its predecessor stood could save you between €200 and €500 in plumbing costs.
- 2 Choose Porcelain, Not Stone**

You are likely to fall head over heels in love with stunning natural stone options for your floors and shower walls, but you can save significantly in both materials and labour by choosing porcelain. And, porcelain tiles are hard-wearing, stain resistant and easy to maintain. You can choose a natural stone-effect porcelain if stone is your dream – the finishes that porcelain technologies produce these days is quite astounding.
- 3 The Devil is in the Detail**

Choose your fixtures carefully. Small details like light fixtures, radiators and drawer handles can have a big impact on the look and feel of your bathroom design. Choosing tasteful accessories will allow you to save on the more expensive items.
- 4 Have a Plan and a Professional**

Start with a plan and if possible, don't go it alone. Choose a reputable bathroom company or contractor to advise you. These professionals will save you money in the long run – you would be surprised at the small mistakes that are made that can cost a lot. An experienced bathroom consultant can spot costly and time-consuming issues way in advance.
- 5 Mix & Match**

Mix and match your tiles. Use a mix of inexpensive ceramics and luxury mosaics or pattern tiles to create a feature wall that doesn't break the bank. You can be really creative with tiles and using them with a designer's eye can create stunning effects that look more expensive than they actually are. And don't forget that many 'designer' tiles can be replicated with much cheaper non-branded versions with practically no discernible difference in aesthetics.