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# The Ultimate Guide to Bathroom Vanities

*Clear advice  
for choosing  
the best bathroom  
vanity for you*



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# Think Twice

## How to Compare Bathroom Vanities and NOT Make a Bad Choice



Does your bathroom vanity make you want to S-C-R-E-A-M? And, if so, are you experiencing any of these frustrations?

- Is finding your shampoo, deodorant, or conditioner in the cabinet a needle-in-a-haystack experience?
- Is your vanity falling apart?
- Are the doors hanging on by a thread?
- Is the paint peeling?
- Is the top stained from your daughter's lipstick?

- Does your vanity look as up to date as the mullet your husband used to sport back in the day?
- Is your vanity hard to use because it's too tall, too short, too deep, or too shallow?

Now that you've decided to take the scary plunge into remodeling your bathroom, you DO NOT want to repeat your mistakes of the past. You ARE NOT putting up with another cheap vanity. And while it's easy to make this statement, you're not sure how to tell a high quality cabinet from a cheap one.

If this is your dilemma, you've come to the right article. I'll dig into 16 factors to make sure you don't make a mistake and get stuck with a bathroom vanity, countertop and bowl which become an eyesore.

**To provide structure for your comparisons I've broken down the vanity decision into 4 categories:**

- How to compare bathroom vanity cabinets.
- How to compare vanity countertops
- How to compare vanity sinks
- Other vanity considerations you'll neglect at your own risk.

## How to compare bathroom vanity cabinets

### 1 What is the vanity made of?

The material the vanity is made of will have a HUGE impact on how well it lasts. For example, when you go into your local home center store, the vanity might look pretty on the outside. But if it's made from cheap particle board, you'll find it can become soft and break apart as it's exposed to the moisture from steamy showers your family loves to take.

If you're looking for a better vanity than the cheap stuff you'll find in a local home center, here's 3 options which get progressively more expensive as you go down the list:

- **#MDF (Medium-Density Fiberboard)**  
This engineered wood composite is denser and stronger than particle board, yet still reasonable cost-effective. It's smooth and doesn't splinter. Its downsides are it can't be stained and is prone to swelling.
- **Plywood with veneer**  
Plywood is created when sheets of veneer are glued together. A wood grain is applied to the surface. This is a durable option for a bathroom vanity and rarely degrades.
- **Solid hardwood and solid wood**  
Many custom vanities are made from solid wood or solid hardwood. Solid hardwood can be found using oak, cherry, and maple. While it's most expensive, it also has excellent durability.





## 2 Do you want a floor-mounted or wall mounted vanity?

A floor mounted vanity (also called a freestanding vanity) is placed on the floor of your bathroom. A wall mounted vanity is hung with brackets above the floor. Which one will be best for you depends on several features:

- ▶ **You need wheelchair access** If a family member uses a wheelchair, you'll want a wall-mount vanity so it's easy for them to roll under and use the faucet and sink without straining.
- ▶ **You want a traditional or transitional look** The floor-mounted vanity is preferred.
- ▶ **You need to keep costs down** Floor-mounted (or freestanding vanities) are more cost-effective.
- ▶ **You want a contemporary look** Wall mount vanities are modern and sleek.
- ▶ **You want a safer vanity because you have younger kids** If you worry about your kids climbing on the wall hung vanity, the floor-based vanity is safer and firmly placed on the ground.
- ▶ **You need more storage** Since the floor-based vanity is taller than a wall hung unit, you'll have more storage.



## 3 How tall is the cabinet? Can its height be varied?

While floor based vanities can be bought in different heights, most standard freestanding vanities are 36" high (once you add the top). The advantage of a wall mounted vanity is placing the vanity at any height you'd like. This is nice if you're designing the bathroom for little kids, someone in a wheelchair, or for the basketball player in your family.

## 4 How can I maximize my storage?

When you look in most bathroom vanities, they're an utter DISASTER. Stuff is everywhere. You end up rebuying deodorant, soap, and shampoo because you can't see past the 'mosh-pit' of products stuffed inside. Does this problem ring a bell?

You may wonder if you want a big storage upgrade, what type of bathroom vanity should you buy?

First, go with a floor-based vanity. There's more storage in them because they're built to the floor.



Second, look for a vanity with drawers which fully extend. Without drawers, you have chaos.

Third, look for vanities with secret compartments which make use of all the space inside. I love features like this tip-down drawer in front of the vanity top. This secret compartment is perfect for weekly pill organizers, make up, brushes, toothbrushes, toothpaste or hair ties and clips.

## 5 How are the drawers assembled? Are they built to last?

This is where store-bought vanities can 'look good' on the surface, but once you look under the hood (or below the countertop, in this case) you'll see they're oh-so-junky.

If you're looking for a high quality bathroom vanity, look for a cabinet which has dovetail drawers, undermount and slow close slides, and full extension drawers. They're built to last and simple to use.

