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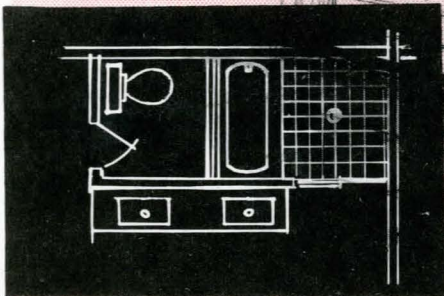
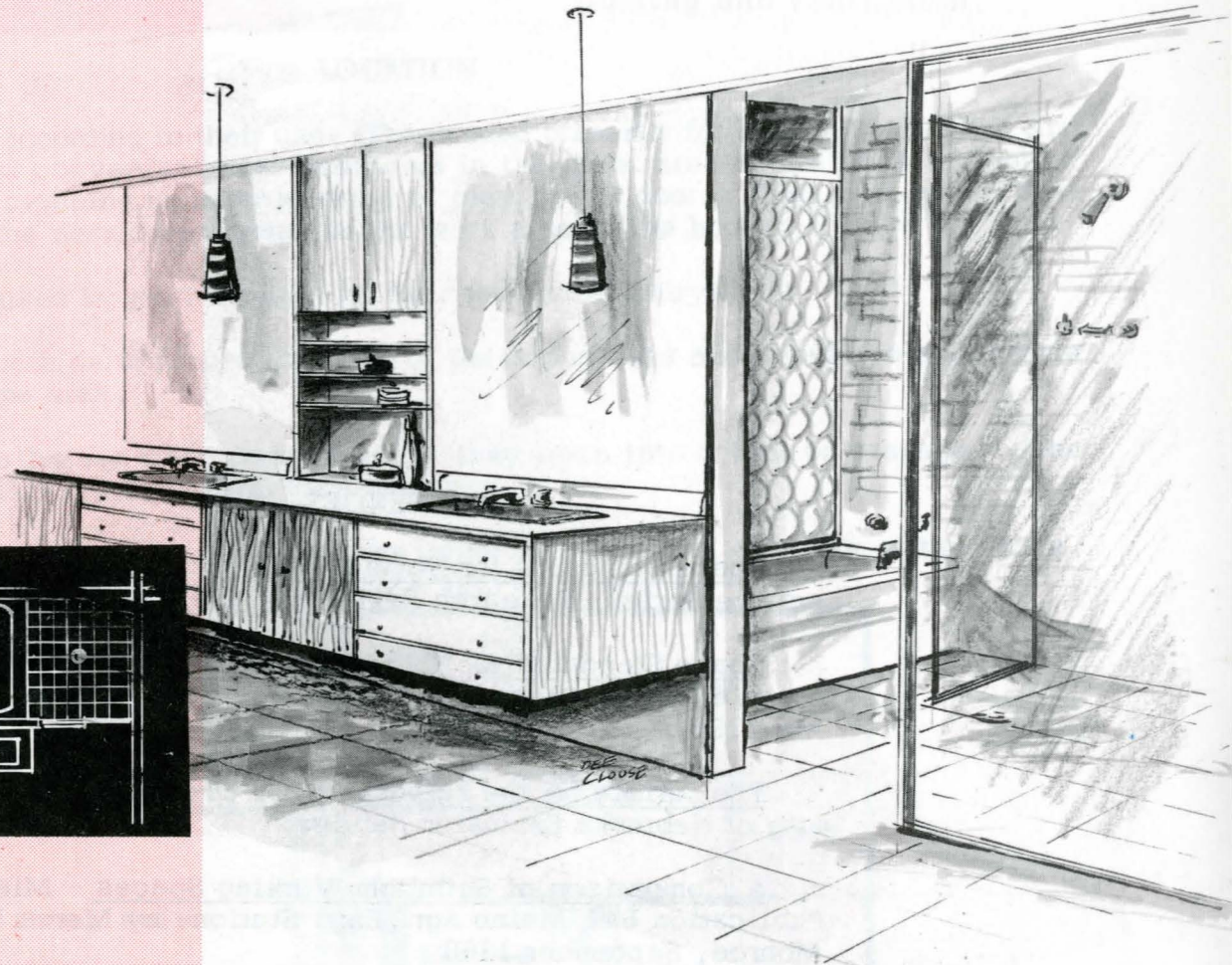
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GUIDE TO

