

Before & After: Sailing Through a Bath Makeover

Whether you envision a bath that's simply functional or a beautiful mini spa, it's the one room in the home that no family can live without. In this "Before & After" feature, we found a bath that represents a situation familiar to many homeowners—outdated in both design and function, and under serving the needs of the family. Lowe's is happy to provide this information as a service to you.

Our solution offers a result that not only brings the style in line with the times, but allows the existing space to be used more efficiently. See how these enhancements—including new lighting, beautiful ceramic tile and the latest fixtures and faucets could apply to your own bath remodeling project.

If you're planning to redo your bath or any room in your home—make sure you begin by visiting Lowe's. Our knowledgeable salespeople can help with every step along the way, and our huge selection and guaranteed everyday low prices make Lowe's the one place to go for everything you need.

Before:

The existing bath offered these homeowners only the basics, despite the generous proportions of the room. Gaining storage was a key goal, as was updating fixtures and finishes. Since this home had no bath adjoining the master bedroom, it needed to be designed to accommodate a busy daily routine as well as to welcome guests. With other tubs in the house and a personal preference for taking showers, this couple decided to remove the too-small square tub in favor of a large, custom walk-in shower. The existing ceramic tile, though serviceable, seemed almost institutional with the application halfway up the wall. Though natural light was plentiful, task lighting for make-up application and shaving was less than adequate.



Before the makeover: A lack of storage and task lighting made this spacious bathroom inadequate.

After:

After measuring the space and drawing a sketch of the room on graph paper, the homeowner's found that by rearranging the toilet and lavatory positions they could make room for much-needed storage space. (While relocating existing plumbing fixtures can significantly add to the cost of plumbing labor, the benefits gained from doing it in this particular bath outweighed those costs.) The addition of a full run of bath cabinetry would provide plenty of storage for linens and toiletries, as well as a practical opportunity for counter space. The couple was also pleased to discover that the size of the planned shower could actually be quite generous, with space enough for a built-in seat. The Kohler MasterShower Collection offered a customized approach for choosing shower heads. The couple opted for a handheld shower, but other options in this line allow for later add-ons such as stationary heads. A clear glass shower enclosure was chosen to keep the shower visually open.

Next, they reviewed options for other fixtures and finishes. They wanted a clean, classic look to reflect the feeling in other rooms of their home. For color inspiration, they reviewed the wallpaper selection at Lowe's and found a beautiful border with a sailing motif featuring multiple shades of blue and white with mustard accents. This provided the perfect anchor for a crisp high-contrast color scheme and an opportunity to warm it up with yellow-based tones from the border. High-contrast schemes those in which there are light and dark elements used together tend to be lively when the contrasting colors are positioned next to one another. The homeowners maximized that effect by choosing cobalt

blue and ice white tile for walls and countertops. To continue the nautical theme and keep it fresh, they decided that using horizontal bands of cobalt and white tile instead of traditional checkerboard or bordered layouts would work well.

Bath cabinetry by Bertch in a light birch, was chosen to complement the color scheme with the warm pale amber tones of the wood. By selecting units to fit their needs, they were able to customize the cabinetry layout to suit their needs. A companion mirrored medicine cabinet and "flyover" light was available to provide a unified look. To keep this from being the sole "warm" hue in the room, a stone-look ceramic tile for the floor in a softly textured beige was chosen for the floor, which they planned to install on the diagonal to visually widen the space. And for visual continuity, this tile was also used for the shower floor.

Bath fixtures no longer have to be boring! To add pizzazz and a touch of the extraordinary, a Kohler Vessels Spun Glass lavatory in cobalt was selected and coupled with Kohler's Falling Water wall-mounted faucet in a polished chrome. Other bath accessories were specified to match this finish. A sleek, white one-piece Kohler Rialto toilet was chosen for its easy-to-clean design, and the lower height reinforces the horizontal theme of the room.

To give the walls a heightened sense of depth and texture and to reinforce multiple shades of blue from the border, a simple colorwash technique was chosen. A base coat of American Tradition Blue Shadow semi-gloss was specified with a top glaze of Decorative Effects semi-translucent glaze in Slate Blue.

To solve the lighting dilemma, retrofit can lights were installed for general illumination and a clean, unobtrusive appearance. The excellent quality of light emitted from the halogens in the light over the vanity provide is just right for shaving or applying make-up. To control the available natural light (as well as provide privacy), 2" white vinyl blinds were chosen. Their clean, fresh lines totally fit the look of the room, and they have the added advantage of being moisture and warp resistant and perfect for bathroom installations.

Accents for the room included a rug and towels in shades of blue, as well as Cobalt Blue flowerpots on the windowsill to keep the window area from being too stark. An attractive Deacon's Bench, painted in American Tradition Rich Amber, brings out the yellow in the border. The result is a bath that meets the owners' needs, reflects their tastes, and is right in sync with today's look-and all from Lowe's.

Was this information helpful? Please [let us know](#) your do-it-yourself experiences. We'd love to hear from you!

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After the makeover: Additional storage and a clean, classic look, opens up this previously dull bathroom.