

Brilliant BATH MATERIALS

FROM MODERN METHODS OF MAKING TO TIME-HONOURED DESIGNS, THESE ARE THE TUBS WE CAN'T WAIT TO TAKE A RELAXING DIP INTO...



Imperium bateau bath, from £2,238, The Albion Bath Company

UNIQUE ISO-ENAMEL

The best of both worlds, Albion Bath's Iso-enamel material – a self-reinforced, cast-stone resin and mineral mixture – was invented to mimic the appearance of traditional cast iron, without the inherent drawbacks. 'Iso-enamel baths weigh a third of the amount of an equivalent cast-iron bath, so there's no need to reinforce your floors or hire a team to lift one into your home,' says Phil Etherden, managing director of The Albion Bath Company.



Vigore bath, £2,799, Clearwater

SPA-LIKE STONE

Feeling indulgent? Choosing a bath made from marble, granite or travertine can take your bathroom to a new level of luxury. Natural stone is commonly used in spas and can retain heat for a long period of time, allowing you longer to relax and unwind. Real statement pieces, the cost of these types of baths can vary depending on the material used. Consider it an investment that will last for years to come, as they won't crack like some acrylic designs can over time.

“COMBINING ANTI-BACTERIAL PROPERTIES WITH STYLISHLY DESIGNED BATHS MEANS PEOPLE CAN HAVE FUNCTIONALITY, SAFETY AND AESTHETICS ALL IN ONE BEAUTIFUL PIECE.”

BARRIE CUTCHIE,
DESIGN DIRECTOR AT BC DESIGNS



Bath in Farrow & Ball's Hague Blue, from £3,498; Samuel Heath Landmark Pure bath shower mixer, price on request, both CP Hart

VERSATILE ACRYLIC

Acrylic baths are a popular option these days, and for good reason, too. 'They are significantly lighter than baths made of other materials, such as stone resin or cast iron, which makes them simpler to move and place,' says Yousef Mansuri, head of design at CP Hart. 'Acrylic is non-porous and of solid durability, although it can be prone to warping over time.'



Tay bath, from £3,570; Classic bath & shower mixer with Mull Heads, from £2,448, both Drummonds

TRADITIONAL CAST IRON

Once upon a time almost all baths were made from cast iron. 'One thing that you do need to consider before buying a cast iron bath,' says James Lentaigne, creative director at Drummonds, 'is that the area where you plan to locate it is strong enough to bear not just the weight of the bath when empty, but also when it's full of water.'

ECO-FRIENDLY LUCITE

Lucite is a type of acrylic material that is 100% recyclable, making it an increasingly popular choice for environmentally conscious homeowners and bathroom designers alike. It's hard-wearing, non-slip make-up is both scratch- and chemical-resistant, which is useful for busy households, and its naturally gleaming finish can be painted easily in a colour of your choice to suit any bathroom scheme.



River back-to-wall bath in Tangerine, from £1,695, Water Baths of Ashbourne

“ALL BATHS DIFFER IN APPEARANCE, QUALITY, DURABILITY AND MAINTENANCE REQUIREMENTS. IT'S GOOD TO GET TO KNOW WHAT EACH MATERIAL OFFERS BEFORE DECIDING ON THE MODEL.”

YUSEF MANSURI,
HEAD OF DESIGN AT CP HART



Omnia bath, from £2,940, BC Designs

Need to know... fitting your bath

■ **START BY MEASURING UP** The standard size of most baths is around 1700x700mm, though some models do come in smaller sizes. If space allows, you could also opt for a larger design for a more indulgent soak.

■ **CHOOSE BETWEEN FREE-STANDING AND FITTED** Which one you choose will depend on the size of your space and how you intend to use it. If you need it to have an overhead shower, then a fitted design is more practical.

■ **CONSIDER THE WEIGHT** Find out how much a bathtub weighs before you buy, as you may need to call in the professionals to ensure your home is structurally sound. This could mean having your flooring reinforced if you go for a cast-iron or stone design - particularly if it is an older property.

■ **BEAR BRASSWARE IN MIND** The bath you choose will determine what type of taps can go with it. Some designs have holes ready for single or mixer taps, but for others you will need to source wall-mounted or free-standing taps. Check if you need to buy wastes, overflows and feet separately, too.



The copper bateau with Verdigris exterior and bopper interior, £6,000, Catchpole & Rye

3 OF THE BEST BATH FILLERS

Complete your bathroom look with a classic piece of brassware



1. Claremont Regent bath shower mixer in Gold, £699, Burlington
2. Invincible 7860 deck-mounted exposed bath filler, around £460, Swadling Brassware
3. Bath filler on standpipes with floorplate, £1,920, Catchpole & Rye

SLEEK SOLID SURFACING

Unaffected by fluctuating moisture ingress and humidity, Cian is a patented solid surface from BC Designs made from an advanced blend of acrylic modified polyester resin and mineral fillers. And while this innovative technology is relatively new, you can still achieve a classic look by choosing a polished finish in a colour of your choice and a more traditionally shaped bathtub to fit in with your country-style home.

CLEANLY COPPER

Copper has been in use for centuries thanks to its antibacterial properties, and the material is also good at retaining heat, making it an ideal option for a bath. It tends to develop a patina naturally over time, though most baths will be finished in a protective lacquer. For those who like this antique finish, you can also buy bathtubs with an aged look already applied to the exterior.