When you look at cheap drawers, they'll be pinned together or fastened with clips around the edges. Take a close inspection of the drawers before you buy. If they wobble to and fro, they should be a hard pass.



## 6 Will the vanity width and depth work in my bathroom?

This is the 'Goldilocks' factor you'll ignore at your own risk. For example – if you're desperate for a double sink vanity so your partner will stop elbowing you AND using your toothbrush (YUCK!), you'll need 60" width to make this work.

Or if you have a very narrow bathroom (let's, say 5' wide or less), you don't want it to be difficult to get around when you open your full-extension drawers. In this case a 21 1/2" deep cabinet will be better than a 25" deep cabinet.

## How to compare bath vanity countertops

### 7 Which top gives me the look I like at the budget I can afford?

Vanity tops are a place you can make a splash (no bathroom pun intended) in your remodel. And there's nothing quite so fun as a bold quartz countertop. Or if you've got a crazy-large budget a LED lighted glass countertop. However, both options (while uber-cool) will NOT be for the budget conscious.

For a luxury bath countertop which is less expensive than quartz and glass, natural stone tops made of marble, limestone, or granite are popular.

And if your budget is tighter, opt for the consistency of a cultured marble or cultured granite countertop.

And lastly if your budget is very small, the laminate bath vanity top is always there for the low-cost remodel.



## 8 What top is low maintenance and doesn't need to be resealed?

If you hate bathroom maintenance of any type (and the maid and butler you hired STILL aren't showing up for work—oh wait, you ARE the maid and the butler!) you'll want to carefully consider how much work you'll need to put into keeping your countertop in tip-top shape.

And if you want lowest maintenance, stay away from natural stone tops. You see that while natural stone tops shine with their one-of-a-kind look, they're porous and require resealing every six months.

Low maintenance vanity tops include quartz (on the higher end of the price scale), cultured marble or culture granite (in the mid-price market segment) or laminate if your budget is super-small.



## 9 What is the thickness of the bathroom vanity countertop?"

A common way to get the cost of a bathroom vanity down is to use a thinner top. And this is exactly what you'll see with vanity countertop sold at LOW, LOW prices at home center stores. Lots of these tops are 1/2" thick. And while this top may 'work' if you're remodeling a low price fix-and-flip home, a 1/2" thickness (or should I say thinness) won't cut it in a nicer bathroom.

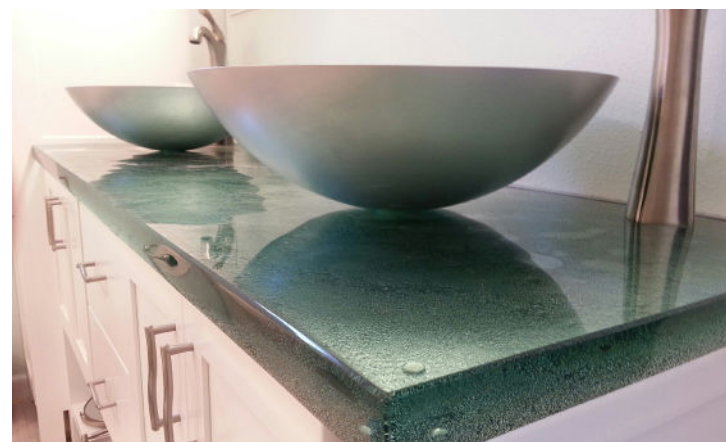
You'll find higher quality quartz, marble, granite, glass and cultured granite vanity tops in the 3/4" to 1 1/2" thickness. If you're planning to stay in your home a while and don't want to skimp on quality, use a thicker top.

## 10 Are holes pre-drilled into the top?"

While most bathroom vanities are not sold with a faucet, some tops are pre-drilled to reduce installation time. And while this is (generally) a good thing, it may also NOT be your 'little fre' (as Tony Montana from *Scarface* would have said), especially if you buy a top with 8" hole spacing and you had your heart set on a single hole faucet.

In addition, if you buy a very cool (yet expensive) glass bathroom countertop, you absolutely NEED the holes pre-drilled because you can't cut into the top after the glass has been tempered.

**BOTTOM LINE: THINK ABOUT THE HOLES, HOLE SPACING AND YOUR FAUCETS BEFORE BUYING THE COUNTERTOP.**



## How to compare bath vanity sinks

### 11 Do you need a single sink or a double sink? Do you have enough room for a double sink?

Are you sick and tired of bumping elbows in the morning with your spouse or partner? Have they accidentally used your toothbrush because you're sharing a sink and while half asleep, they grabbed what they thought was their toothbrush? If so, the double bowl sink can be your solution to this problem.

If you have a 60" wide cabinet, a double bowl sink is wonderful. The only tradeoff is –the extra sink will take countertop space away. Just something to keep in mind.



