

Build a Better Bathroom

Starting New or Starting Over

Whether you are building or remodeling your bathroom, plan for changing needs. Better Bathrooms are convenient, comfortable, and attractive both today—and tomorrow.

Today

Every bathroom needs these features.

Universal Design

- one bath on accessible floor level of home
- wide doorways (36 inches preferred; 32 inches minimum)
- extra floor space (60 inch turning circle between fixtures)

Convenience

- hand-held shower head on adjustable slide arm
- open knee space under lavatory counter
- large mirror, extending to counter top
- vertical lighting on each side of mirror
- electrical outlets at counter height
- easy-change toilet tissue holder
- push-button shampoo and soap dispenser

Safety

- ground fault circuit interrupters on all electrical circuits in bathroom
- anti-scald controls on faucets
- non-skid rubber flooring
- reinforced walls next to toilet, tub, and shower (for adding grab bars later)

Tomorrow

When the health or abilities of family members change, make adjustments to your bathroom.

Special equipment options

- fold-away or adjustable grab bars (coordinate colors with decor)
- raised toilet
- electronic toilet seat lifter
- electronic faucet
- adjustable sink
- knee access under sink

Bathing options

- transfer chair placed in existing tub (need hand-held shower)
- tub with built-in transfer seating area at end
- soft bathtub (an expensive option, but protects against injury from falls)
- transfer shower (36" x 36") with built-in, adjustable, or removable seat
- tub replacement shower (36" x 60")
- roll-in shower (60" x 60")

Prepared by Mary H. Yearn, Associate Professor and Extension Housing Specialist, Department of Human Development & Family Studies.

HDFS-H-307
March, 1997

IOWA STATE UNIVERSITY
University Extension

Ames, Iowa

... and justice for all

The Iowa Cooperative Extension Service's programs and policies are consistent with pertinent federal and state laws and regulations on nondiscrimination. Many materials can be made available in alternative formats for ADA clients.