Bathroom Planning

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REFERENCES

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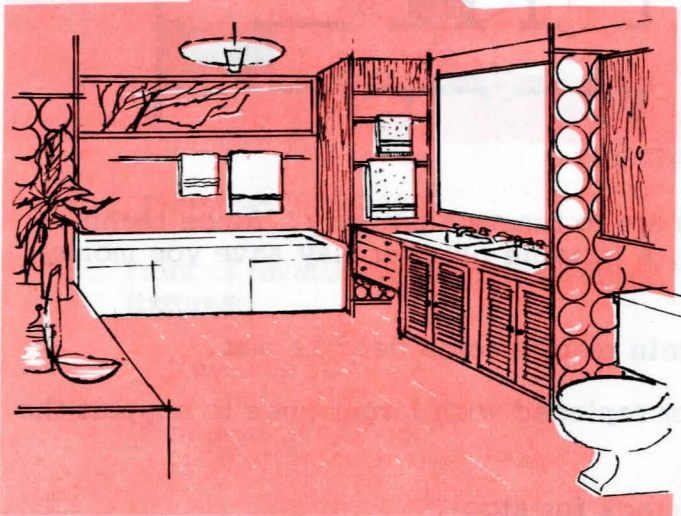
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GUIDE TO.....

Bathroom Planning

Jerre L. Withrow, Extension Specialist, Housing



Convenient, comfortable, attractive baths enhance the livability of a home. New surfacing materials and fixture designs offer flexibility in planning within every budget.

You may be planning a new home, adding a bath to your present home, or remodeling an existing bath.

Guides to follow which will help you plan the bathroom you desire are location, installation, arrangement, storage, materials, lighting and ventilation.

LOCATION

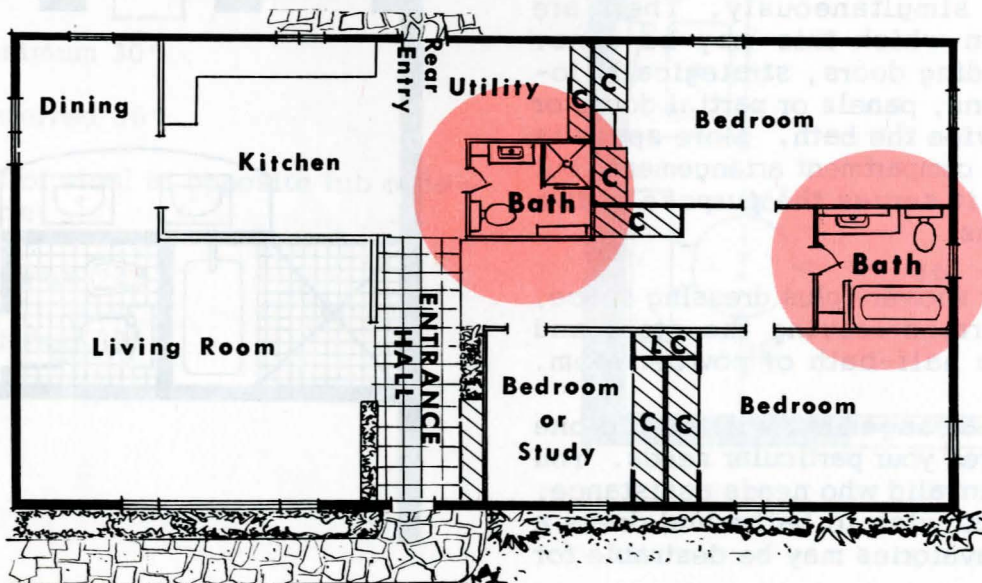
Locate baths according to their use. Those used primarily for bathing, grooming and dressing are most convenient near bedrooms in the quiet area of the house. Another use might be for cleaning up after working or playing out doors. This bath would best be located near the service entryway in the work area of the house.

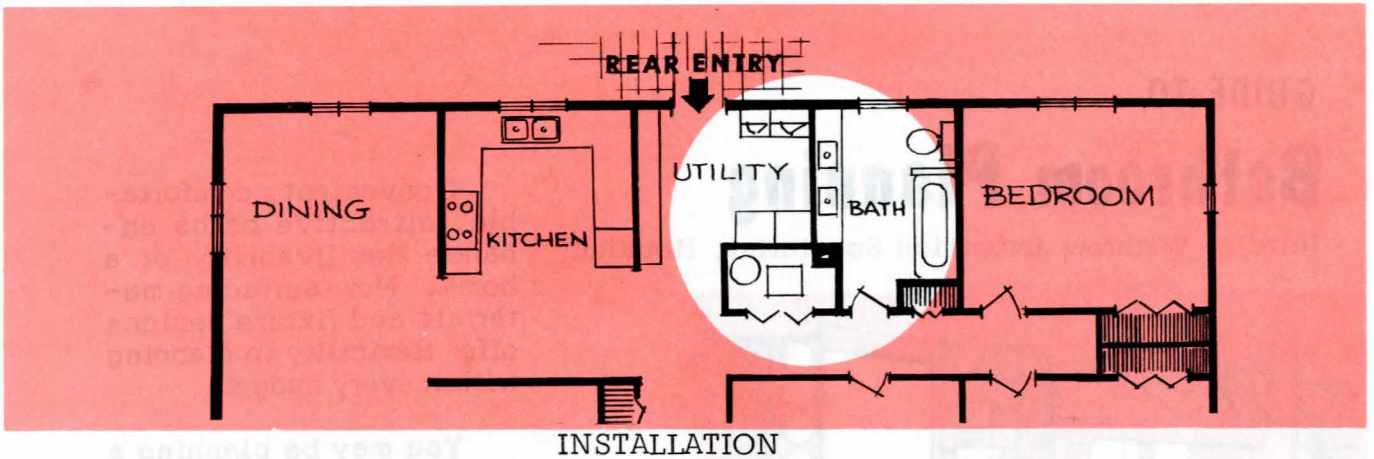
A bath to be used by guests might be near the social entryway.

