



# Bathroom trends to watch

When it comes to bathroom style, the focus should be on comfort, relaxation and creating an inviting space you'll enjoy every day

If the beautiful bathroom images in magazines haven't convinced you already, then going in and out of your tired old bathroom every day no doubt soon will. Once every 10 to 15 years or so, your bathroom will probably need a revamp. If your plumbing and bathroom layout is in good order, it can be a relatively inexpensive project – and a fun one picking out new tiles, fixtures and fittings.

One predominant idea in bathrooms at the moment is not only making it a practical space, but one that is sanctuary-like with hints of luxury and peacefulness.

“This year is all about embracing new colours, warm tones, timber materials and bringing plants in, to create a relaxing and healthy environment,” says Kate Martin, trade services manager at hipages, the go-to app for Aussies to find and hire a tradie. Here are Kate's tips.

## Design

When considering the design of a new bathroom, it still needs to work with the style of the rest of your home, so think about the colours and themes you already have. Before anything else, you need to consider the size of the room, if anything in the

layout is likely to change and how much light it has. This needs to be done *before* choosing any bathware, tapware or colour schemes. A bathroom should be a sanctuary so think about creating a luxurious but functional space with lots of storage.

## Neutrals and warm tones

Neutrals and warmer tones in earthy shades – taking inspiration from the centre of Australia – are on trend for bathrooms. There are also great options in monochromatic and timber materials which fit really well with these earthy colours. For tapware and fixtures, the main colours for 2018 are black and brassy tones.

## Storage options

Storage is hugely important for bathrooms. The best way to get the most out of your space is to use drawers in your vanity instead of cupboards to make every part of the vanity accessible for storing toiletries. Mirrors with storage behind them is another good option as they will make a small room appear bigger and the narrow cupboards are perfect for toothbrushes, makeup, shaving equipment and hairbrushes. Adding baskets under vanities is another way of adding a storage element and these also bring a natural tone that helps soften up the hard tile surfaces.

## What about bathware?

Freestanding baths are very popular, as are frameless glass shower screens as they give the illusion of extra space. Baths are taking on new forms and shapes that are focused on comfort and fit. They are available in various materials, lengths and depths, so there's a greater range of choice for home owners of all budgets.

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