

## BATHROOMS

If you can afford it, splash out on optimising your bathroom's layout, says Leah Pitman of Bone Made, who designed the airy haven pictured. Then, choose your dream freestanding bath and floating vanity, and install under-floor and towel-rail heating.

For those on a budget, Leah suggests quick wins like spraying or painting tiles white, replacing the shower screen and tapware, or adding decorative elements such as a floating shelf or pendant light. And when renovating to sell, don't over-capitalise: "Work with the existing layout and spend money where your buyer can see it."

Studio Black Interiors' Maria Cerne, designer of the chic bathroom pictured opposite, stresses that prices vary widely. "For example, budget tiles can range from \$35 per square metre, while premium tiles can cost \$150 or more. It pays to shop around – and remember to consider the costs of licensed tradespeople."



DESIGN AND STYLING BONE MADE / PHOTOGRAPHY THE PALM CO.

DESIGN AND STYLING MARIA CERNE / BUILD HOMES BY HOWE / PHOTOGRAPHY H CREATIONS



### MARIA'S TOP TIPS

**1 Focus on layout:** There's nothing more frustrating than a bathroom that doesn't work! Design the layout before you get too involved in how it will look aesthetically.

**2 On trend tapware:** Tapware can make a big difference to the look of a bathroom. I love matte black and metallic tapware; it can instantly bring an extra level of sophistication to a space.

**3 Stylish accessories:** A few chic pieces can go a long way towards giving your bathroom a five-star feel. Greenery, luxurious towels and beautifully packaged vanity products can create a hotel atmosphere at home.

Elegante Terrazzo Nimbus tile (400 x 400mm) \$99.95 per m<sup>2</sup>  
nationaltiles.com.au

The Beach People 'Luxe' hand towel in peach \$26 thebeachpeople.com.au

Scandiluxe double towel rail in American Oak \$209 scandiluxe.com

on-trend

### BATHROOM UPDATES >

Phoenix Tapware 'Vivid' slimline compact twin shower in matte black \$572 phoenixtapware.com.au

*"An off-the-shelf mirror in a round or oval shape adds interesting detail to a bathroom."*

– Maria Cerne, Studio Black Interiors

Middle of Nowhere 'Bjorn' oval mirror \$235 lifeinteriors.com.au

Fishscale mosaic tile in white \$105 per m<sup>2</sup> thetilepalette.com.au

Loughlin Furniture 'Staples' Tasmanian Oak vanity from \$2,250 loughlinfurniture.com.au

## BUDGET

"For a bathroom or ensuite renovation, costs will vary depending on whether you're undertaking a full structural renovation, minor cosmetic updates, or both," says interior designer Maria Cerne of Studio Black Interiors. "If you're renovating for a profit, as a guideline, aim to spend around 1.5% of your current property value to completely upgrade an existing bathroom."

### Expect to pay...

Budget renovation: \$5,000 - \$15,000  
Standard renovation: \$15,000 - \$25,000  
Luxury renovation: \$25,000+



DESIGN NICOLA GREENAWAY / STYLING CLAUDIA STEPHENSON PHOTOGRAPHY HANNAH BLACKMORE

Budget buster

A bathroom renovation budget can blow out very quickly, so it pays to be thrifty. In Nicola Greenaway's bathroom (pictured left), she paired an inexpensive vanity from IKEA with a marble top bought from a building recycler and cut to size. Subway tiles are also a budget-friendly option and give a timeless look.