

Bathroom Remodel Planning Guide

Everything you need to know before starting your bathroom renovation

A bathroom remodel is one of the highest-return improvements you can make to your home — but only when it's planned well. This guide walks you through every stage, from setting goals and budgets to choosing materials and avoiding the mistakes that cost homeowners time and money.

1. Define Your Goals

Before looking at tile or fixtures, get clear on **why** you're remodeling. Your goals shape every decision that follows.

- **Function:** More storage, better lighting, a walk-in shower, dual vanities?
- **Style:** Modern, transitional, spa-like, classic?
- **Longevity:** Are you aging in place, or renovating to sell within a few years?
- **Accessibility:** Curbless showers, grab bars, comfort-height toilets.

2. Set a Realistic Budget

Most Central Florida bathroom remodels fall into three tiers. Use these as planning ranges, then get a firm estimate.

Typical Budget Tiers

- **Refresh (\$8k–\$15k):** New vanity, fixtures, paint, lighting, and re-glazing.
- **Mid-range (\$15k–\$30k):** New tile, shower, vanity, flooring, and layout tweaks.
- **High-end (\$30k+):** Full gut, moved plumbing, custom tile, premium fixtures.

Pro Tip: Reserve a 10–15% Contingency

Older homes often hide surprises behind the walls — water damage, outdated plumbing, or non-code wiring. A contingency keeps these from derailing your project.

3. Plan the Layout

Moving plumbing is the single biggest cost driver. Keeping fixtures in their existing locations can save thousands.

- Keep the toilet, sink, and shower near existing water lines when possible.
- Allow at least 24–30 inches of clearance in front of each fixture.
- Plan for ventilation — a properly sized exhaust fan prevents mold.

- Think about natural light and where mirrors will reflect it.

4. Choose Durable Materials

Bathrooms endure moisture, heat, and heavy daily use. Prioritize materials built to last.

- **Flooring:** Porcelain tile and luxury vinyl handle water beautifully.
- **Countertops:** Quartz resists staining and needs no sealing.
- **Shower walls:** Large-format tile means fewer grout lines to clean.
- **Fixtures:** Look for WaterSense-rated faucets and toilets.

5. Pre-Project Checklist

- Goals and must-haves written down
- Budget set with contingency reserve
- Inspiration photos collected
- Layout finalized (plumbing locations confirmed)
- Materials and fixtures selected
- Contractor licensed, insured, and referenced
- Timeline and payment schedule agreed in writing
- Temporary bathroom plan for the household

Ready to bring your project to life?

Blue Fire Artistry is a licensed, insured, women-owned remodeling company serving Central Florida. We specialize in kitchens, bathrooms, and whole-home renovations. Call (407) 494-0179 or email clients@bluefireartistry.com for a free, no-obligation estimate.