Generally a bath serves more than one of these purposes and should be accessible from more than one area.

Multi-use baths are more convenient if they open into a hall or passage. One entrance is usually more satisfactory than two.

Doorways should not be visible from the living area or social entryway of the house.





Proper installation is critical if facilities are to function properly. Since technical knowledge and skill are required for the job, a reliable plumber may save you money, time and frustration.

Whether you do the work or hire it done certain requirements need be met.

Floor joists may need to be reinforced or replaced with larger ones to support the weight of bathroom fixtures.

Wall studs must be 2" x 6" to conceal stack for stool.

Insulation around pipes is necessary if fixtures are placed against an outside wall.

Access should be provided to drain-end of tub.

Drain from tub and lavatory may connect to stool stack for economy.

Vents from each fixture may connect to the stool vent for economy.

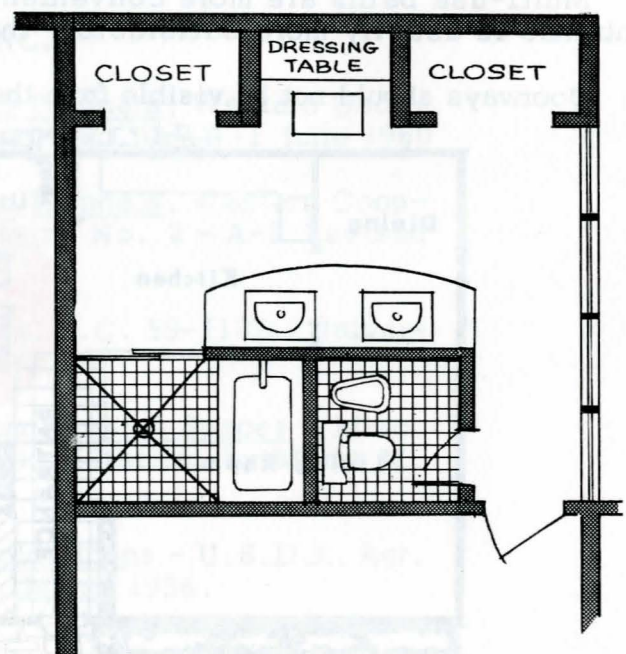
Installation must comply with local building codes and health ordinances.

ARRANGEMENT

Maximum usefulness and privacy can be insured by arranging each fixture in a separate compartment. Compartments can then be used simultaneously. There are many ways in which this may be done. Sliding or folding doors, strategically located partitions, panels or partial doors or gates may divide the bath. More space is required for a compartment arrangement, but you may find it serves the purpose of two separate baths.

The tub or shower, plus dressing space, may be separated leaving the stool and lavatory as a half-bath or powder room.

The best arrangement will be the one that best serves your particular needs. You may have an invalid who needs assistance, or perhaps you wish to bathe and dress a baby. Two lavatories may be desirable for your family.



Clearances

Arrangement may be limited by the space available. Certain clearances are essential to comfortably use and clean the fixtures.

Lavatory

- A. Center of lavatory to adjacent wall:

_Minimum 20"

_Preferred 23" - 30"

- B. Front of lavatory to opposite wall or fixtures:

_Minimum 30"

_Preferred 36"

Stool

- A. Center of stool to adjacent wall:

_Minimum 18"

_To assist elderly person 22"

- B. Center of stool to adjacent tub or lavatory:

_Minimum 14"

_Preferred 16"

_To assist elderly person 18"

- C. Front of stool to opposite wall:

_Minimum 30"

_Preferred 36"

- D. Front of stool to opposite tub or lavatory:

_Minimum 24"

_Preferred 30"

Tub

- A. Side of tub at center to opposite wall or fixture:

_Minimum 30"

_Preferred 36"

- B. Side of tub to center of adjacent stool:

_Minimum 16"

