

AUSTRALIAN

# HOUSE & GARDEN

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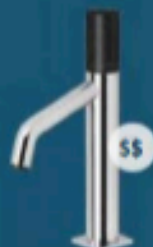


COLOUR IS AT HOME IN THE BATHROOM, BUT SHINY ROSE GOLD TAPWARE HAS HAD ITS DAY. MUTED, BURNISHED FINISHES IN BRONZE AND BRASS AGE WELL; MATT BLACK, CHARCOAL AND CHROME WILL STAY THE COURSE.

#### SHOP SMART



Caroma tower basin mixer in Black Jade, \$224, Bunnings. Ceramic disc cartridge; 5-star WELS.



Toi basin mixer, \$528, Phoenix Tapware (sold through retailers). 5-star WELS.



Milli 'Pure' basin mixer in Brushed Gunmetal, \$737, Reece. 6-star WELS.

## RENOVATION SPECIAL H&G

A mid-level bathroom upgrade might involve gutting and replacing an existing bathroom. "Working with the existing placement of fixtures, especially the toilet, saves on plumbing costs, so you can afford to spend a little more on interesting tiles, tapware, storage or a feature vanity," says Treble.

**Luxe for less** A glam bathroom isn't out of reach when you're working within a smaller budget, says Santilli. "It's all about bringing through the luxe factor through smaller touches or investing more in one or two hero pieces. Think about investing in high-quality tapware with a unique finish, like brushed nickel or brass, or look to invest in a statement vanity with plenty of storage."

**Smart tech, hygiene, colour** Thermostatic mixers from Grohe (see page 156), American Standard and Roca let you set a consistent shower temperature with the press of a button. "Easy-clean rimless toilets are a good example of what was once considered an upgrade but is now becoming standard, available through many brands, and not just those at the high end," says Santilli. Consumers are also braver than ever before when it comes to colour, which relates directly to the transition of the bathroom from simply a refreshment zone to an extension of the living space. ▶





## High-end bathrooms

**Getting ready** The most important part of planning a high-end bathroom is researching looks and choosing quality brands that are backed by lengthy warranties, says Franco Parisi from specialist bathroom company Parisi. "Choosing products from the same brand will make it easier to match styles and colours," he says. "Often the designer will have created a whole concept with coordinating fixtures. Many basins are now available that are distinctive in style and can be feature pieces in luxurious, high-end bathrooms." Good examples of these are the Cameo and Seed basins by Valdama. The selection process can be streamlined by choosing a basin first, and then identifying coordinating styles of tapware, showers and accessories such as towel rails and shelves to go with them.

"Floor-mounted bathroom cabinets are waning in popularity," says Parisi. "Sleek wall-mounted cabinets create a more open, less-cluttered feel, enabling the bathroom to be more like a sanctuary." How long it takes to give a bathroom a high-end makeover depends on how well prepared you are. Buying all items in advance, so they will be available for the installers when they commence work, will certainly expedite the process. "From initial selection to final decisions and purchasing (allow for lead times) plus the work, a timeframe of six months should be doable."

# Testo

**WHATEVER YOU DO, TRY TO DESIGN YOUR BATHROOM SO THAT THE TOILET IS NOT VISIBLE FROM THE ENTRY. AVOID SQUEEZING A BATH INTO A LAYOUT THAT'S TOO SMALL FOR ONE – A GENEROUS SHOWER IS A BETTER IDEA.**

**FROM LEFT** This bathroom by Robson Rak features Italian Mutina tiles, Astra Walker taps and a basin hewn from limestone. Smart tech: Grohe 'SmartControl' exposed shower. Olive green is the hero of this bathroom by Peter Schaad; for wet areas it is important to select floor tiles that are highly slip-resistant – these are charcoal matt porcelain tiles from Byzantine Design. Sydney designers Woods & Warner used Cole & Son 'Miami' wallpaper in Pastel in the dry areas of this well-ventilated bathroom; an extraction fan for the shower steam is a must.