### 12 What type of sink should you get – a drop in, vessel, undermount or 'all in one sink and top?'

The type of sink will not only effect how much your vanity costs, but it also has important implications for the look of your vanity, and how easy it is to use and clean. Let's look at the pros and cons of the four popular types of sinks.

- ▶ **Drop-in sinks** Drop-in sinks, also called top mounted sinks, are placed over the countertop. They're available in many materials (porcelain is the most popular). They're simple and fast to install. The drawbacks of drop-in sinks are they're a pain to clean around the edges and use valuable countertop space.
- ▶ **Vessel sinks** A vessel sink is installed on the top of the countertop. They add style (because the sink is literally there demanding you take notice of it!). They're simple to install (all you need to do is drill a hole through the top). However, the negatives of vessel sinks are they're a pain in the rear to clean around their edges and they add height to your sink, which can make it harder to use (especially for those V.C.—vertically challenged—people).



- **Undermount sinks** Undermount sinks are mounted under the countertop. The advantages of this type of sink are its sleek design, ease of cleaning, and larger countertop space. The disadvantages of undermount sinks are you need to make sure the countertop is cut to fit the sink and it's a harder installation than a drop in sink (however, this installation can be made simpler when you buy a top with anchor nuts pre-installed into the top).
- **An integrated, all-in-one sink top** With this option the sink and top are made as one unit. The advantage of this option is the simplicity and cohesiveness of the design. These tops are also simple to clean. The disadvantage of this option is for materials like natural stone – the integrated unit will be quite expensive. The other negative is if something goes wrong with either the top or bowl – both must be replaced.



## 13 What size, shape and depth do you want for your sink?

Just like the type of cereal you pour into your breakfast bowl; the shapes and sizes of vanities bowls also come in countless variations. However, here's some basic questions to keep in mind when selecting a size and shape for your sink:

**What's your design style?** If you're looking for a traditional look, a round or oval sink is best. For a transitional or contemporary design – a rectangular shape is smart.

**How much counter space do you need?** It's recommended to have at least 4" of counter space on the side of your sink. However, no matter what size sink you choose – recognize the larger the sink, the less space you'll have on your counter (and vice versa). It's an unfortunate tradeoff.

**How will you use your sink?** The standard depth for vanity bowls is 5" to 8". And what you'll want to keep in mind is how you'll be using your bowl. If it's only for washing your hands – a shallower sink is fine. If, on the other hand, you like to wash your hair in the sink – you'll want a deeper bowl.



## Other vanity considerations you'll neglect at your own risk

### 14 When do you need your bathroom vanity?

Did you ever find the 'perfect product,' and then when you try to buy it you found it's 'out of stock' and the supplier isn't sure when they'll get it?

With supply chain shortages (and if you think about it, the term 'supply chain' wasn't even in your vocabulary pre-pandemic) finding what you need when you need it can be a major pain in the you-know-what. Here's what I'd recommend.

Know when you need to have your vanity installed (because if you're getting your vanity weeks after your contractor has completed everything else – it could become expensive to get them back out to your job just to install the vanity).

If you need a vanity ASAP, look for an in-stock bathroom vanity kit. These kits come with the cabinet, countertop and bowl sold as a system. These kits are designed to shorten lead times. However, (and I know this is a Ripley Believe it Or Not statement I'm about to make) if you find the right kit program, you'll actually find a lot of choices AND you can get your vanity cabinet shipped in 2 days or less!).

Otherwise – if you've got more exotic tastes (let's say you want a glass countertop and a custom-made all wood bathroom vanity), you'll need to know in advance all the lead times for the top, sink and cabinet so you don't mess up your remodeling schedule and incur extra installation costs.



### 15 Will it be a pain to find a mirror to match your vanity?



I know the number of choices in a bathroom remodel can drive you NUTS. It seems like a never-ending barrage of selections, and who really wants to labor over toilet paper holders anyway?

And one of these 'extra' choices many people don't think about is finding a mirror to put over your new vanity. However, if you want to make this selection 'easy-peasy,' look for a vanity program where you can find mirrors which match your cabinet. It'll be one more item you can check off your list without it being a hassle to you.

## 15 What's the quality of the customer service and warranties which come with this vanity?

It's easy to remember times you've experienced customer service which made you want to scream. When you needed help NOW and were put on hold for 45 minutes. Then you had the 'privilege' (sarcasm intended) hearing 'how their menus had changed.' Then you heard during the on hold message (over and over again) 'how important your phone call was to them!' What a bunch of crap!



You get mad at yourself because you didn't realize this service was going to be so bad UNTIL AFTER you became a customer and needed help!

To make sure you don't get victimized with bad service after buying a bathroom vanity, read on-line reviews of the companies you're considering. No matter what company you'll buy from things can – and do – occasionally go wrong. The question becomes, how does your potential supplier handle challenges? How will they treat you when your phone call isn't a pleasant and the crap is hitting the fan?

