

Address those bathroom blahs

The bathroom. It's one of the most highly utilized rooms in the house and often one of the most poorly designed and least attractive.

If you're thinking about remodeling a bathroom, start out by making a bathroom scrapbook. In it put notes of all deficiencies of your present bathroom. Here's some things to consider:

- Note if lighting is adequate or in the wrong places.

- Note if you tend to bump knees or elbows end in what area. Note if you would like some plants for decoration or a magazine rack for reading.

- Note if the tub is too slippery and if it needs a shower or space for soaps, lotions, etc.

- Make a list of what each family member wants. In the bathroom. Write everything down. Don't worry initially if there isn't enough space in the bathroom.

- Visit bathroom showrooms. This does not mean boutiques where they specialize in towels and other soft goods.

These showrooms usually will be those of the kitchen and bath professional remodelers who show several kitchen and bathroom displays. They

are the only ones who really know the products available.

- Look for the space that isn't there. If there is a closet adjacent to the bathroom, is it available for conversion to bathroom space?

- Closets often are unused or can be replaced with cabinetry elsewhere in the other room. Or if there is a bedroom adjacent, can you borrow space from it? Even one or two feet can make a world of difference.

- Draw a picture of your present bathroom, to scale, with 1/4-inch on your paper representing one foot of actual floor space.

- Draw a picture of your "expanded" bathroom, including any space you can borrow.

- Then call a family meeting and go through the scrapbook. What does everyone really want? Talk it over and keep an open mind while being reasonable about costs.

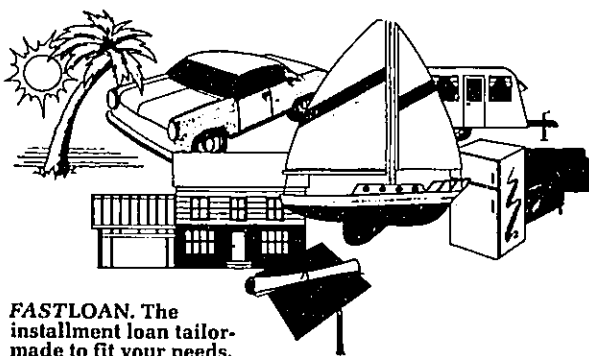
- What can you do yourself? A basic bedroom remodeling job with new fixtures will cost \$6,000 to buy and install, on the average, but many run from \$8,000 to \$10,000.

Among the things you possibly can do will be tearing out old tile work, floor and walls, light plumbing and maybe the electrical. All of this can cut your costs by up to 60 percent.

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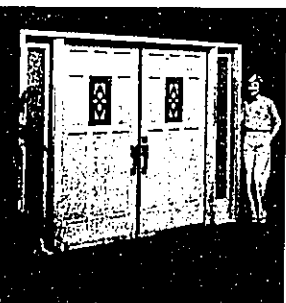


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