**Assess your needs**

- Measure the dimensions of your current bathroom
- Make comparisons with what your neighbors have (This helps assure that your home’s value is in line with the neighborhood.)
- Decide what features you like about your current bathroom and what you’d like to change

**Plan your project**

- List all your bathroom remodeling goals
- Create an idea folder for your dream bathroom remodeling project
- Determine what your top priorities are
- Plan for alternate facilities while your bathroom is being worked on

**Determine your project budget**

- Add 20% if you intend to hire an interior designer
- Set an additional 20% for contingency expenses

*For a full bathroom remodel, expect the following breakdown:*

- Labor: **20%**
- Cabinetry and hardware: **16%**
- Fixtures: **15%**
- Faucets and plumbing: **14%**
- Countertop: **7%**
- Floor: **9%**
- Doors and windows: **4%**
- Walls and ceiling: **5%**
- Lighting and ventilation: **5%**
- Design fees: **4%**
- Other: **1%**

**FEATURES TO CONSIDER**

**Walls**

- Paint color
- Switch placement
- Waterproofing
- Tiling options
- Wainscoting

**Cabinets**

- New
- Refaced
- Restored

**Vanity**

- Mirrors
- Medicine cabinet

**Countertop types**

- Granite
- Marble
- Manufactured quartz
- Formica
- Silestone
- Caesarstone
- Laminate
- Ceramic tile

**Sink types**

- Integrated or 3-hole setup
- Under-mount
- Single or double bowl
- Drop-in
- Wall-mounted

**Sink materials**

- Glass
- Hammered bronze
- Marble
- Copper
- Wood
- Vitreous porcelain
- Cultured Marble

**Sink features**

- Faucet
- Soap dispenser

**Bathroom fixtures**

- Chrome
- Brushed nickel
- Oil-rubbed bronze
- Steel
- Brass

**Tub**

- Conventional
- Freestanding
- In alcove
- On platform
- Soaking
- Garden
- Whirlpool or Jacuzzi
- Tub liners
- Resurfacing
- No tub?
Hire a contractor

The scope of your remodel project and your own expertise will determine whether you DIY, hire a contractor who specializes in bathroom remodeling or hire specialists to do each aspect of the work.

- Research reviews, ratings, and licensing of local bathroom remodeling contractors using Angie’s List
- Narrow your list and get three detailed written estimates
- Interview contractors and ask about their experience on projects similar to yours, whether they have in-house employees or subcontractors
- Use Angie’s List License Check tool to verify the contractors’ license in your state
- Check their contractor or trade license if required
- Verify their references from previous bathroom remodeling jobs and ask whether they cleaned up the job site daily

⚠️ Some disreputable contractors will fake their certificate insurance, so get it directly from the contractor’s insurance company.

Review the contract

Make sure the contract contains the following elements:
- Detailed project description
- Materials to be used
- Brand-names of products
- Quality level of materials
- Responsible party for pulling permits and submitting paperwork for inspections, if necessary
- Start and finish dates for phases and overall project
- Payment amounts and due dates
- The contractor’s insurance coverage information and property damage liability
- Warranties and guarantees for craftsmanship and the final product
- A lien waiver for material suppliers or subcontractors

⚠️ As a general rule, never pay more than 1/3 of a project’s overall cost as down payment or deposit.

⚠️ Some homeowners will include daily penalties to the contractor’s payment for every day the project phase goes over deadline.

Make sure the job’s done correctly

- As the contractor finishes the project, make up a punch list
- Do not make final payment until the contractor has completed it