In addition to investigating the customer service experience (or lack thereof), dig into product warranties. How many 'loopholes' are built into the warranty which allow the supplier to 'wiggle out' of helping you if the product doesn't meet your standards? In fact, some on-line e-commerce companies (who often sell to DIY'ers) even void the warranty if the cabinets are installed by a DIY'er. Imagine you sell to DIY'ers and then tell them to 'hit the bricks' when the proverbial (you know what) hits the fan!

## So, are you comfortable selecting a bathroom vanity? Do you need help?

**I recognize buying a bathroom vanity IS NOT an everyday event (unless you're a bathroom remodeler). And I also know there's a big cost (literally) to buying the wrong product from the wrong supplier or manufacturer.**

**My goal in this article WAS NOT to tell you what the best system is for you. The goal is to guide you with 16 factors to help it become more obvious what bathroom cabinet, countertop and sink will make the most sense for you.**

**And while I hope I've helped you do this; I also recognize you may have specific questions you need answers for in order to find the perfect vanity for your remodel (and you'll also need to find out how much a bathroom vanity will cost).**

**Towards this end, I'd love for you to reach out to me and my team for assistance (whether you need help with in a vanity, shower, alcove bathtub, or simply to get more educational resources to make an informed decision).**

**Call 877-668-5888 or click for a Free Design Consultation. Our company (Innovate Building Solutions) wholesales complete bathroom vanity kits, shower wall surrounds, shower bases, and acrylic freestanding tubs nationwide and would be happy to help you.**

**And if you're looking for a bathroom remodeling contractor in Cleveland Ohio call our Bath Doctor division at 216-531-6085. If you're outside Cleveland Ohio (which is undoubtedly most of you) ask for a referral to one of our installing dealers).**



# Take Your Time

## 11 Key Factors You Must Consider Choosing a Bathroom Vanity Countertop



Evelyn complained to me, “Mike, when will these bathroom selections end! Yikes. I thought choosing a bathroom vanity would be simple and NOW you tell me I’ve got to figure out the right countertop as well?”

And I wish I could tell you Evelyn is the only person who struggles making selections in a bathroom remodeling project. However, bathroom products can be downright mind-blowing. And because the bathroom vanity is the only furniture piece in this space, you (just like Evelyn) want to get it right.

The question becomes first, what are the key factors in choosing a bathroom vanity countertop? And second, which of these factors are most important to you? And while I can’t help you with the second question, I will provide 11 key considerations to find the best vanity top for your new home or remodel. **Let’s check them out.**

## 1 What’s your budget?

Isn’t this always the question? If only Bill Gates or Elon Musk had adopted you, and money was no object. However, since this is NOT the case, and because budget is important to you, it’s smart to differentiate between low cost, mid-priced and luxury (er high-priced) vanity countertops. Here’s a breakdown of popular choices and where they fall on the vanity top cost scale.

**Low priced vanity tops** Laminate vanity tops can be a sound choice when you must keep costs down. And laminate bathroom tops are a smart selection for a fix and flip home in a lower value neighborhood. If you want them to fetch big bucks in resale, you’d better think again and choose another option than laminate.

**Mid-priced vanity tops** Cultured marble and cultured granite are popular mid-priced tops. They’re readily available and durable – and won’t set your budget back too far. Another mid-priced option (although they’ll be higher priced than cultured granite and marble) are solid surface vanity tops. While they’re more understated in the fashion department, they’re durable and reasonably priced.

**High-priced vanity tops** This is where the fun (and opulence) begins. Options like engineered quartz, concrete, marble, granite, glass, and even wood and recycled glass will give your bathroom the interior design magazine look (assuming you’ve got the budget).





## 2 Will this top be simple to maintain, since my maid and butler still aren't showing up for work?

If only you had a maid or butler to do all your cleaning. But your home—while nice—isn't the Ritz-Carlton where the bathroom's going to clean itself (or should I say, the staff cleaning the vanity top will take care of it when you leave)! And if you're the 'lucky one' (sarcasm intended) who gets to maintain your bathroom, you want to spend as little time cleaning your countertop as possible. In addition, you want to feel comfortable the top is stain-resistant.

And if low maintenance is what you're looking for, STAY AWAY FROM are porous tops. They're not only a pain to clean but can be a breeding grounds for bacteria (and if you're worried about these factors, don't use vanity tops made from tile with those water-absorbing grout joints).

If you're looking for tops which are simple to maintain, smart choices include engineered quartz (yes—they're pricey, but also simple to clean), solid surface, cultured marble and laminate (on the lower price end). And what's an uber-cool factor about cultured marble, solid surface and engineered quartz is it's possible to find prefabricated tops where the bowl and top are made as one piece.

## 3 Do you like veining, flecks or solid colors?

When it comes to bathroom vanity tops, beauty truly is in the eye of the beholder. And if you're one who loves the movement created by veining through your tops – a natural stone like marble can provide the pop and interest you're looking for.

