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FOUR BATHROOM BLUNDERS

AND HOW TO AVOID THEM

By Jessica Cinnamon Design

Your bathroom is your refuge, your sanctuary. Yes, there are obvious reasons for this, but biological necessities aside, your bathroom is also your haven to rest, relax and rejuvenate; to engage in some much-needed self-care; to pamper yourself and indulge, because you deserve it. It's no surprise that we have high expectations for this unique room in our home, and rightfully so. Unfortunately, there are lots of potential pitfalls lurking behind the walls of this complicated and costly renovation. These are four common bathroom renovation mistakes I come across time and time again, and how to avoid them.

Bathroom Blunder #1: Doing It Yourself

Trust me, you don't want to do it yourself. A bathroom renovation has a lot of moving parts, from plumbing and electrical, to a million and one design choices. Now, add a delicate schedule or events that need to happen on time. And last but certainly not least comes the cost. You'll soon learn that a bathroom renovation is expensive, and even more so when you've made critical errors that you'll have to re-do, repair and pay for – again. Unless you're a professional bathroom designer or renovator, leave this job to the pros. Do your research before hiring your team, seek customer reviews and referrals, and check out their work.

Bathroom Blunder #2: Cutting Corners

Okay, we all want to save money where possible, especially given the rising cost of... everything. But there's a right way and a wrong way to do it. Echoing the point above, don't try to save money by doing the work yourself. However, while you shouldn't try to save on the plumber, you can save by keeping your existing plumbing layout intact. If budget-efficiency is one of your goals, set this priority early on in the renovation process and consult your team of pros on cost-effective alternatives that won't compromise your design, such as tile and countertops, which occupy and huge area and can eat up a good chunk of the budget. Stick to your budget and be realistic about what's possible with what you have to work with. And trust me, always choose quality over quantity.

Bathroom Blunder #3: Underestimating time-line

A bathroom project will take time, so be realistic in how long the work will take, and how big of an inconvenience it will be. If you only have one bathroom, then some extra planning will be required, likely involving alternate accommodations while the work is being done. During your contractor consultations, get a scope of work outlining all the details, and how long it will all take. Keep track of renovation milestones, which are your opportunity to see what's been completed to date, and correct any issues before moving onto the next step in the process. ▶

Bathroom Blunder #4: Overestimating your role

Yes, it is your home, but remember that it is their job. By “they,” I’m referring to the team of professionals that you hired. You’ve done your due diligence, by researching renovators. If you’re working with a professional designer, then you’ll enjoy the



dual benefit of having access to their design expertise and experience, as well as their roster of tried-and-true service providers, suppliers and retailers, to ensure top quality is delivered on time and on budget. So, step back and let them do what they do best.

Don't let these mistakes, or any others, drown out your bathroom renovation dreams. For many, a bathroom renovation is a long time coming, and a lot has to come together to make that vision materialize. But with a little planning, patience and professional help, you can ensure your hard-saved money is spent wisely, and that your reno goals culminate into bathroom bliss. ♦



Photos courtesy of Raffi Tutundjian



JESSICA CINNAMON is the Principal Designer and founder of Toronto based Jessica Cinnamon Design Inc. The firm is a multi-disciplinary design company that has become known for creating stylish and well curated interiors. They provide complete bespoke residential design services throughout Toronto Ontario, the GTA, Cottage Country, Chicago, and Los Angeles.

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