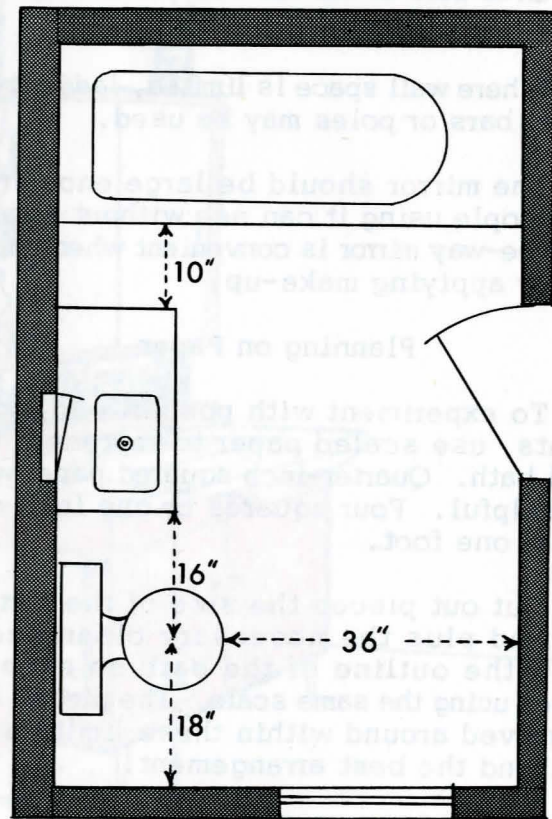
_Preferred 18"

- C. Side of tub to side of adjacent enclosed lavatory:

_Minimum 8"

_Preferred 10"

_Where space is limited the clearance for one fixture may double for another.



Fixtures

The size and shape of fixtures will determine possible arrangements. Browse through your dealer's show room or catalog to see the variety of designs available. "Lavatory" no longer means a standard receptacle for washing.

It may be dainty and round and set into a counter of your choice.

It may be free form with a side rim to form its own counter.

A tub may be King size, sunken or square. There is a size and shape for most any decor. The bottom of a tub should be flat for safety.

Hardware

Well designed hardware can add to the individual appearance of the bath, to the convenience offered, and to the safety of those who use the room.

A variety of attractive styles of towel bars, faucets, drawer pulls, etc., are available in brass, porcelain, chrome, and plastic.

A mixer faucet combining hot and cold water at the lavatory and a mixer valve at the shower will prevent possible scalds.

Grab bars at the tub will protect against falls.

Where wall space is limited, ladder type towel bars or poles may be used.

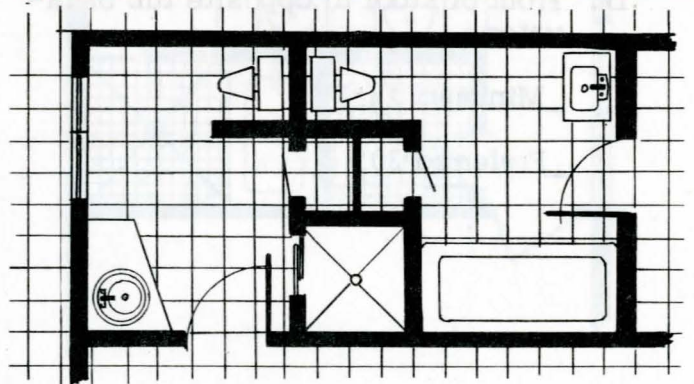
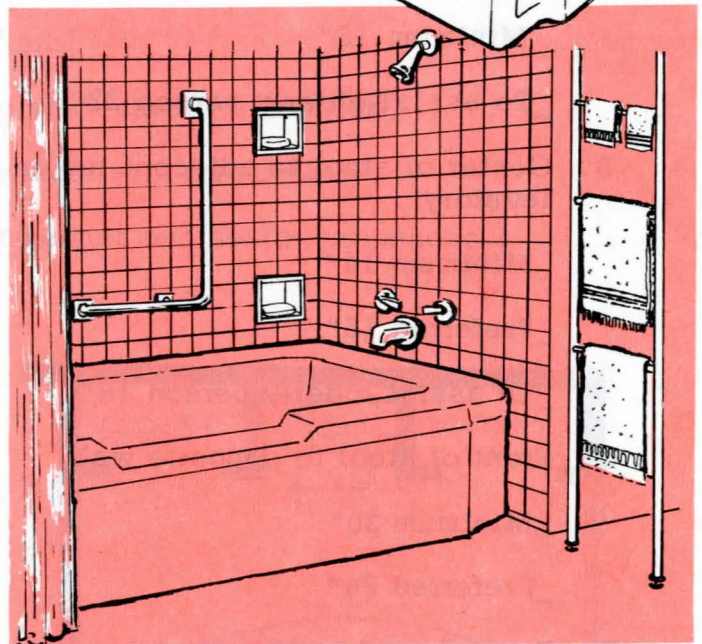
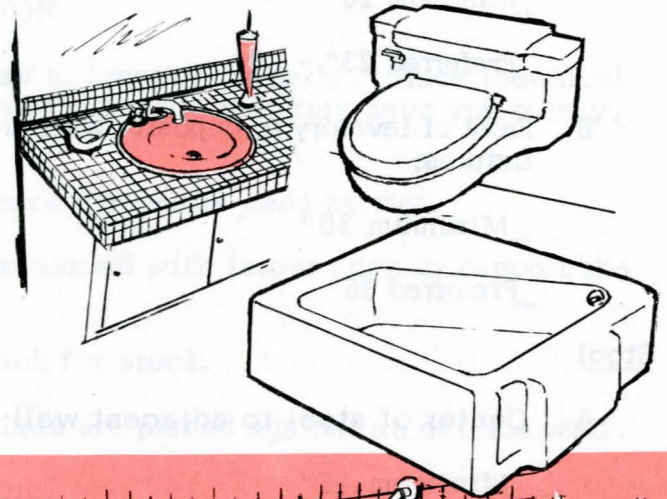
The mirror should be large enough so all people using it can see without strain. A three-way mirror is convenient when shaving or applying make-up.

