

KITCHENS & BATHS UNLIMITED

Bathroom Renovation: What to Expect During the Process of a Remodel

*What you need to know about the process and the top 3 questions
asked by our clients*



What to Expect During a Bathroom Remodel

When contemplating a bathroom remodel there are a few things to consider. The first question typically revolves around costs and rightly so after all if it's a full remodel it will probably be a big investment. We have answered this more in depth in a previously written e-Book entitled [“How Much Does a Bathroom Remodel Cost?”](#) You can click on the link and be able to access it if you want more specifics on costs. That cost question is typically followed up with “How long will it take?” and then “Can you tell me what to expect during the remodeling phase?”

EACH BATHROOM IS UNIQUE:

As you probably know every bathroom or remodeling project is unique to its own set of circumstances, variables and conditions. For example, a bathroom remodel taking place in a home built in 2000 is going to be very different from a remodel in a home built in the early 1900s. The newer home will have drywall construction versus the older home will most likely be plaster and lath. The newer home most likely will have copper plumbing with PVC drains versus the older home may all be galvanized plumbing. The newer home probably has Durock (cement board) for a subfloor versus the older home may have a floor that is set in 2-3 inches of concrete. All of these circumstances affect the overall labor price (and time) of the job as the older home is much more labor intensive than the newer home.

Another key factor that affects the price is the size of the bathroom space. The size is directly related to the amount of materials necessary for the remodel. A typical hall bathroom may be 5'x 8' versus a master bathroom might be 20'x 15'. Therefore the tile quantities for the hall bath will be significantly different than the master bath. The amount of cabinetry will greatly differ and so on.

Lastly, the materials that are selected for your bathroom will also play a major role in the bottom line price. Will you be selecting more conservatively priced materials like porcelain tile, polished chrome plumbing fixtures (faucets, etc) and semi-custom cabinetry? Or, will you prefer marble tile, polished nickel plumbing fixtures and fully custom cabinetry? All of these decisions and selections greatly affect the overall pricing to your project.

HOW LONG WILL IT TAKE?

Taking into account the factors just discussed above the duration of a bathroom remodeling project can vary. On a more conservative remodel, but still a complete remodel, an average hall bathroom could be completed as quickly as 2-1/2 to 3 weeks. This would encompass replacing all current materials and fixtures with new, but keeping them in their same locations. In other words, this is simply an update not a redesign or expansion of the bathroom.

If we apply the same set of rules to a master bathroom with a separate tub and shower this may take closer to 4 weeks to complete, simply because the space and the amount of labor is greater.

On the other side of the coin, if you are considering expanding the size of your bathroom where plumbing fixtures are being relocated and walls are being moved then this will obviously add to the overall duration of your project. This is the time to schedule an appointment with a general contractor or bathroom design firm so that they can give you a more specific timeline estimation.

WHAT TO EXPECT DURING THE REMODELING PROCESS:

Before any work begins, your design firm or general contractor should have steps to protect and respect your home. These steps include:

- Flooring protection should be in place
- “Plasticizing” off adjacent rooms to minimize dust travel
- Covering of HVAC vents
- Removing artwork and pictures from shared walls
- Relocating or covering any necessary furniture
- When possible, request that the crews work within the bathroom space with the door closed.

After proper protection has been implemented and before the work commences, a staging area will need to be determined. Many times, the most obvious place is the garage. Most work and storing of materials can all be done in a one car space. However, it never hurts to remove the other car(s) as well to avoid any accidents. If the bathroom being remodeled is in far proximity to the garage, it might be deemed more appropriate to use an adjacent guest bedroom as a temporary staging area.

Often homeowners assume or worry that they will be without water or power for days. This is not the case. The typical bathroom remodel may cause the water to be shut for a couple hours at most, but that’s it. As far as the electrical work impeding upon everyday living, this too is usually for a very short period of time. It rarely affects the homeowner at all.

ESTIMATED TIMELINE:

The rough timeline below assumes a typical hall bathroom being totally renovated.

WEEK 1: Demo and Rough Work

The first day of a bathroom remodeling project is dedicated to demolition. Therefore, all items in your current bathroom would need to be packed up and removed in the days prior to job commencement. This typically goes pretty quick and gets everyone excited about the progress of the amazing transformation that is about to take place over the next weeks. The remaining portion of the week is usually spent working on all necessary electrical and plumbing work.

WEEK 2: Tiling

Although week 1 can be exciting, week 2 is when you really start to get a glimpse of what your new bathroom is going to look like. Let the tiling begin! Week 2 is dedicated to tiling and cabinet installation. Depending upon the intricacy of your tile design, tiling could take a better part of the week and even sneak into week 3. Regardless, this is really where the transformation starts to become apparent. Now that the vanity cabinets have been installed the template for the counter top can be made. This allows the fabricator to start cutting the counter tops and get them ready for install during week 3.

WEEK 3: “The Hook up!”

Now that the tiling has been completed all plumbing fixtures (faucets, toilet, shower head etc...) can be installed. Happy days are back again. The toilet is now functional, you have your sink back and you don't need to run down the hall or to your local gym to take a shower. Everything is back in working order now that everything has been hooked up.

WEEK 4: Finish Up and Clean Up

It is now time to walk through the beautiful new bathroom with the homeowner to make sure all punch list items have been taken care and to answer any questions. Ideally this is a great time to install all accessories such as robe hooks, toilet paper holder, towel bars etc... as the homeowner is available to go over the precise locations. Now is the time to make sure all debris, remaining materials and tools are removed from the jobsite. And that's a wrap!

We hope you have found this information helpful. If you would like to receive a complimentary consultation for your bathroom remodeling project please feel free to contact our design team to get started today!

Kitchens & Baths Unlimited: 847-729-1212 or visit us at 1232 Waukegan Rd, Glenview, IL 60025.

ABOUT US



[Kitchens & Baths Unlimited](#) is a full service kitchen and bath remodeling firm of 30 years, doing business predominantly in the North Shore and Chicagoland areas.