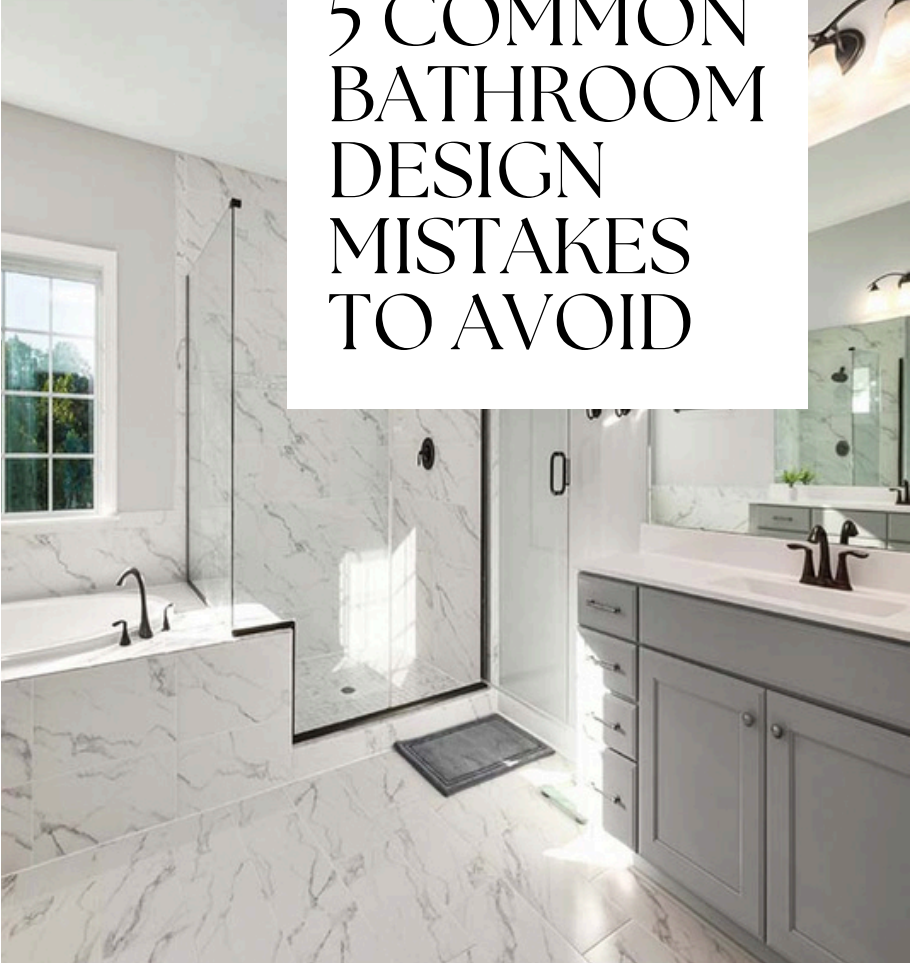


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# 5 COMMON BATHROOM DESIGN MISTAKES TO AVOID





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## OVERLOOKING STORAGE NEEDS

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In the world of bathroom design, there's a fine line between creating a space that's both visually stunning and genuinely functional. Many of us dream of a bathroom that mirrors the minimalist elegance found in high end design magazines, While we're all trying to nail that effortlessly cool vibe in our bathrooms, it's easy to forget one big question, where are we supposed to put all our stuff?

The reality is, no matter how minimalistic you want to go, you'll always need a spot for your towels, toiletries, and those little luxuries that make your bathroom truly yours. So, how do we solve the puzzle of keeping a bathroom looking effortlessly chic without sacrificing the practicality of storage?