Planning on Paper

To experiment with possible arrangements, use scaled paper to represent the real bath. Quarter-inch squared paper will be helpful. Four squares or one inch can equal one foot.

Cut out pieces the size of the fixture desired plus the necessary clearances. Draw the outline of the bath on squared paper using the same scale. The pieces can be moved around within these limits until you find the best arrangement.

You may want to try some arrangements life size. Let yardsticks be the walls and cut fixtures out of newspapers. You can go through the motions of bending over a lavatory or cleaning a bathtub to test the clearances.



Heights

The height of a bathroom lavatory is as important as the height of kitchen work surfaces. When two or more people use one lavatory, individual preference is not possible for all. However, a compromise based on heights of users will be more comfortable than the traditional "standard."

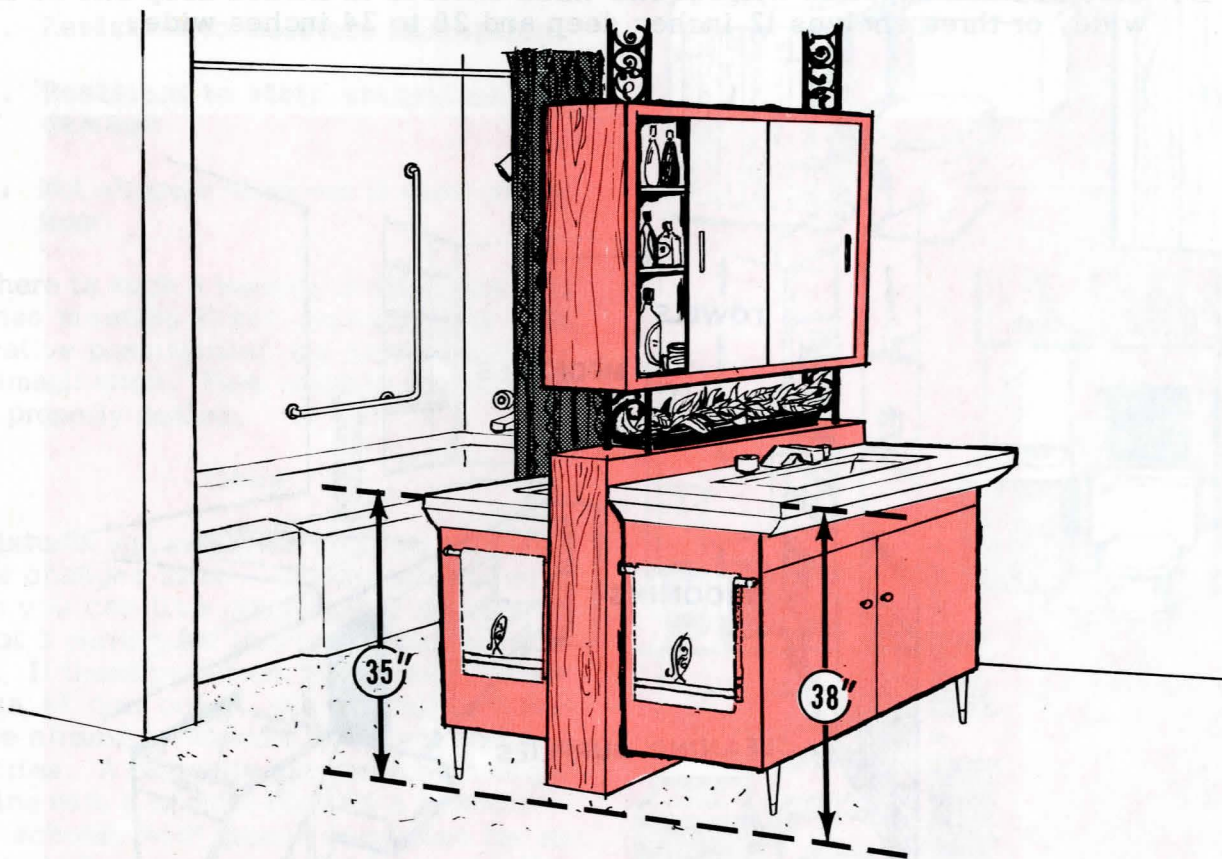
It is easier for women to adjust to a higher wash basin than it is for a man to adjust to a lower wash basin. When possible, women should make the adjustment.

