

The Ultimate Bathroom Renovation Planning Guide

Save Time, Avoid Mistakes & Stay On Budget



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Welcome & Why Planning Matters

Welcome to Builders Warehouse Online!

Planning a bathroom renovation can feel overwhelming — with so many styles, materials, and fittings to choose from, it's easy to make costly mistakes.

This guide is here to simplify the process, reduce stress, and help you design the bathroom of your dreams — on time and on budget.

Did you know?

Over 80% of bathroom renovation issues stem from poor or rushed planning.

This guide will walk you through:

- Setting a practical budget
- Planning your renovation timeline
- Choosing the right products
- Avoiding common renovation mistakes
- Getting everything ready for install day



Let's dive in!

💰 Budgeting Your Renovation

Step 1: Know your total spend limit.

Be honest about what you can afford before selecting products or trades.

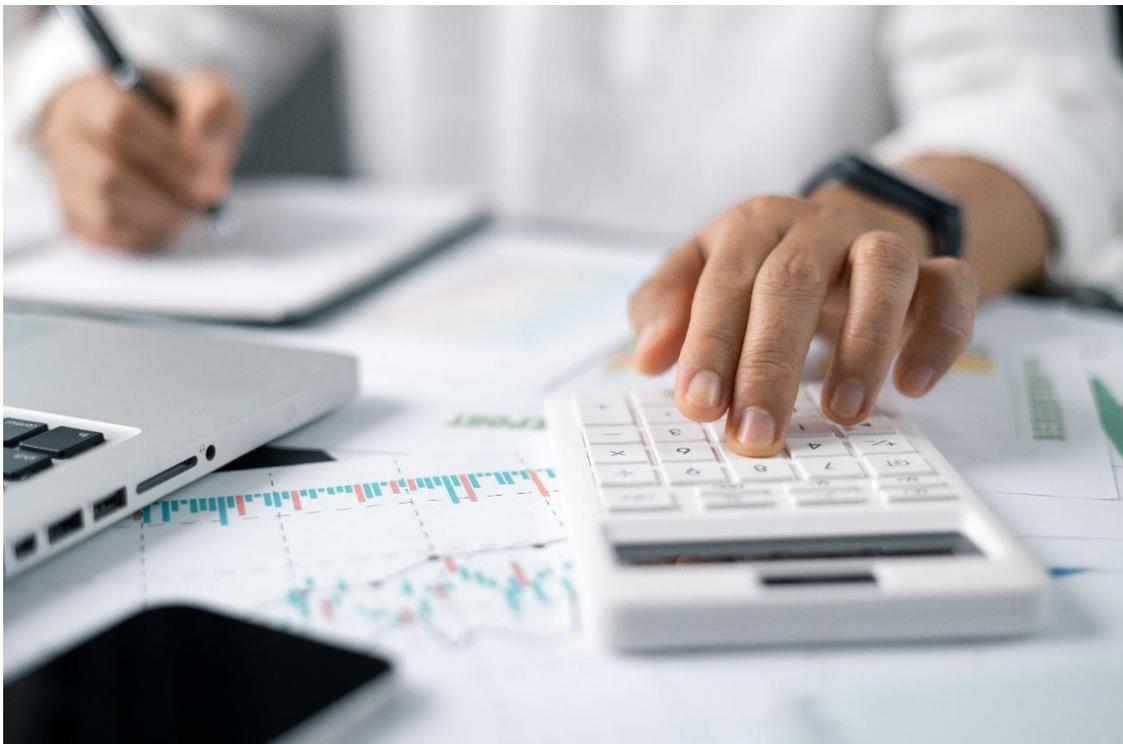
Step 2: Factor in everything — not just fittings.

- Demolition & removal
- Waterproofing & plumbing
- Tiling, painting, lighting
- Tapware, vanity, toilet, accessories

Bathroom Budget Breakdown (example):

- Labour: 40%
- Fixtures & Fittings: 35%
- Tiles: 15%
- Contingency: 10%

Pro Tip: Always allow 10–15% extra for unexpected costs.



