

Clean and Simple

Storage and organization tips to turn your bathroom into the restful retreat you deserve.

By SARAH DONAWERTH

The bathroom is the room where we prepare ourselves for the day, but can also function as a restful retreat.

We go about our morning routine here and return at night for some downtime with a hot bath. In order to properly equip us for the day that lies ahead, a bathroom must be both inviting and functional.

Organization elements in a bathroom should keep the essentials within reach while seamlessly blending in with the décor. Design yours to reflect your personality and style, which will make keeping up appearances in the room something you'll enjoy doing. Here's how to create an inspirational space all your own.

See Shopping Guide, page 128.

A gray and white color scheme can be elegant and upscale, as this bathroom proves. Designer Emily Castle created a space with plenty of storage, from built-in drawers on the vanity and beside the shower, as well as exposed shelves that display crisp white towels in an artful way. The clear doors of the shower create an open floor plan, making the bathroom feel bigger.





This bathroom creates a focal point in the center of the room by leaving space around the bathtub. The chandelier hanging above draws the eye to the bathtub, reinforcing its prominence. A cabinet with glass panels is the perfect way to add just the right amount of storage for a space without built-in shelving.

In this bathroom, everything is within reach because of the handy floating shelves. They engage the vertical space of a bathroom, optimizing storage. A neutral color palette creates a peaceful environment while also giving the bright flowers and rug extra attention. The artwork maintains this color palette, but also gives character and visual interest to the room.



Jars, baskets and containers are a great way to conceal everyday bathroom essentials. Pick several styles for an eclectic display of textures and hues, or choose a single color to create a uniform, cohesive presentation.

Photo by Bret Gurm

Lose It or Leave It?

3 tips to edit down your toiletries and maximize valuable space.

By BARBARA REICH

- **Discard any products that have expired.**
- **Donate your "mistakes."** There's no point holding onto the lipstick color that's unflattering, the perfume that didn't smell right on you or the shampoo that makes your hair flat.
- **Utilize the space under the sink.** Consider purchasing stackable plastic drawers that can fit on either side of the plumbing unit. These can be used to store sunscreen, extra brushes, travel cosmetics and any other product that you have in excess.

In this modern and rustic bathroom, wooden décor shines against a white backdrop for maximum contrast. The tub has modern lines and functionality from the towel rack attached to its side. The windows let in plenty of light, keeping the appearance fresh and airy. The mirrors are mounted over the windows so that the reflection is framed by view of the outdoors.



Photo © Greg Premru; Design by LDa Architecture & Interiors



Above: Efficient storage is key when organizing a bathroom. A vanity with drawers and shelves ensures that the counter stays clear of clutter. A drawer utilizing vertical space can be an excellent way to get extra use out of tight spaces. To achieve this minimalistic look, pick a single color to stand out and keep the rest of the décor neutral.

Above right: Bright colors give personality and warmth to this bathroom. The vibrant green cabinets frame the vanity. The backsplash is another opportunity to incorporate color into the bathroom and allows for easy cleaning. Towel racks keep washcloths off the counter and within reach.

Right: Extending the symmetry of this double sink to the rest of the room functions to unify the entire space. The shelves flanking the sink provide extra storage within reach. Stepstools create unity in this fun space with inspired coastal décor.

Adding an item to several of the cubbies, like starfish, can create a cohesive look for the shelves while camouflaging elements of storage.



Photo by TC Geist Photography; Design by Z+ Architects, Allendale, NJ



Photo by Greg Tinius of Tinius Photography; Design by Paola McDonald/Creative Elegance Interiors

Photo by Susan Gilmore Photography; Architecture by Ryan Fish, Petersen/Keller Architecture; Design by Gigi DiGiacomo; Builder: Rocky DiGiacomo



The calming atmosphere of this bathroom is accomplished through a monochromatic color scheme. The gray, white and silver palette creates a neutral backdrop so that the eye is attracted to the textures and architectural details of the room. When considering a simplified color palette, emphasize elements like crown molding or light fixtures to create focal points.

Extending the monochromatic color scheme to items on the shelves creates a tidy display that isn't visually busy, while still allowing towels and other items to remain in plain sight.

Primped and Proper

Organize your bathroom necessities and toiletries so items are easily accessible and eye-catching.



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1. **The Style & Go® Hair Care Valet** in white, \$129; marcymckenna.com.
2. **3-Tier Acrylic Swivel Organizer**, \$28.50; uppercanadasoap.com.
3. **Votive organizers** in India Flamingo, Skye Boardwalk and Dinah Chocolate, \$12 each; themacbethcollection.com.



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4. **WS Bath Collections Ciacole 8050.16 Cabinet with Mirrored Door** in Pink, \$756; modobath.com.
5. **Sherrieblossom ICEbOX Skinny Mini**, \$335; sherrieblossom.com.
6. **Makeup Pencils & Brushes Cosmetics Tray**, \$9.99; organize.com.
7. **Bamboo Hair Styling Station**, \$69.99; greatusefulstuff.com.
8. **Set of 3 Glass Canisters**, \$64.95; crateandbarrel.com.
9. **Six Compartment Rattan Basket**, \$50; theholdingcompany.co.uk.



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