

# Get the Bathroom of Your Dreams!

With a few tiny tweaks, you can create the clean, serene space you crave

## The best way to store towels:

Instead of stacking towels in the linen closet, keep 'em at arm's length by using the cabinet under your sink, rolling and fitting them around the pipes, suggests Ellen Faye, owner of Straighten-UP!, a professional organizing service in Cherry Hill, N.J. Then stash rarely used items (like your crimping iron) in the linen closet. If you have a pedestal sink or jam-packed hall closets, roll up your towels and put them in a basket instead.

## The best way to dejunk the medicine cabinet:

Take everything out. For each item, ask yourself, "Do I use this every day?" If so, it can go back in. Give dental products, hair products, his shaving supplies and your most-used makeup (in a plastic container) their own sections. Move extraneous grooming products to another cabinet or your closet. And keep first-aid items (bandages, ointments and the like), along with medicine you rarely use, in a separate container in your linen closet. (If you have young kids, keep medications locked up.)

## The best way to downsize:

Drowning in multiple bottles of everything? Figure out which essentials (shampoos, toothpastes, etc.) your family can share and which you can't. Maybe you can get away with the same shampoo for everyone, but your color-treated hair requires its own conditioner. To find products that work for the whole gang, look for key words such as "normal" or "gentle." When it comes to shared items, take turns buying each family member's favorite, suggests Faye.

## The best way to improvise counter space:

Buy a cheap plastic cutting board to stash next to the sink. When you need an impromptu station for putting on makeup, lay the board across the sink. Another option, says Barbara Sallick, co-founder and senior vice president of design for luxury bathroom

store Waterworks, is to slide a small table under your pedestal sink and keep your everyday cosmetics there in pretty baskets.

## The best way to create extra space:

Think vertically. A shelf above the door to store extra towels or nonessentials you don't reach for every day will give you some breathing room.

## The best way to organize your beauty stash:

To avoid wasting time fishing for that one lipliner, keep like things together, says Faye. Store each category (liners, lipsticks, eyeshadows, etc.) in a compartmentalized drawer or small basket. A multicompartment basket or plastic container for your hair-dryer, hair products and brushes is a lifesaver, too.

## The best way to update your bathroom's look:

Painting the bathroom is the easiest way to get a fresh look. And it doesn't take much time or money since there isn't a lot of wall space, Sallick points out. Choose a color that complements your tile. If you have a pink tile floor left over from the previous owner, make it a gorgeous style statement by painting the walls a shade of white that has a gentle pink cast. Other soothing bath colors are watery blues and greens. Gloss or semigloss finishes are best for the bathroom because they're resistant to mold and easy to wipe clean.

## The best way to store things in the shower or bath:

Start by taking inventory of what you need around the tub. If you have more products than you can count, consider getting a floor-to-ceiling shelving caddy that fits right in the corner. If you don't have many products, you can get away with an over-the-showerhead hanging unit.

## >q&s tip

Once a year, weed through your makeup and toss everything that's old or that no longer works for you. This will leave room for new additions.

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