

IN THE *detail*

SHOWER DRAINAGE

Every little matters in your perfect kitchen, bedroom or bathroom, so we look at how this design feature can make a big difference

Shower drainage is crucial. Often, it isn't considered until it is a problem – which is precisely why it is so important to get right from the outset of your bathroom renovation. If you are planning on creating a wetroom-style enclosure, drainage will require a little more attention to ensure a level surface throughout your space.

There are plenty of options to choose from – from tile laying methods to all-in-one shower trays – and a good bathroom designer or plumber will be able to advise. "With more shower drains on the market than ever, they fall into two categories – point and linear drains," explains Antonia Clayson, design expert at Victorian Plumbing. "Point drains are most common, placed in a central point of the shower, forming a funnel for the water to be guided into your drain. Due to the funnel, smaller tiles must be used – something to take note of before making any purchases. Using smaller tiles means you can easily incorporate them into other areas, creating a coordinated, uniform look," she adds. Alternatively, linear drains provide a more contemporary solution and run along the width of one edge so the entire shower floor slopes evenly towards the drain. They do tend to cost more, so it is worth considering the

Unidrain's HighLine bespoke drain, from £330, is a linear design that can be made to any size to suit your shower area.



overall budget before choosing.

If you go for a complete shower tray, there are many slimline options that can fit flush to the rest of your bathroom flooring. This may be an easier option to install, though there are a couple of elements to look out for. "It's important to consider certain technical aspects," explains Fernando Maceda, product manager at Acquabella. "For example, I would recommend gradients over 1% per linear m for proper drainage. You also need to prevent the water from the showerhead falling directly on the drain and consider if the flow rate is acceptable for getting water out of the tray," he says. Not following these points can result in pools of water accumulating and even flooding your bathroom. Your plumber or designer will be aware of these necessary levels to check and will be able to help with your particular space. Shower drainage can be fiddly – so installation is really best left to the professionals for a fully working result.

Once you've decided on the type and picked flooring, all that's left is to choose a grate. "They come in all different shapes and sizes, so you have an opportunity to coordinate it with any existing fixtures or fittings," says Antonia. While a chrome finish is popular – and usually easier to keep clean – you can find other metallics such as brass, gold, or copper so you can customise your bathroom and create a matching scheme throughout. Plus, look out for slim, unobtrusive options that blend seamlessly, creating an almost invisible finish. **KBB**

The new Flow Zero shower tray from Acquabella has been designed with a flush finish to the floor which encourages water to fall towards the point drain. Prices start at £735.



Bathroom storage MAKE IT PERSONAL

Lauren Sutton, head of Design Hub at Virtual Worlds, says you should think about how storage works for you, not just how it looks

Where you'll put your stuff is a big consideration when renovating a bathroom – but how much thought do you give to the items you'll store? If a space is to meet your needs, you should consider what you use.

Make good use of vanity units

Vanity units with drawers are great for storing cosmetics. These items generally do not need to stand up, which means they work well in drawers as there is less height. If you have taller things such as bottles, these can be accommodated in recessed mirror cabinets with adjustable shelves above a vanity. You can also use the room under a unit to store towels and baskets with toilet rolls.



Recessed shelves

Talking of shelving, niches in the showering area work perfectly for shampoo bottles or sponges. In fact, recesses can be used in several areas of the bathroom for plants and other decorative items to add personality.

Test your new storage options

If you're fed up with an untidy bathroom and storage is high on your priority list, you'll want to make the most of every inch of space. Images of a design might show you what drawers look like but imagine stepping into your new bathroom and opening and closing them in real time. Virtual reality allows you to see the design in action so you'll be sure it's the right storage set up for you.



Want to give it a go? To find your nearest independent retailer with Virtual Worlds technology, visit find4d.com

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