Timeline Planning

A typical full bathroom renovation can take **2 to 4 weeks** depending on complexity.

General Timeline:

- Week 1: Demolition + Rough ins (plumbing/electrical)
- Week 2: Waterproofing + Tiling
- Week 3: Fit-off tapware + vanity + toilet
- Week 4: Final inspection + touch-ups

Tips for a smoother schedule:

- ✓ Pre-order all items early
- ✓ Confirm trades in advance
- ✓ Allow drying time for waterproofing and tiling
- ✓ Avoid changes mid-reno

Use this template to map out your bathroom renovation over a 4-week period. Adjust the tasks and durations to match your specific project timeline.

Week	Tasks	Notes / Trade Bookings
Week 1	Demolition Rough-in plumbing Rough-in electrical	
Week 2	Waterproofing Wall and floor tiling begins	
Week 3	Grouting Fit-off plumbing Install vanity, toilet, tapware, Shower screen	
Week 4	Final touches Caulking Clean-up Final inspection	

Choosing the Right Products

Your bathroom should be as functional as it is stylish. Here's what to consider:

Tapware

- Basin Mixers: Wall or benchtop mounted?
- Shower Mixers: Thermostatic or standard?
- Finish Options: Chrome, matte black, brushed brass, gunmetal

Vanities

- Wall-hung (floating) for modern look
- Freestanding for more storage
- Double vs single bowl

Basins

- Under-mount: Clean lines
- Above-counter (vessel): Bold statement
- Semi-recessed: Great for small spaces

Showers & Toilets

- Frameless or semi-framed screens
- Back-to-wall or wall-hung toilets

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💡 Planning for Plumbing & Electrical

Proper layout and service planning are essential before installation.

Plumbing Tips

- Confirm pipe locations before tiling
- Don't move drains unless necessary — it increases cost
- Choose tapware compatible with your plumbing setup

Electrical Tips

- Install adequate lighting (vanity + ceiling + mood)
- Add power points near vanity/mirror (compliant with AS/NZS 3000)
- Consider heated towel rails and underfloor heating

Always use licensed professionals for plumbing and electrical work.



DIY vs Hiring Professionals

DIY Advantages:

- Cost-saving on basic tasks (painting, flat-pack vanities)
- Flexibility on your timeline

But... Know the limits:

- ✗ Waterproofing must be licensed in most states
- ✗ Electrical work is illegal to DIY
- ✗ Tiling, plumbing, and shower installations are best left to professionals

Best Practice:

Take on light tasks, but leave critical jobs to licensed tradies to ensure quality, safety, and insurance coverage.



⚠️ Common Mistakes to Avoid

Avoiding these traps can save you time, money, and regrets:

1. **Ordering products too late**
 - Don't pay the plumber to come back, have everything ready to go.
2. **Not double-checking dimensions**
 - A vanity that's 50mm too wide can create major layout issues
3. **Ignoring ventilation**
 - Prevent mould and mildew with a quality exhaust fan
4. **Mixing incompatible finishes**
 - Stick to a consistent style theme for a polished look
5. **Skimping on waterproofing**
 - Water damage is the most expensive bathroom fail

waterproofing in wet areas like bathrooms is governed by the Building Code of Australia (BCA) and Australian Standards, primarily AS 3740-2010.

These standards dictate the minimum requirements for waterproofing in bathrooms, ensuring protection against water damage.



✅ Final Planning Checklist

Your Bathroom Reno Checklist

- ✓ Set a realistic budget
- ✓ Measure your space carefully
- ✓ Confirm layout and plumbing locations
- ✓ Choose and order tapware, vanity, toilet, tiles
- ✓ Hire licensed trades for waterproofing + electrical
- ✓ Plan for delivery times
- ✓ Ensure good lighting and ventilation
- ✓ Confirm waste disposal and site access
- ✓ Leave buffer time in the schedule
- ✓ Review final design before commencing



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- Modern vanities, mirrors, and basins
- Toilets, accessories, and installation hardware
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