- Embrace Built-Ins: Think beyond the medicine cabinet. Built-in shelving within shower walls, hidden cabinets behind mirrors, and under-sink storage can hold a surprising amount of items out of sight but within reach.
- Under-Vanity Magic: The space beneath your sink is a treasure trove of potential. Choosing a vanity with drawers or shelves can transform this underutilized area into a storage powerhouse.
- Look Up: Walls offer valuable real estate for storage without eating into your floor space. Tall, narrow cabinets or floating shelves can store a lot without crowding the room.
- Dual-Purpose Finds: Furniture that doubles as storage is a win-win. A stylish stool with hidden storage, for example, can hold extra towels or bath products.
- Custom Touches: Sometimes, the best solution is one that's tailored specifically to your space and needs.

Remember, the goal is to design a bathroom that supports your lifestyle, not complicates it. With a little creativity and planning, your bathroom can be a model of efficiency and style.

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## INADEQUATE LIGHTING

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Lighting in a bathroom does more than just brighten the space; it sets the mood, ensures safety, and enhances functionality. Often, we may not give lighting the consideration it deserves during the design process, leading to spaces that are either too dark or overly bright.

The concept of layered lighting is crucial in a bathroom setting. It involves three types of lighting: ambient, task, and accent. Each type plays a significant role:

- **Ambient Lighting:** This is your bathroom's main source of light, whether it comes from ceiling fixtures, recessed lighting, or natural light from a window. It sets the foundational brightness level.
- **Task Lighting:** Critical for performing daily grooming tasks, task lighting should be free of shadows and glare. Mirror lighting, such as sconces placed at eye level on either side of the mirror, is a prime example, ensuring even illumination for tasks like applying makeup or shaving.
- **Accent Lighting:** Though often overlooked, accent lighting can add depth and dimension to your bathroom. It's used to highlight architectural features or decor, adding a touch of elegance and interest.

### Incorporating Smart Lighting Solutions

- **LEDs for Efficiency:** LED lighting isn't just energy-efficient; it offers a range of color temperatures suitable for different tasks and times of day.
- **Smart Lighting Systems:** These systems offer the ultimate customization, allowing you to adjust lighting from your smartphone. Whether it's setting a schedule or changing hues.

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## NEGLECTING VENTILATION

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In the search of the perfect bathroom design, ventilation might not be the most glamorous feature, but it's undoubtedly one of the most critical. Proper ventilation impacts not only the longevity of your bathroom's materials but also the health and safety of your home.

### Common Ventilation Mistakes

- **Underestimating Fan Power:** Choosing a fan that's too weak for the size of your bathroom can lead to inadequate moisture removal. The capacity of bathroom fans is measured in cubic feet per minute (CFM), and the right size depends on your bathroom's square footage.
- **Poor Placement:** A fan's effectiveness is also influenced by its location. Ideally, it should be placed as close to the source of moisture as possible, usually over the shower or bathtub.
- **Ignoring Maintenance:** Even the best ventilation system can fail if it's not properly maintained. Regular cleaning of the fan and checking for obstructions in the ductwork are essential for optimal performance.

### Ventilation Solutions

- **Proper Sizing:** Ensure your bathroom fan is powerful enough for your space. A general rule of thumb is to have at least 1 CFM per square foot of bathroom area. For bathrooms larger than 100 square feet, additional considerations for the toilet, shower, and bathtub areas may be necessary.
- **Smart Features:** Modern bathroom fans come with humidity sensors that automatically turn the fan on when moisture levels rise and off when the air is clear, ensuring energy efficiency and optimal moisture control.
- **Natural Ventilation:** While mechanical ventilation (fans) is crucial, natural ventilation (windows) can also play a significant role in air circulation. Even a small, operable window can significantly contribute to moisture and odor control, as well as improve air quality.



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## CHOOSING THE WRONG MATERIALS

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The bathroom presents a challenging environment for materials due to the high levels of humidity and water exposure. Materials that are not suited to these conditions can deteriorate quickly, leading to issues like mold, mildew, warping, and staining. For example, while hardwood floors might add a warm, luxurious feel, they can suffer from water damage unless properly sealed and maintained.

