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INSPECTIVE PERSPECTIVE

How to make the most of your bathroom when space is limited.

By: Sebastian Vasta

When renovating a small bathroom you want to try and give the illusion of space. Consider the following:

The illusion of height

- Vertical lines add height to a room by drawing the eye upwards. Tiles that are extended to the ceiling can make a small bathroom feel larger. Painting a vertical stripe or using a similar wallpaper pattern is also a good idea.
- Another way to draw the eye upwards is by lining the edge, or 'crown' of the ceiling with a border; perhaps a cornice, or a patterned tile around the top of the walls.



Lights and mirrors

- Mirrors are a great way to add depth, width and length to a small room but be careful not to over do it, one mirror is generally enough. The mirror will also help to distribute light throughout the room.
- Clear shower screens as opposed to opaque gives the illusion of more space and light. A fully frameless shower screen doesn't create any visual barriers at all and can work brilliantly in a small bathroom.
- Make use of natural light. A skylight will solve problems if the room is oriented away from the sun.
- Illuminating the perimeter of the room will make it seem larger, and also get rid of dark corners. A good idea is to place shelves on the walls near the ceiling and fit lights underneath them. **Continued page 2**

TIP OF THE MONTH

Quick Energy Fix-Its (Saves Money, Too!)

In less than four hours you can significantly reduce air infiltrations by installing gaskets at all electric switches and plugs. You can do your entire home for less than \$10. The process is simple: Remove the cover plate, place the gasket, replace the cover plate. If you are handy with a screwdriver, this process can take less than 2 minutes -- start to finish. To test for air leaks, hold a lighted candle next to a plug or switch on the inside of an exterior wall. If the flame flickers, it's time to gasket. And if the flame goes out -- we wouldn't want to have your heating bill.

ASK DAVE



Dave Muirhead -President
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Q. What is Ice-Damming?

A. Ice damming occurs when snow on the roof melts and freezes over unheated areas, such as the overhangs of the roof. Other primary factors which increase the amount of ice damming are: Large amounts of snow on roofs, temperatures around the freezing point, insufficient insulation, inadequate ventilation and low pitched roofs. Water leakage occurs when the snow above the ice dam melts or it rains, but the ice below prevents proper drainage, creating a back-up of water. If enough water collects, it will back under the shingles and leak into the eaves, or worse, into the interior of the house, where the wall meets the ceiling.

How to make the most of your bathroom when space is limited . . . continued

Color

- The key word is 'simple'. For example, don't use a busy wallpaper pattern, as the room will seem smaller and more cluttered.
- Light colored walls, floors and décor can make a room seem larger. We suggest using pastel tones, neutrals or whites.

Tiles

- Larger tiles create a sense of space, as do rectified porcelain tiles. Because of the way they are made, rectified porcelain tiles are identically-shaped, meaning narrower grout lines and less visual fuss.
- The feeling of space can be generated by more visible tiled floor. This can be produced with floating cabinets and a pedestal or wall mounted sink. The vanity unit on the other hand, takes up a lot of floor space and is best avoided.

Storage, sinks and baths

- Pedestal basins are a great way of adding space, as they don't sit atop a bulky structure. However, when choosing one of these basins, keep in mind your storage needs, and look for one with a bench.
- Make sure you include adequate storage as clutter only exacerbates the problems of a small bathroom. Exposed shelving, recessed cabinets and floating cabinets are a good option, with the latter leaving more exposed floor space.
- Placing your windows near the ceiling will free up wall space for your storage needs.
- Placing the toilet in an alcove will make efficient use of a small bathroom, and above the toilet is a great place to fit a shelf, too.
- If you want to include a relaxing bath then head for a small but deep model.

Doors

- A sliding door gives more room than a normal hinged door, and can be hidden in an in-wall cavity for a clean look.
- If you are using a hinged door, don't clutter your walls with towel racks. Hang them on the back of the door instead.

JOKE OF THE MONTH

Ever Wondered Why...

- If a cow laughed real hard, would milk come out her nose?
- Why do they put Braille dots on the keypad of the drive-up ATM?
- Why do we drive on parkways and park on driveways?
- Why is it that when you transport something by car, it's called a shipment, but when you transport something by ship, it's called cargo?
- You know that little indestructible black box that is used on planes, why can't they make the whole plane out of the same substance?
- Why isn't phonetic spelled the way it sounds?
- Why do fat chance and slim chance mean the same thing?
- Have you ever imagined a world with no hypothetical situations?
- How does the guy who drives the snowplow get to work in the mornings?

FROM TAMARIA'S KITCHEN . . .

CHICKEN AND DUMPLINGS

Ingredients

- 1 chicken, cut into quarters
- 1 tablespoon chicken seasoning
- 2 cups flour
- 3 tablespoons baking powder
- 1 cup whole milk
- 2 teaspoons butter or vegetable shortening
- 1 egg, beaten
- 1 teaspoon salt

Place chicken in a large Dutch oven. Add chicken seasoning and enough water to cover chicken with at least 2 inches of water. Bring to a rolling boil, then reduce heat and simmer, covered, until meat can easily be removed from bones. Remove chicken, leaving liquid in pot. Remove meat from chicken and place meat back into pot. Bring back to a boil. Mix remaining ingredients to form a dough and spoon into boiling chicken pot liquid. Cover pot and simmer until dumplings are cooked, about 10 to 15 minutes.

SUDOKU

	6		1		4		5	
		8	3		5	6		
2								1
8			4		7			6
		6				3		
7			9		1			4
5								2
		7	2		6	9		
	4		5		8		7	