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YOU'RE SO VAIN: Finding the perfect vanity for your tiny bathroom

by Sara Bederman

Small homes are a common subject of the designer's scrutiny and solution - particularly with the proliferation of downtown condos and townhomes. How do you make a big impact in a small space? You've got to go the extra mile to make the most of every square inch. This means every furnishing and fixture has to count. Your bathroom is no exception.

A small bathroom doesn't have to fall short on style or storage. The right vanity can go a long way to meeting both demands. Here are three considerations when shopping

for a perfect vanity that satisfies those big 'small-space' cravings.

1 Size matters. It's not the size of the bathroom that counts, it's how you use it, right? Consider the vanity's height and depth in relation to the room, and how you use the space. Particularly in compact bathrooms, you'll want to pay close attention to factors such as door swing, the location of the toilet and tub, and the general flow of traffic. Along with vanity dimensions, come some other technical considerations. Where is the plumbing located? Do you require a single or double sinks? How will the faucet be mounted? It's always best to consult with a professional contractor who can advise you on what's possible in your

space, the scope of work and timeline for completion, and the cost.

2 Out of sight, out of mind. The type of bathroom you have will dictate which storage system will best meet your needs. A powder room has minimal storage requirements, while an ensuite or a busy family bathroom calls for greater storage, organization and efficiency. For small bathrooms that see a lot of action, consider installing a vanity cabinet which is perfect for tucking away towels, toilet paper, tissue boxes, and perhaps a drawer (or an under-counter caddy!) for each family member to store personal items.

3 Styles for miles. Some see a small bathroom as a design challenge. I view it as the perfect opportunity to make a statement.



Since the space is limited, the few fixtures you have - including the vanity - need to be high-impact. Select a vanity style that stands out to you, either for its materials, shape, style or another unique detail that sets it apart.

Small but sweet! Pictured here and a large style trend is Victoria + Albert's open style



Metallo washstand is characteristic for its unusual metal legs, featuring right-angle "tee joints" inspired by retro bathroom plumbing. The Metallo 61 Quartz vanity is the most compact model in the Metallo collection, measuring just 24 inches wide, making it ideal for smaller bathrooms and powder rooms.

I've designed more than a few small but sweet spaces of all kinds. The key to a great room, regardless of its size, is filling it with the things you love; furnishings, finishes and accessories that speak to you. One benefit of having a small space is that they're typically less costly and less

laborious to renovate. So when it comes to your small but sweet bathroom, it's definitely worth the splurge.



Sara Bederman

Principal Designer for Sara Bederman Design. For over a decade this Toronto bespoke design firm has become known for creating stylish, thoughtfully curated and livable interiors. The firm provides residential design services for projects of all sizes. Sara Bederman Design works throughout Toronto, GTA and beyond.

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