On the other hand, if you like a more subtle, yet still stylish look – the flecks in a granite vanity top can be an intelligent selection.

For a monochromatic look, consider granite, cultured marble, or laminates (which are available in the widest array of colors).



## 4 Do you want a "wow factor" which cannot be denied?

Do you want to make an impact with your bathroom vanity countertop? Do you want it to be THE showpiece of your bathroom? If so, here's a few choices which WILL blow the mind of people lucky enough to use your bathroom:

**#1 Wow: Cast glass bathroom vanity tops** These tops are thick, durable and will become THE thing people notice when they enter.

**#2 Wow: Live-edge wood vanity top** Sure, this top isn't tops (OK – bad pun intended) when it comes to maintenance – but its uniqueness earns it major style points.

**#3 Wow: Recycled glass** These tops not only score high on the sustainability scale, but also add style and interest to any room.

**#4 Wow: Engineered quartz** This top is not only easy to maintain, it's got a boldness which is unmistakable.





## 5 Do you want a traditional look?

Maybe you want a classic look for your traditional home and need to find the right vanity top.

If so – on the lower end of the price scale, you'll find cultured granite vanity tops.

Climbing up the price ladder a sound choice is a porcelain tile vanity top.

And on the tops for look (and unfortunately for price as well) would be natural marble top like a classic white Carrara marble vanity top.



## 6 Do you want your vanity top to match your shower pan?

For those who HATE, HATE, HATE making selections and want everything to match so you can be done making choices, a vanity top which matches your shower pan can be the 'bomb-diggity' as my son Parker used to say.

And while this 'matchy-matchy' strategy 'ain't happenin' if you choose a glass, wood, or laminate countertop (those aren't popular materials for shower floors – ha! ha!), there are smart choices where you can 'kill 2 birds with one stone.' (And as a side note, don't you just HATE that saying? Who wants to kill birds anyway? Especially killing 2 at the same time! However, I digress).

Materials where you can match your shower pan with your countertops include cultured marble, cultured granite, and solid surface.



## 7 Can I do a DIY installation with this vanity top?

As you might have guessed not all tops are the same when it comes to ease of installation. If you're looking for a top which is simple to install, ask the following questions of your potential vanity top supplier:

Question #1 – How much will this top weigh? The heavier the top, the more you'll need extra 'hands' helping you install it.

Question #2 – Is the top and the bowl one integral unit? When you get a top which has the bowl built in as one unit – you'll have one less thing to do ('er installing the bowl). This is always nice.

Question #3 – Have pre-installed anchor nuts been added to the underside of the top? This will make adding the bowl easier and eliminates the worry of damaging the top when attaching the bowl.

## 8 Could this top add light to my bathroom?

Now this is a benefit of a bathroom vanity countertop I'm sure most people don't realize is a possibility. But when you use a glass vanity countertop you can actually light it with LED. The top becomes a vehicle to add light (and certainly 'wow factor'). You'll have a one-of-a-kind bathroom.



## 9 Can I get this top in a reasonable length of time?

OK, I've got a question for you. How many people ever used the term 'supply chain' before the pandemic? I'll bet less than 10% (in my 'unscientific survey') even knew the term 3 years ago. And now.... UNFORTUNATELY.... all we hear about is supply chain problems, at the grocery store, at the department store, you name it.

And even if you find God's gift to bathroom vanity tops, if you can't get the product timely (either because the custom lead time is too long or there's very few people who make them) and it's going to delay your job, then the top may be a bad choice for you.

It's nice to know there are in-stock bathroom vanity programs where you can get over 4,000 vanity cabinet, top and bowl combinations shipped in 1 to 2 days. It's nice to know if you need a stylish top in a short period of time, it's not impossible to get the best of both worlds (quality and a timely delivery).

If lead times important, make sure you know you can get the top in a reasonable lead time BEFORE you hand over your credit card.

## 10 Does this top look realistic?

While there have been many advances in 'faux products' (like faux laminate tops which look like marble, granite and even leather) – they're still faux and NOT the real-McCoy.

For a realistic look, you'll want tops made from natural products. And although natural products have their weaknesses (they require more maintenance and tend to be softer than man-made materials), they also have their charm. For wonderful natural look options include:

- Marble
- Granite
- Limestone
- Wood



## 11 Is this top durable and tough?

Who wants a top which can be dinged (wood), or chipped (laminate) or is more porous (limestone).

If you're looking for tough tops, 'man-made' countertops like engineered quartz or solid surface rule the day. They're repairable, they're durable and highly resistant to scratches.



