



DESIGN TIPS & TECHNIQUES

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Hi again everyone,
You will notice a new format for the newsletter. I have finally figured out how to add pictures...yeah!

Sheila

I invite you to use the new web site—www.s-i-design.ca (a work in progress) to send me any questions you have about sources, materials, planning or projects you are working on, the comments box does work! Yeah again! Feel free to suggest newsletter topics.

Today's topic is bathrooms.

Tubs: Whirlpool Water Jets vs. Air Jets???

Water jets (the traditional whirlpool format) deliver a stronger blast of water through fewer openings than air jets. They provide more vigorous water movement than air. An air jet tub has many tiny openings that the air flows through, creating a gentler more generalized movement. The air system is quieter. Because water is not recycled through the air jet system bubble bath & bath oil products can be used without concern about clogging pipes or jets.

Bathroom Flooring Materials

Some flooring materials are comfortable, have eco-friendly aspects & offer practicality for bathrooms. Consider Bamboo- it is a fast growing grass that loves steamy moist environments. New coatings are tough and easy to maintain and it is warm underfoot.

Consider Marmoleum. It is man made, of all natural ingredients and binders, water resistant – in a small space it can be seamless. (@ 6'-6" wide) It is easy to clean, quiet and naturally warm underfoot.

Marmoleum also has the seal of approval of the asthma association.

Both of these materials are well priced & more forgiving to dropped glass bottles or plastic toys than tiles are.

Bathroom Design & Planning 101

Bathrooms are multi-functioning spaces for today's family. They have to work as a place of relaxation and rejuvenation, as a dressing area, as well as for accommodating grooming tasks. For children they are a play space to navigate tub waters.

Planning for storage is important to avoid visual chaos. Consider: space for bath toys, spa necessities, luxurious linens, grooming products & cleaning accoutrements. The golden rule of organizing is to store items where they are used.

Full height towers, drawers in vanities, short cabinets above toilets, and shallow cupboards are solutions.

Create the **Spa** look with open display shelves for attractive bottles, bowls of fine soaps, fluffy towels and lush green plants. Heated towel bars and rain showers or body jets are a must. Plan to include candle wall sconces and tub surround area for candles- relaxing scents and the flickering, soft candle light are definite de-stressors.

The **Hotel** look is accomplished with chrome grooming accessories on trays, granite countertops and tub surrounds, large mirrored areas and masculine colours.

The **Authentic Family** look has hanging nets of toys, washcloth puppets, animal soaps & water processing factories suction cupped to the walls.

To better facilitate play time bath surround materials should be chosen based on their ability to be drawn on with soap crayons and to be good surfaces for clinging plastic & foam characters- the fewer grout lines the better. Solid surface materials similar to countertops and plastic laminates are good alternatives to tiles. Choose resilient flooring for child friendly spaces.



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