

NEED TO REMODEL YOUR BATHROOM but don't know where to begin?

By Pat Parks

It may seem like the list of “things to do” is endless, but don't worry, just follow the steps below and take our advice. You'll be on your way in no time.

- **Decide what you want.** What is the main purpose of remodeling your bathroom? Do you want to add extra space, upgrade the bathroom cabinets or fixtures, make changes for health reasons, or just create your own private spa?
- **What are your options?** Is there room to expand or is there enough room to redesign using the existing floor space?
- **What are your priorities?** Figure out what you want to change the most; and what you can keep or just update. Do you want a larger shower or tub?
- **Consider short-term and long-term implications** of your renovation decisions. How long do you plan to live in this house; and will your choices increase/decrease the home's resale value? If you are planning to live in your home long term, do you want to prepare your bathroom for the “aging in place” concept?
- **Collect ideas and information.** Read magazines and books to get an idea of the look you want in your new bathroom. Make a clip book of all the pictures and ideas that represent your taste and style.
- **Determine your budget.** Establish your priorities and determine where to best spend your money. What's the total amount you are willing to spend?

How much can/are you willing to borrow?

- **DON'T do the project yourself.** A specialized kitchen and bath designer should be brought in to figure out logistics, suggest proper materials and create a functional and cost efficient room that specifically reflects your taste, style and personality. They will co-ordinate all the other members of your remodeling team such as contractors, plumbers, electricians and tile setters.
- **DO pick a qualified NKBA(National Kitchen and Bath Association) professional.** Make sure they are qualified and ask for references and to see their portfolio. Pick the designer that most meets your taste and style. You should never be persuaded to do anything you don't like or that is beyond your budget. A good designer will work closely with you until your dream bathroom is a reality.

For more information visit Distinctive Kitchens and Baths on Highway 105 South in Boone, North Carolina or contact them by phone at 828-963-9633 or www.distinctivekitchendesigners.com