A woman can accept a wash basin 2" or even 3" higher than the height specified in the table above.

Men should not make an adjustment downward of more than 1" less than the heights specified in the table.

A 6'2" man will need a wash basin 37" high. A woman 5'3" will prefer a basin 34" high. A compromise height for them will be 36".

Heights for Installing Wash Basins for Women & Men			
Height of women	Height of wash basin	Height of men	Height of wash basin
Below 5'2"	33"	Below 5'7"	33"
5'2" to 5'4"	34"	5'7" to 5'9"	34"
5'5" to 5'6"	35"	5'10" to 5'11"	35"
5'7" to 5'8"	37"	6'0" to 6'1"	36"
5'9" and above	38"	6'2" to 6'3"	37"
		6'4" and above	38"



STORAGE

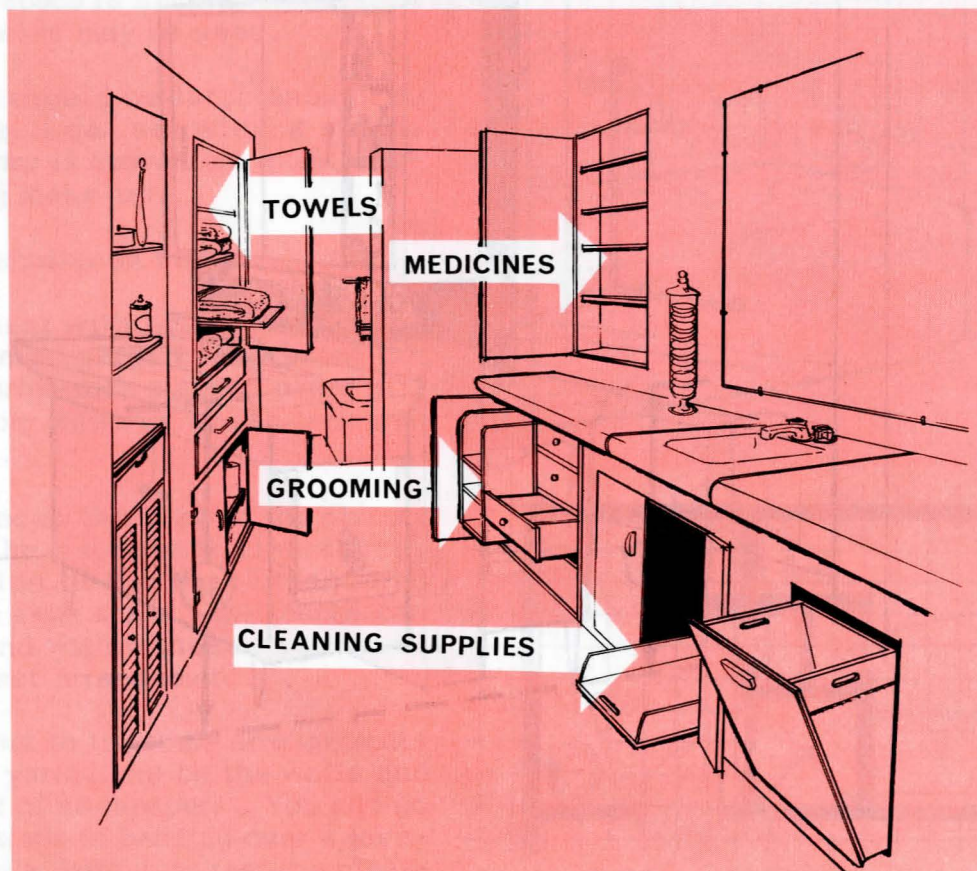
Items used in the bathroom are most convenient when stored within the room. Medicine, grooming articles, bathroom supplies, and linens in varying quantities will be used by all families. You may wish to store robes, baby clothes, laundry, health equipment and other items as well. Include facilities for storage in your plan.

Often a base cabinet can surround the lavatory without sacrificing necessary free floor space. Shallow cabinets will fit between wall studs or can project out from the wall above a counter.

Floor to ceiling cabinets are often possible in otherwise unused space.

Storage units will be decorative as well as functional if they're part of the architectural features of the bath:

- A. Liberal medical supplies will require five shelves in a cabinet 5 inches deep and 20 inches wide. The cabinet must have a lock or be located beyond the reach of children.
- B. Liberal cleaning supplies will require a shelf or drawer 24 inches deep, and 24 inches wide.
- C. Liberal grooming supplies will require two sets of drawers, with four drawers, each 20 inches deep and 12 inches wide.
- D. Liberal linen supplies will require three shelves 12 inches deep and 36 inches wide, or three shelves 12 inches deep and 28 to 34 inches wide.