## So, is one vanity top the clear winner as the best choice for your new or remodeled bathroom?

I hope I didn't blow your mind looking at the 11 key factors in choosing a bathroom vanity top. However, if you're still struggling selecting the right top, I'll give you two pieces of advice:

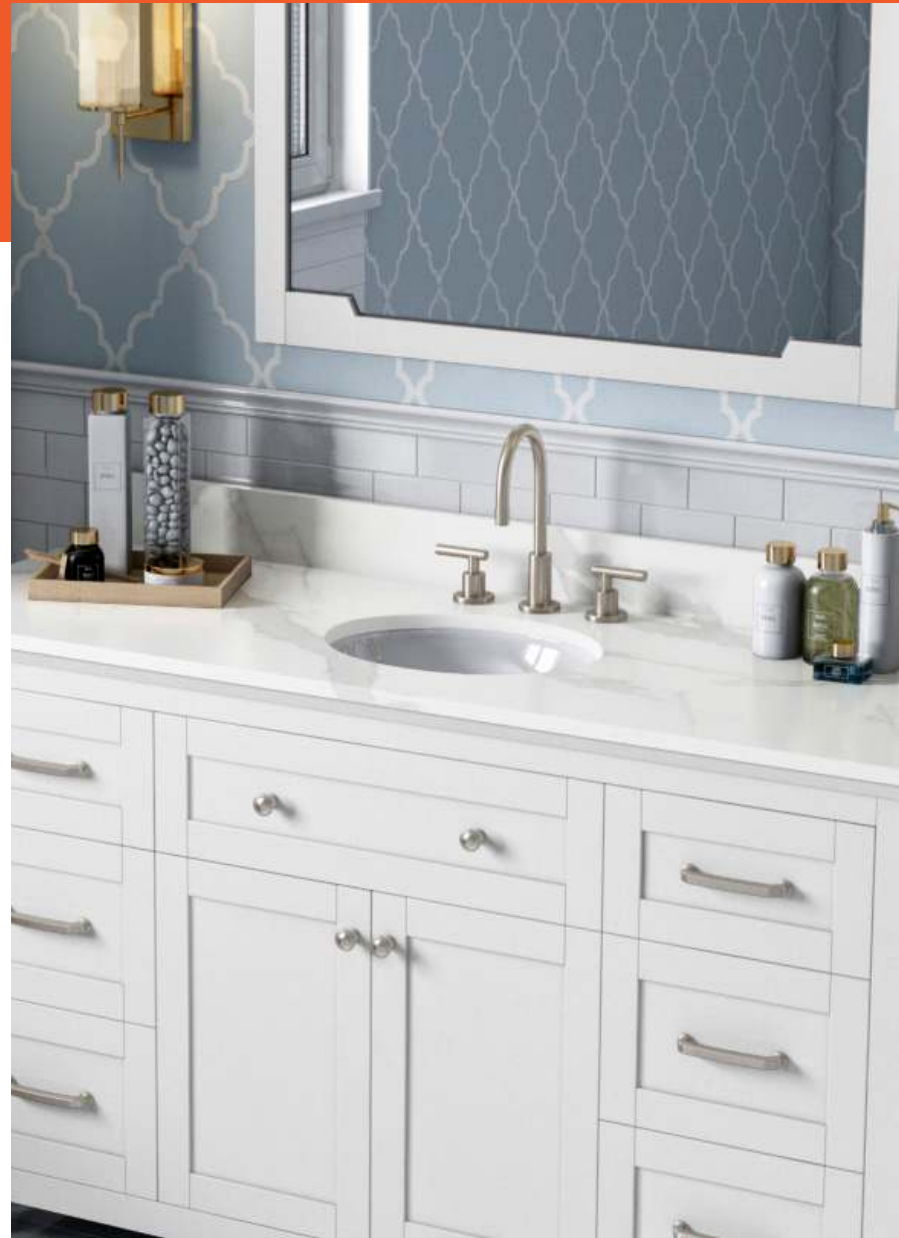
- #1) Pick the top 3 to 5 factors which matter to you from the 11 discussed above. Then focus on the vanity top which 'scores' well on those factors.
- #2) And if your mind is still blown, call a Bathroom Product Specialist from Innovate Building Solutions. They'll help with a vanity top and can assist with showers, bathtubs and glass doors as well. Call 877-668-5888 or click for a Free Design Consultation. And if you're looking for a bathroom remodeling contractor in Cleveland Ohio, our Bath Doctor division would love to help. Call 216-658-1270 or click for a Free Estimate.

And lastly if you're struggling to find a bathroom remodeling contractor outside of Ohio, ask for a referral through our contractor dealer network.



# Take Care

## 10 Frustrating Bathroom Vanity Problems You Can Avoid



**It SHOULD BE the focal point of your bathroom. Instead, your bathroom vanity is an EYE SORE!**

Your rickety, old, outdated bathroom vanity cabinet is falling apart right in front of your eyes. And it wouldn't be so bad if it also wasn't a pain to use and hard to clean.

So, with these frustrations you're determined to find the right vanity for your bathroom remodel AND not repeat the problems of your past. The question becomes how can you eliminate everything that's wrong with your current vanity? How can you ensure you invest your money wisely? What features and design choices should you make to get a fun, functional and fashionable bathroom vanity?