## Common Material Mistakes

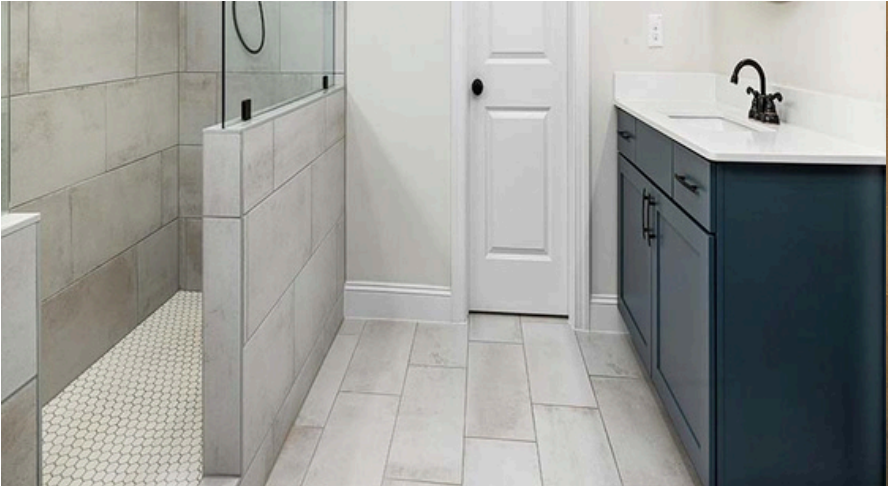
- **Overlooking Water Resistance:** Not all materials handle water exposure well. For instance, certain types of stone, like marble, can absorb water and stain, while some metals may rust.
- **Forgetting about Maintenance:** High-maintenance materials might look fantastic at first but think about the effort required to keep them looking that way.
- **Ignoring Slip Resistance:** Bathroom floors need to be safe when wet. Materials that become slippery, such as polished tile, can increase the risk of falls.

## Choosing the Right Materials

- **Flooring:** Look for water-resistant flooring options like porcelain or ceramic tile, which can mimic the look of wood or stone without their downsides.
- **Walls and Countertops:** Porcelain and ceramic tiles are also excellent choices for walls, offering a variety of design options and easy maintenance. For countertops, materials like quartz resist staining and require little upkeep, unlike some natural stones.

While understanding the basics of material selection is crucial, consulting with professionals can make a significant difference. That's where our team at Anchor comes in. We're here to help you pick the best materials for your project.

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## POOR SPACE PLANNING

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Poor space planning not only impacts the bathroom's functionality but can also reduce the overall aesthetic appeal, making even the most beautifully designed spaces feel tight and uncomfortable. Let's explore how to avoid these issues and ensure your bathroom layout works harmoniously with your lifestyle.

## Essential Principles of Effective Space Planning

- **The Golden Triangle:** Similar to kitchen design, bathroom layouts benefit from considering a triangular path between the sink, toilet, and bath or shower. This layout minimizes unnecessary movement and enhances the user's experience.
- **Privacy Matters:** Consider the bathroom's privacy aspects, especially in ensuite setups or shared living situations. Strategic placements, like separating the toilet from the rest of the bathroom with a partial wall or frosted glass, can enhance privacy without sacrificing style.
- **Ignoring Slip Resistance:** Bathroom floors need to be safe when wet. Materials that become slippery, such as polished tile, can increase the risk of falls.


## Tips for Maximizing Your Bathroom's Layout

- **Virtual Tools and Professional Insight:** Utilizing design software or consulting with a professional can provide a realistic view of how your bathroom layout will function.
- **Flexible Design Solutions:** Consider incorporating elements that offer flexibility, such as shower doors that pivot inward or furniture that can be easily moved or replaced as needs change.

At Anchor, we understand that creating your dream bathroom goes beyond just selecting the right tiles or paint colors. It's about making informed decisions to avoid common design mistakes, with our experienced team guiding you from concept to completion.

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