

## Bathroom Upgrade Options

Whether you're looking for easy, affordable changes or a major renovation, there are many ways to enhance a bathroom environment. Beyond the basics like decorative colour-coordinated accessories to match curtains, mats and towels, enhanced upgrades like a spa-inspired showerhead and a touchless faucet will add personal comfort and convenience. Depending on your budget, a total makeover might include new tiling. If so, consider a few hand-painted accent tiles to make your bathroom truly unique. More spacious projects might include the addition of a two-sink vanity or a soaker tub.

Bidets are also becoming more popular as they become more affordable. If you don't have the room to add a luxurious stand-alone bidet, some newer toilets are dual purposed, while others can be accessorized with an add-on seat attachment for a comparable hygienic experience. No matter what your bathroom makeover budget may be, you can achieve a fresh



transformation simply by making a creative paint selection and complementing it with an elegant statement mirror, a new overhead fixture and accent lighting, plus plants and other soothing visuals.



## Kitchen Considerations

As trends evolve and needs change, some homeowners may want to rethink the functionality of their kitchen. Perhaps the most significant contributor to such a re-consideration is the actual layout, and how it affects traffic flow, task orientation, and storage. For example, many kitchen plans include an island, peninsula, countertop and/or a seating nook. Although these features may serve as valuable workspaces or gathering areas for quick meals or snacks, they might also prevent the placement of a table and chairs for more traditional mealtime arrangements.

Conversely, a standard kitchen table may inhibit access to adjoining family areas or take up space that could be dedicated to a separate prep surface or pantry storage – or even a mudroom if it's adjacent to an outside wall. Some appliances may also deserve scrutiny, considering how much space they occupy. Since many households are less dependent upon full-sized ovens with stovetops, a new multi-functional countertop appliance could free up much-needed storage. Depending on changing lifestyles and schedules, the kitchen you have may not be the kitchen you need. But, if you give yourself the freedom to reimagine it, you might embrace a home improvement that's uniquely yours.

## Choosing Carpeting

If you want to kickstart a makeover, adding or changing carpeting can have a swift and dramatic impact. You can purchase an area rug ready to unroll, or get wall-to-wall broadloom professionally installed in a matter of hours. While adding colour and comfort to almost any room or hallway, carpets also improve the acoustics of spaces with hard surfaces, and can provide added safety by helping to prevent or cushion accidental falls. However, there are many different types of carpet cuts, piles, loops, and textures, so knowing what's underfoot is just as important as the colour or pattern.

When choosing your options, you need to consider your floor area and traffic (e.g., kids or pets), and the carpet's composition (natural or synthetic), as well as its density, durability, stain-resistance, ease of cleaning, warranty and more. Also, knowing industry terms will help you choose the right carpet. For example, carpet density is measured by the closeness of fibres, while twist refers to the number of turns in each tuft. These factors contribute to a carpet's face weight, which can be very helpful when comparing carpets made of the same material. Also, don't overlook good underpadding – it's an essential part of any carpet's comfort and performance.

