

## REMODELING

SIMPLE TIPS FOR  
*refreshing your bathroom*

BY CAPE BUSINESS STAFF

*When remodeling your home, it is important to consider whether your changes will add real investment value. Conventional wisdom holds that work done on kitchens and bathrooms will recoup the greatest percentage of your spending.*

*In the past, that has often translated to granite countertops, whirlpool tubs, or even heated towel rods.*

*In this economy, however, who has the money to spend tens of thousands on a new bathroom or kitchen – especially with it becoming harder and harder to get home equity lending?*

*We consulted with the experts at Snow and Jones (snowandjones.com) to gain insight into how to efficiently and cost-effectively update your home—the bathrooms, in particular. There are some easy and inexpensive steps with large pay-offs.*

*They pointed out that refreshing your bathroom has many benefits and can also be surprisingly low-cost. You can increase your resale value of the home by putting in amenities that homebuyers are seeking. You can also create a bathroom experience that you truly enjoy. The following tips can be done for very-low cost but will enhance the value of your home.*

### 1 Install a new showerhead

A new showerhead can really dress up the look of your shower and convey a look of luxury. In addition, an updated showerhead can be a green investment: Showerheads now also only use 2.5 gallons per minute, and some true water-savings model use only 1.75 gallons, reducing your water bill. Multifunction showerheads also offer different therapeutic sprays, making your shower experience more enjoyable.

### 2 Install a new faucet on your sink

There are so many types of faucets available now that can enhance the style of your bathroom. Explore different popular finishes, such as brushed nickel or oil-rubbed bronze, which many new homebuyers are seeking. Beware of inexpensive faucets that use plastic pieces, and make sure you purchase a faucet that is all-brass and quality-made. An all-brass faucet typically features a lifetime warranty and will provide you with fewer headaches and lower repair costs.

### 3 Install new accessories

New towel bars, towel rings, robe hooks and glass shelves provide the bathroom with a finished look and

allow you to accessorize and decorate. These accessories provide you with organization for your towels, soaps and more, and de-clutter your bathroom.

### 4 Replace your toilet

All new toilet styles use 1.6 gallons per minute or less, creating tremendous water savings. There are many stylish options that will compliment your décor. Comfort height toilets are extremely popular for the aging population and practically a requirement for any new toilet. Be sure to check the measurements for the back of the wall to the bolts on the floor. This measurement will be 10 inches, 12 inches, or 14 inches. Bring that measurement with you when shopping for a new toilet.

Check with your local bath showroom to get advice from experienced professionals who will have information about the latest products and trends. These professionals can help with basic design without the expense of hiring a designer.

With a little planning, and some careful and thoughtful shopping, you can freshen and update your bathroom without breaking the bank. This will not only make the room more livable for you now, it will increase your home's attractiveness when selling. ■



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