In this article, get practical advice to avoid the top 10 bathroom vanity problems AND to get a cabinet which will still look nice 5, 10 or 15 years from now. And feel free to add your comments at the end about what you hate about your vanity. Let's check out these problems – and solutions – to put them in your rear-view mirror.

## Your moldy cabinet is falling apart (and returning it IS NOT an option because you have no warranty)

1

**THE PROBLEM** The previous owner thought it would be smart to save money and buy a 'low, low, price' vanity from the big box store down the street. This particle board 'special' is now moldy and falling apart. And while the former owner got away cheap, now you're stuck with the remnants of their short-sighted decision. Of course, no guarantee came with this cheap bathroom cabinet.

**THE SOLUTION** Look for a solid-hardwood frame and furniture grade plywood cabinet, not a particle board cabinet. And look for a cabinet with a lifetime guarantee. While bathroom vanities can 'look' the same on the surface, better cabinets are made with better quality materials. Will they cost more? Of course, they will. However, unless you're looking to remodel again in a few years (or you're remodeling a 'fix and flip' property you won't need to maintain yourself), it'll be nice to know you've made an investment which is guaranteed to last.



## 2 You've got no free counter space

**THE PROBLEM** – Maybe you've got a double bowl sink which is chewing up your counter space. Or you've got a vessel bowl which is cumbersome to store around. Or you've got no effective storage inside your cabinet. What you do know is you NEED more counter space (or another place) to put your shampoo, soap, and makeup in your new bath remodel. So, where can you find more room and cut clutter at the same time?



**THE SOLUTION** There's a number of solutions to cluttered counters other than throwing your spouse or partner (and their mess) out of the bathroom (although you've considered this before). Here's 3 ideas to free up vanity counter space:

- **Convert a double bowl to a single bowl vanity sink** If you and your partner are rarely getting ready at the same time – the 2nd bowl is stealing valuable counter space.
- **Invest in a medicine cabinet above the vanity** Get rid of your small bottles and medications you don't want your kids or grandkids to reach. Use a medicine cabinet above the vanity to gain more counter space.
- **Find bathroom vanity cabinet with tip out and pull out drawers to free up counter space.**

## 3 Your bathroom vanity is U-G-L-Y!

**THE PROBLEM** – If the Webster's Dictionary definition of ugly includes a picture of your bathroom vanity, you know you have a problem. And just because a pink wood vanity made by an amateur carpenter 50 years ago with a gray ceramic tile top WAS hot when your home was built, doesn't mean if you wait long enough it'll get popular again and be featured in a high end Interior design magazine in their 'retro' section.



**THE SOLUTION** If you'd like a wide variety of style, color and material choices for a furniture look vanity to pull your remodel together – look for a cabinet supply program which gives you options. Don't 'accept' whatever top comes with the cabinet you like. And you don't need to buy a separate vanity top and then cross your fingers it'll work with your cabinet box either.

Don't get stuck with a Shaker cabinet front when you're looking to create the Mid-Century Modern or a Coastal vibe. Don't 'live with' an oval bowl when you prefer a modern rectangular shape.

Look for bathroom vanity programs where you can 'mix and match' cabinet styles, with various top AND your bowl designs. Don't allow yourself to get stuck with an off-the-shelf cabinet which clashes with the interior design style you want.

## 4 Your vanity top is a pain to clean

**THE PROBLEM** Who ever thought putting a ceramic tile top on a bathroom vanity or a vessel or drop in sink was a good idea, should be SHOT! As you know not all bathroom vanity countertops are equal when it comes to maintenance. And when you get hair dye or lipstick on the top, it can be a royal pain to get it off – if you're stuck with the wrong material.

In addition, some tops which are simple to maintain may be too expensive. So, which options are smart for ease of cleaning? And which options fit your budget?

**THE SOLUTION** If you're looking for a cost-effective bathroom vanity countertop which is durable, heat and stain resistant, laminate is a smart choice. Laminate today is far superior to the old countertops you remember at Grandma's house.

Another good choice are granite bathroom vanity countertops. They provide a high level of heat and stain resistance, but you'll need to reseat them to ensure they perform at a high level.

And finally, if you have a bigger budget, quartz vanity countertops are the rage. And why shouldn't they be? They look stylish. They stand up well to scratches. They're heat resistant. They don't need to be resealed.

## 5 You bump into your partner (or spouse) getting ready

**THE PROBLEM** If you and your spouse have the 'pleasure' (sarcasm intended) of getting ready at the same time – and if they bump into you one more time you're going to blow your stack, this is a tell-tale sign a different bathroom vanity design should be in your future. However, what should you look for in a new vanity layout?



**THE SOLUTION** First, install double bowl sinks. And while this could be impossible if your tight 5' x 8' bathroom only fits a 36" wide vanity – but if you do have a larger bathroom where a 60" wide cabinet will work, the double vanity can be a Godsend (and save your relationship – especially if you're crabby in the morning).