You can figure out your exact needs by using the following table and multiplying by your inventory of each article:

Unit Space Dimensions: Size of Space Needed to Store Folded Bathroom Linens				
Article & description	Fold	Length	Width	Height
Towels:				
2 Bath, terry, 24" x 46"	Thirds	10"	16"	5"
2 Hand, terry, 16" x 26"	Halves	10"	14"	4"
Washcloths:				
2 Terry, 12" x 13"	Halves	7"	13"	3"

MATERIALS

Materials used on walls, floors and counters will determine the "look" of your bathroom. These are some practical considerations in selection.

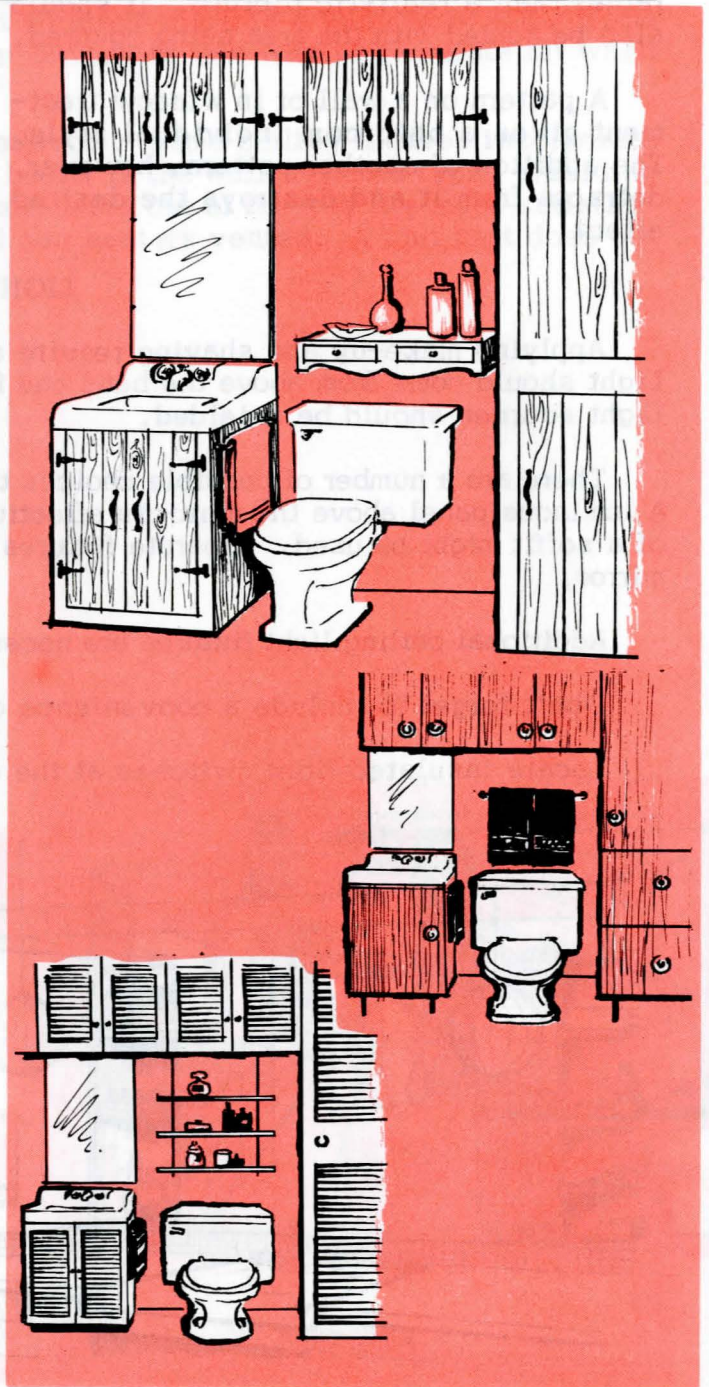
Characteristics for Maintenance and Safety

- A. Easily maintained.
- B. Resistant to moisture absorption.
- C. Resistant to stain absorption and damage.
- D. Not slippery when wet if used on the floor.

There is such a variety of materials and finishes meeting these requirements that decorative possibilities are limited only by your imagination. Even wood is appropriate when properly sealed.

Color

Fixtures and materials such as tile, will not be changed often. Choose colors with which you can live comfortably and which are not a current fad that will date the room later. If these permanent segments are variations of one color, the overall scheme can be altered by window treatment and accessories. A basically grey blue bath might combine with a brighter blue for a monochromatic scheme; with greens or purples for an analogous harmony; or orange for a complementary harmony.



Texture

Since fixtures are shiny and smooth some contrast such as a dull or rough surface would be pleasing and reduce glare.

