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# THE KITCHEN EXPRESSIONS BATH REMODELING PRIMER

## Relax... Escape and Unwind....

When you remodel a bath (Master Bath, Hall Bath or Powder Room), you need to consider many factors. This checklist provides a brief, basic overview of the elements of a bath remodeling project. It is meant to educate you, the Homeowner, so that you understand the full scope of the project. Remodeling a bath is a wonderful collaboration between the Bath Designer and Homeowner; understanding all that is involved provides a solid foundation for an enjoyable project, with spectacular results!

- **BATH DESIGN** – Kitchen Expressions has developed an immensely successful bath design/build program to ensure that our clients' needs and goals are met. We measure and assess the project area and create three-dimensional computer models of the proposed renovation to allow our clients to experience the bath firsthand before any construction work actually commences. Once the overall design is approved, final bath plans are drafted and reviewed with our construction team. This is the most important part of a bath project – the creation of a solid and well-defined plan!
- **CABINETRY** – One of the most important components of the project will be the Cabinetry. It will also be one of the elements that you see and touch every day, long after the renovation is completed. Cabinetry will also be one of the more significant cost elements of the overall project. The factors that will affect the cost of the cabinetry are:
  - **Brand** – There are numerous manufacturers in the marketplace, all at different price points. At Kitchen Expressions, we have carefully curated a wonderful product mix that covers all the bases and enables us to execute projects of all sizes, desired finishes and budgets.
  - **Cabinetry Construction** – The type of cabinet construction and the quality (and thickness) of materials utilized will influence the cost of the cabinetry (e.g., inset cabinet construction is more laborious and time-consuming for the manufacturer than frameless cabinet construction, and plywood costs more than engineered particleboard). As one would also expect, thicker materials cost more than their thinner counterparts.



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- **Finish** – One of the most important elements of the cabinetry (and one that will have a significant impact on its cost) is the finish. Finish involves three factors: substrate (the structural material that the doors, drawer fronts and finished sides of the cabinetry are made of (i.e., walnut, paint-grade wood or some specialty exotic or rare wood – generally all at various price-points), basic type of finish (stain or paint) and the artistic embellishments (high-gloss acrylic, glazing, rub-through, wire-brushing, etc.), all of which will generally add some degree of additional cost to the cabinet order.
- **Details** – The devil is in the details! The quality and quantity of any specialty cabinetry pieces that may be incorporated into the bath cabinetry will affect the cost of the cabinetry order. These items provide depth and texture to the space and add a level of uniqueness to the cabinetry design. Special molding details, specialty glass doors, hutch ends, pilasters, etc. add wonderful details and can take a bath vanity from beautiful to extraordinary!
- **Internal Accessories** – Whether a special hair care pull-out mechanism is utilized, or a few simple roll-out shelves are part of the mix, accessories make the bath cabinetry function at its best!
- **Installation** – The cost of the cabinetry installation is determined by the amount of cabinetry to be installed and the complexity of the installation (e.g., the complexity of the molding details).
- **COUNTERTOPS** – There are many materials available for use as a countertop in a bath or powder room. These include: natural stone (granite, marble, quartzite, etc.), quartz (Caesarstone, LG Viatera, Aureastone), wood (traditional hardwoods, exotics and “live-edge”), glass (regular and thermo-formed, concrete, metal, laminate (Formica, Wilsonart, etc.), solid surface (Corian) and more. Your Bath Designer will explain the differences, benefits and caveats, and costs. Also, expect that a number of fabricated parts for the bath (shower threshold, niche surrounds, shower seats, etc.) will be needed.
- **PLUMBING FIXTURES** – There are a wide variety of decorative plumbing fixtures to choose from, at different price levels. Your Bath Designer will review the options with you. Here are various items that need to be considered:
  - Bath Tubs and Drains
  - Tub Filler