## 6 Your storage is horrendous or NON-EXISTENT

**THE PROBLEM** There never seems to be enough storage in a bathroom. And as you get older the lotions and potions you 'need' and seem to multiply and make your storage even more cluttered. And worse yet, if you're living with a bathroom with a pedestal sink with ZERO counter storage, you know things can't get much worse. So, what can you do about it?





# 7

## Your cabinet is too deep or too shallow

**THE SOLUTION** No matter how big or small your vanity is, look for a unit which maximizes every precious inch of storage. Here's three bathroom vanity storage ideas to get more out of your precious bathroom real estate:

- **Use the 'false door' in front of your vanity bowl** Look for a vanity with a tip out drawer vs. a 'fake' drawer in the front. They're perfect for combs, toothbrushes etc.
- **Get pull out scoop drawers** These drawers will 'come to you', so you'll no longer wonder what's in the back (or buy the same deodorant or hair coloring 2 or 3 times before you realize you already had some buried in the back).
- **Adjustable shelving** Why not get a vanity which not only has interior shelves, but better yet, one where the shelves can be adjusted to fit what you're storing.

**THE PROBLEM** – Maybe you're remodeling the teeny-tiny guest bath and your larger family members can barely get around the vanity to use the toilet. Or conversely, your current top is so shallow it's impossible to spread out your blow driers, curling irons and makeup the way you'd like. What can you do?

**THE SOLUTION** What seem like a 'Captain Obvious' answer is you need to pay attention (before you or your contractor buys a vanity) to the depth of vanity you're purchasing. If you have an uber-narrow bathroom and need a vanity (with storage – thank you very much) a small unit like this 18" wide x 13 1/2" deep stand up vanity could be perfect.

And if you have plenty of room – an extra-deep 25" cabinet could be in your future.



# 8

## Bathroom Vanity Problem #8 – Your polished chrome or polished brass faucets and bathroom vanity handles have more spots than a Dalmatian



**THE PROBLEM** Who doesn't love a Dalmatian with its funny mix of black spots? And while spots on a Dalmatian are adorable, water spots on a polished chrome and polished brass faucets and vanity handles are A PAIN IN THE REAR which keeps on giving (especially if you're the OCD person who gets to clean them)!

And you may be asking why so many builders used polished chrome and polished brass on your older fixtures, well it's because, back in the day, they were in style – and (more importantly) they were cheap.

The good news is there's smarter options which match today's popular hardware finish.

**THE SOLUTION** Instead of a polished chrome and bright brass, choose brushed nickel, matte black and the (extremely hot new finish) brushed brass. They hide spot and they're fashionably on-trend.

## 9 Bathroom Vanity Problem #9 – Your vanity doors have been slammed into submission

**THE PROBLEM** Does your family LOVE, LOVE, LOVE to slam doors? Car doors. Entry doors. Kitchen cabinet doors. And your bathroom vanity doors have not been spared from their love (especially when they're angry) of a good S-L-A-M! Now, your vanity doors are hanging on by a thread.

**THE SOLUTION** A smart way to combat the 'slammers' in your family is to use slow close doors and drawers. They'll soften the blow AND keep your door fronts and vanity drawers working flawlessly for year.

## 10 Bathroom Vanity Problem #10 – Your mirror doesn't match your vanity

**THE PROBLEM** If your mirror looks out of place against your vanity, or the mirror looks downright boring, you're not alone. Often there's little thought given to the mirror – it's just something slapped up at the end of a new home build or remodel. But could your mirror be coordinated with your vanity and add function and style?

**THE SOLUTION** The simple answer is yes, they can. Look for a supplier who makes mirrors designed to go with the colors and styles of the vanity. This will be one less bathroom remodeling decision you'll have to labor over. You'll be saying, THANK GOD for that!



## So, are you confident you have solutions to eliminate your bathroom vanity problems?

Unfortunately, buying a bathroom vanity is more complex than many think. You need to be thorough. You want a sturdy and stylish design but can't afford to overpay for it either.

And if you're struggling to choose a quality single or double bowl bathroom vanity – at a fair price – we understand your dilemma.

And here's where me and my team would love to help. If you need technical advice, product supply or nationwide direct pricing on high quality bathroom vanities call 877-668-5888 or click for a Free Design Consultation. And if you're looking for a bathroom remodeling contractor in Cleveland Ohio, our Bath Doctor division would love to help. Call 216-658-1270 or click for a Free Estimate.

And lastly if you're struggling to find a bathroom remodeling contractor outside of Ohio, ask for a referral through our contractor dealer network.



**We serve local and national clients. If you are outside of Cleveland and Columbus, Ohio we invite you to call 877-668-5888 or visit [www. InnovateBuildingSolutions.com](http://www.InnovateBuildingSolutions.com)**

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