Pattern

There are many vinyl coated wallpapers that would be interesting or gay on bathroom walls. Remember, the principles of good design apply even where whimsy is employed. The effect will be more pleasing if the pattern is a conventionalized design rather than a realistic picture. It should also be scaled with the area being covered.

A pattern on a wall or in window treatment gives a bathroom individual style. The addition of another pattern, however, detracts from it and destroys the desired effect.



LIGHTING

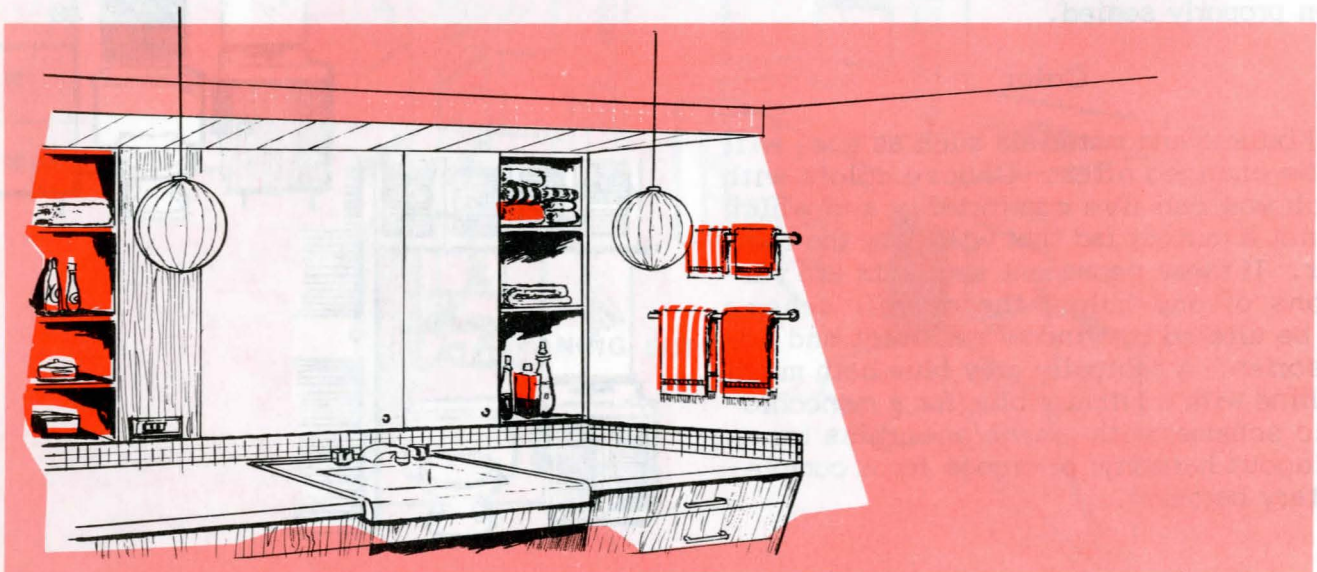
Applying make-up and shaving require a larger amount of light than do other tasks. Light should come from above the head and from the sides to avoid shadows on the face. Light sources should be shielded.

There are a number of possible choices that will be decorative as well as functional. A luminous panel above the mirror is effective. A series of recessed lights in the bottom of a soffit might be used. Separate fixtures can be mounted above and to the side of the mirror.

Additional ceiling light fixtures are necessary in each compartment of a divided bath.

Don't forget to include a convenience outlet for an electric shaver or a hair dryer.

Locate insulated light switches at the door away from tub and lavatory.



Natural light is desirable in any room. It is not as important as other features of a bath, such as location and arrangement. A window should admit light without destroying privacy. High windows or windows with translucent, but not transparent, glass are appropriate. Ordinary windows might be treated with sheer casements, grills, louvered shutters or plastic panels to insure privacy.

You may wish to screen the view outside rather than inside. A small walled garden beyond a glassed area would seem to be an extension of the room. Windows should not be located above tub.

VENTILATION

Exhaust systems are as much a part of the well-equipped home as heating and cooling systems. An exhaust fan in a bath quickly removes moisture and odors from the air, and should be included for maximum comfort whether there is a window or not. Some control of ventilation is necessary. A timer switch is one way to circulate air when desired and for the time needed.

You may wish an auxiliary heater in the bathroom. Some ceiling fixtures incorporate light, fan and heating coil in one unit. If the heater is the wall-mounted type, shielding must be provided to prevent accident. Stationary units out of the way are most satisfactory. Electric heaters must be grounded and gas heaters vented. A unit that does not move the air insures comfort while bathing.

SUMMARY

Use these guides to check your plan:

Is the location convenient for those who will use the bath?

Is the arrangement convenient and does it allow for adequate clearance at each fixture?

Are the fixtures an appropriate size, design and color?

Is storage provided for all items used in the bath?

Are the materials harmonious and practical for the room?

Is there proper light, ventilation and heat for comfort?

Plan your bathroom carefully for convenience, comfort and beauty.

