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Update Your Shower Curtain for a Bathroom Makeover



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Tribune Specialty Products

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Reinventing the look of your bathroom doesn't need to be complicated. Simple changes such as a new shower curtain, bath towels, or the addition of a new fabric can make a big impact.

"Shower curtains are a creative way to emphasize height within the bath, making the room appear bigger," explains Lindsay Hair, founder and creative director of Linden Blue eDesign. "Rather than installing a curtain at the standard 72 inches, use a tension bar and some ready-made drapery panels, then install the bar 4 inches from the ceiling."

This allows space for steam to escape, but by taking the fabric to the ceiling, you will give the look and feel of a bigger and more luxurious space, says Hair.

Avanti Bath Accessories, Flutter Dots Shower Curtain gives dimension and texture to your bath space with large bands at the top and bottom of overlapping cutout circles. For a clean, spa-like feel, check out Martha Stewart Collection Bath Accessories, Trousseau Matelasse Shower Curtain. The allover tonal scroll design enhances the look for a polished addition to your bathroom.



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Add or change color for a new look

Without a doubt, painting is an inexpensive way to drastically change the look and feel of a bathroom. Add accessories to coordinate with the paint color, or vice versa. Take a stroll through the linen section and see if anything catches your eye, then choose a paint color to harmonize the look.

“Before painting any room, think about the ambiance you are trying to create,” advises Jackie Jordan, director of color marketing for Sherwin-Williams. “Colors in the aqua family or pale blues often create a relaxing, spa-like feel, which is often desired in the bathroom.”

Many homeowners struggle with modernizing existing finishes – especially in older homes. The good news is there is no need to rip out that old tile. Add a pop of color to accentuate what is already there.

“For example, if you have an older home with pink tile you can make the room feel current with the right color coordination – turning a negative into a positive,” Jordan says. “Pairing pink tile with black and white or a pale green can create a modern, yet retro feel.”

Small accessories can make a big difference

Bathroom accessories can provide an interchangeable way to stay organized with style. First, take a look at who uses the bathroom the most and address your storage needs from there.

Hotel Collection offers an extensive line of bathroom accessories to meet any need. From hammered metal to handmade glass jars, the options are endless.

“If you can't remodel, then I would look at making sure that you at least have an organized bathroom,” suggests Jenny Rossignuolo, owner of Chicago-based [Urban Source](#). “Do you have adequate storage for your makeup, skin care products, linens, etc. so that things can be put away rather than staying out on the counter?”

Consider replacing your mirror with a medicine cabinet, or adding a wall-mounted storage cabinet above the toilet. However, stay away from free-standing shelving units that sit above toilets, she says.

“I love to bring real artwork into bathrooms, provided you have good ventilation, and not cheap prints that you wouldn't put anywhere else,” adds Rossignuolo. “Accessories offer a chance to turn a boring bathroom into a room that expresses your personality, so have fun with it!”

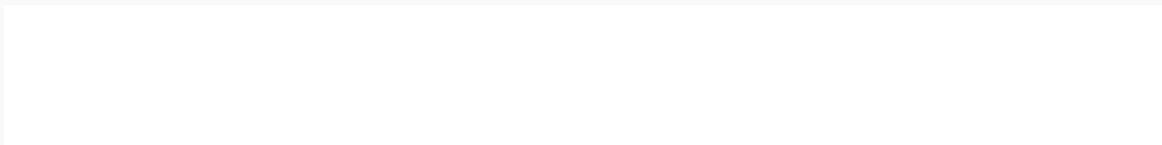
Finishes can make all the difference

Chrome, satin nickel, oil-rubbed bronze. There are a multitude of finishes to choose from.

But do they all need to match?

According to Mary Cook of Chicago-based interior architecture and design firm Mary Cook Associates, absolutely not.

“If your space is small and you want it to feel larger, then use a more subtle contrast,” she says. “If your space is large and you are looking to punctuate something of interest or balance proportion, a strong pop of contrast could be just the thing.”



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