

PLAY WITH PAINT & COLOR: Painting walls, shelves or a vanity can be an inexpensive way to update your bathroom without having to make any other big changes. But before you start slathering a bright new color on your walls, take a few things into consideration. If your walls are in good shape, then you'll want to keep them that way. Use a water-based primer, this will help keep moisture off your drywall and prevent mildew. You'll also want to look into a mildew-resistant paint — many designers suggest using semi-gloss paint because it repels moisture and is easy to clean. If you love the look of matte walls, though like Benjamin Moore make matte paint designed for high-moisture areas.

DESIGNER TIPS:

- 1. For those who think their bathroom ceiling is too high and want the bathroom to feel warmer, paint the ceiling the same color as the walls. The monochromatic color visually lowers and disguises the ceiling's height, just avoid using all white.
- **2.** A quick design element with a custom look- add a chair rail or wainscoting around the room. Paint a different color above and below it. Visually breaking up monochromatic walls adds charm.
- 3. A new paint job can help make an outdated vanity feel much more modern, too. I

EXPERT TIP:

Peeling paint, reoccurring mold, wet or soft drywall are obvious signs of moisture problems and need to be addressed immediately, it's time to bring an expert in for a remodel, they can lead to possible plumbing and ventilation issues that need replacement.



Basement Bathroom Remodel by The Cleary Company Lewis Center, OH 2005

LIGHTING & BRIGHTENING: Even a great bathroom can feel drab and depressing when the lighting isn't right. Mirrors can make a room instantly look bigger. Consider a room length mirror for an impressive change. Trim thick shrubbery covering your windows from outside or replace thick curtains with some that let in light while retaining privacy. For those willing to make a few minor structural changes, do what you can to take advantage of natural light.

DESIGNER TIPS:

- 1. Add a few bright, large pictures to reflect existing light around the room.
- 2. Cover the entire wall length all the way up to the ceiling with a mirror. If your style is traditional or transitional, leave a gap to glue trim around, but for a contemporary or modern look, no trim.
- 3. Add a chandelier or sconces to add more lighting and brighten up the space

EXPERT TIP:

A solar tube can be an easy and affordable skylight alternative or replace a solid door with one with etched glass. Glass block windows are great for letting in maximum light while maintaining privacy.



Powell Master Bathroom Remodel by The Cleary Company 2010

<u>UPGRADE ACCESSORIES</u>: The most inexpensive and easiest way to freshen up or change your bathroom is to install new hardware and bathroom accessories. Use temporary accents to add color and texture, since they can be switched out fairly easily- like toothbrush holder, rug, art, soap dish and shower curtain.



Upper Arlington Powder Room Remodel by The Cleary Company 2008

DESIGNER TIPS:

- **1.** Hanging the shower rod higher brings the eye up and makes the bathroom more spacious. This requires a longer shower curtain, but creates a custom look.
- 2. Choose drawer pulls in bright colors or unique materials to make a bold statement on a plain vanity.

EXPERT TIP:

Add millwork to trim out around windows & mirrors or add some crown molding.

<u>CONSIDER STORAGE</u>: Edit and purge your bathroom supplies taking up valuable space in the bathroom. If you still need more storage, look to your walls for the answer.

DESIGNER TIPS:

- 1. Utilize space above toilet tank by hanging shelves or baskets.
- 2. Fill empty corners with a few well-chosen baskets w/lids.
- 3. High cabinets often work well for items used less often.

EXPERT TIP:

Switch out your pedestal sink for a vanity. If you already have a vanity consider maximizing the space under the sink by adding shelves to the cabinet.

