

Defining Bathrooms

We start and end our day in the bathroom – from stopping into the powder room for a quick touch-up to ending the day by soaking in a relaxing bath in the master bathroom. Bathrooms are the hub for everyday tasks like applying makeup, brushing teeth and shaving so it's very important that they're lit properly – especially at the vanity. Unsightly shadows and wrong color temperatures can cause primping to be more challenging.

What are the types of bathrooms?

Different bathrooms such as the powder room, guest bathroom and master bathroom serve different purposes. Each of these bathrooms are different sizes and have their own components and functions that set them apart from each other.

Powder rooms are usually the smallest and most used bathroom in the home. Most powder rooms look nothing like the rest of the bathrooms so there are opportunities to dress the room up. The powder room makes it easy for friends and family to use while you're entertaining since it's usually conveniently located on the main floor. When you're having people over to stay, the **guest bathroom** provides them with everything they need to get ready or end the day. Leaving supplies like clean linens, toiletries, and soap for your guests will make them feel at home during their stay. At the end of a busy day, wind down and relax in the tub in the **master bathroom**. Imagine a dimly-lit, serene bathroom where your stresses from your day simply melt away. Master bathrooms are luxurious and are becoming more of a pleasant, spa-like environment for cleansing and pampering.

Which light fixtures do I use in the bathroom?

Adding the right type of fixture to your bathroom will not only serve as a functional piece, but it also is a reflection of your personal style. Make a statement with a beautiful chandelier to add instant elegance and sparkle. Recessed cans, flush mounts, or semi-flush mounts are great options for lower ceilings and come in a variety of styles and finishes.

Make sure to light the vanity properly in order to clearly see your reflection. A wall sconce on each side of the mirror is the best lighting option to bring light to your face level. This will create maximum illumination at the mirror so you don't miss anything. Depending on sconce style, it should be placed between 65"-72" off the floor. Note: height may be affected for esthetical reasons by ceiling height and mirror size. If space is an issue, a great alternative is to hang pendants from the ceiling on either side of the mirror. This can also give the appearance of floating sconces. Tip: if necessary, sconces can also be mounted on the mirror.

One of the most common ways to light a mirror is with a vanity light above the mirror. More lumens will be needed to ensure the mirror is lit brightly enough. Placement of the fixture will be affected by the ceiling height and mirror size. An ideal height for a vanity fixture is between

75"-80" off the floor. If you plan to use this method, be sure to choose a fixture with enough lumens.

When is enough, enough? What is meant by color?

When selecting light fixtures, be sure to look at how many lumens there are. The higher the number of lumens, the brighter the light will be. A good example is a 60 watt incandescent light bulb is equivalent to 800 lumens.

Kelvins measure the color temperature of light. The higher the Kelvin rating, the whiter the light will be. Lower numbers ranging from 4500K and below will output a yellowish color. In the bathroom, you do not want the overall color temperature to be too white.

Every bathroom's focal point starts with the vanity. The amount of lumens needed for a bathroom depends on the size. The ideal amount for the vanity is 1200 lumens and up, however, the powder room does not need to be as brightly lit as the master bathroom. 3000K is the ideal overall color temperature for the room and is equivalent to a halogen light.

Jewelry of the bathroom

Lighting the bathroom offers the opportunity to add functional features such as nightlights, toe-kick lights, step lights, and art lights. These can be considered the "jewelry" of a bathroom because they add extra detail while also enhancing the bathroom's appearance. Step lights and toe kick lights are useful for lighting a safe path during those nighttime bathroom visits. If you have wall art or interesting sculptures you want to show off, use an art light to highlight it. Make sure to install a dimmer, too! Controlling all the bathroom's lights gives you many options to create a more soothing atmosphere or to make the room fully bright.

Bathrooms are the sanctuary of the home

The bathroom has evolved into a place of relaxation from the daily stresses of life. It's a room for comfort, cleansing, and pampering. Bathroom lighting is important for setting the ambiance of the task – from the brightly-lit morning primping to the lowly-lit evening soak. Small details like toe-kick lights ensure safety and give off an inviting, cozy glow. Bathrooms are important to our everyday routines and should be an enjoyable space.