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- Showerhead
  - Shower Systems (Pressure-Balanced vs. Thermostatic)
  - Rainhead
  - Handshower
  - Body Jets
  - Lavatory Sinks
  - Lavatory Faucets
  - Lavatory Drains and P-Traps
  - Toilets
- **ACCESSORIES** – Every bath needs accessories! They add utility and functionality to the bath as well as a touch of elegance. Some of the bath accessories that need to be considered:
    - Decorative Hardware – Knobs and/or pulls for your cabinetry
    - Toilet Paper Holders
    - Spare Toilet Paper Roll Holders
    - Robe Hooks
    - Towel Bars
    - Towel Rings
    - Mirrors or Medicine Chests
    - Storage Baskets
    - Tooth Brush Holders
    - Soap Holders
- **TILE** – Will the bath be tiled from floor-to-ceiling, or will it have a tiled shower and floor and painted walls or a special “feature” wall? The number of floor and wall surfaces that will be tiled, as well as the type of tile that is used, will affect the look and overall cost of the bath remodel. Different materials require different installation techniques, procedures and supplies. Also, standard installation patterns (i.e., stacked, running bond) take less time to install than those with borders, “carpets” or herringbone patterns.
- **OTHER ITEMS FOR CONSIDERATION:**
    - Heated Floor – It might be 10 degrees outside, but an electrically-heated bath floor will keep you feeling warm ‘n toasty inside!



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- Steam Generators – A soothing and cleansing steam shower will relax and energize after a long hard day!
- Towel Warmer – There’s nothing better than wrapping yourself in a warm ‘n toasty towel after a relaxing bath or shower!
- Lighted Make-Up Mirror – A must for some of our clients!
- Glass Shower Enclosure – A strong and sturdy glass shower enclosure keeps water where it belongs. At Kitchen Expressions, our shower enclosures are made of the finest materials and most transparent glass available. Even better, our shower enclosures are measured, fabricated, delivered and installed in one week.

- **LIGHTING**

- General Lighting – round recessed lighting (4”, 5” and 6”) is generally provided by the contractor as part of the construction elements of the typical bath remodel. Other types are available.
- Wall Sconces – Wall sconces provide direct lighting for make-up application and shaving. They can be placed above a mirror or medicine chest or on the sides or can be suspended from a ceiling. They also provide some additional texture and detail to the bath.
- Decorative Ceiling Fixtures – This would generally cover ceiling-mounted (flush or hanging) lighting fixtures.

- **CONSTRUCTION** – This significant part of the remodel consists of the labor required to:

- Apply for (and obtain) all required permits. Certain projects will also require stamped plans from an architect licensed to work in the state where the job site is located. The cost of such plans is generally not included in the construction element of the remodel.



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- Remove the existing cabinetry, countertops, tub/shower enclosures, plumbing fixtures, flooring, wall and ceiling surfaces.
- Remove all job site refuse on a daily basis
- Execute all required framing and structural changes (if any)
- Install the new electrical wiring, outlets and switches
- Install the new rough plumbing fixtures per the bath design (and relocating water lines, drains and vent lines as required)
- Install new insulation in exterior walls and ceilings and sound blanket in interior partition walls
- Schedule and attend all required rough inspections
- Install moisture-resistant gypsum board wall and ceiling surfaces and the taping and spackling of the same
- Install cement board in all “wet” areas that will be tiled
- Install all Client-supplied tile, grout and fabricated items.
- Install all non-cabinetry molding and trim work
- Install Homeowner’s decorative plumbing fixtures
- Install Homeowner’s bath accessories
- Prime and paint the Job Site
- Schedule and attend all required final inspections
- Complete all required punch-list items
- Conduct final courtesy clean-up of the Job Site



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- **CONCLUSION** – A bath remodel involves a variety of elements that need to be carefully and thoughtfully addressed and coordinated. At Kitchen Expressions, our highly-experienced and talented Designers navigate our Clients through each and every element so that the completed bath project exceeds their expectations!

Kitchen Expressions is an award-winning, nationally-recognized, full-service kitchen and bath design/build firm that offers complete turn-key solutions and project management for all of our clients' renovation or new-construction needs. We are conveniently located in the heart of downtown Summit, New Jersey and service clients throughout the tri-state area and beyond. Our mission is to provide our clients with exceptional design and an extraordinary renovation experience for any area of their home or place of business. From initial consultation through design, installation and the completed project, the entire Kitchen Expressions team works tirelessly to ensure that your project receives the dedicated attention and superior craftsmanship it deserves, and results in your complete satisfaction.

**Welcome to Kitchen Expressions – We Design. We Build. You're Happy.**

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