



My bargain bathroom looks and feels like a spa!

Having tolerated her drab, uninspiring bathroom for eight years, **Christine O'Dwyer** decided it was time for a fresh new look



A bit about me

I'm Christine O'Dwyer, and I live with my husband, John, and daughter, Claire, in a five-bed house in Altrincham, Manchester.

My room...

My problem bathroom

Before now, our bathroom was dated in appearance and although everything worked just fine, we never really enjoyed spending time in there. I regularly bought new towels and trinkets to try and brighten it up, but it didn't change the fact that what we really needed was a whole new suite and a fresh new look.

How I made it work

I replaced the drab original tiles with a grey slate design to add a sense of luxury. They're less glossy than some other tiles on offer – I think it gives our bathroom a bit of a natural, outdoorsy look. I also bought a crisp white suite from Bathroom Takeaway for a song. It makes the room feel like a spa!

My favourite part

The whole room is beautiful and spa-like, but I'm really pleased with the clever storage solutions – they're just so subtle. I think my favourite part, though, has to be the bath. It's spacious, modern and luxe!



Before



'Our bathroom is nicer than any I've seen in fancy hotels!'

GOOD IDEA

Skip the plastic shower tray and build your own base for a high quality finish

GOOD IDEA

Keep the scheme clean and clutter free for a contemporary look!

By concealing the toilet cistern behind a stud wall, Christine has secured a little extra storage for displaying accessories



Three of the best

Bag a suite on a shoestring with these bargain buys from Bathroom Takeaway

£120
Posh potty
Feel Curved close toilet with soft close seat

£70
Swim or sink
Fresh Curved basin with pedestal

£470
Tub time
Yang freestanding bath

'It's now my favourite room in the house!'

My shopping list

Crest porcelain matt silver **tiles**, £345, ESL Ceramics. **Bathroom suite** including Yin **toilet**; Waterfall **basin tap**; Homely **vanity unit** with basin and mirror; Kristiansund **towel rail**; Wave **bath/shower mixer tap**; Yang **bath**; Bode **shower**; wall hung **cabinet**, £1224.82, all Bathroom Takeaway. Jacquard-weave **towels**, from £6.99; jaquard-weave **bath mat**, £7.99, both H&M.

Turn to page 128 for stockist details 



Style advice

Things to consider when buying a new bathroom

'While the process wasn't stressful, we did come up against a few challenges. The tiling took longer than expected, which set us back a little, and some piping had to be repositioned. But it's all been completely worth it, as we've managed to squeeze so much into a modestly-sized room – plus it looks fab, too. John and I like to travel, and no matter which hotel we stay in, our bathroom is always much nicer than the en-suite there.'



GOOD IDEA

A floating vanity unit will make the room feel more spacious

'This project made me realise that renovations aren't always as daunting as you might expect – particularly if you've got support like we had from Bathroom Takeaway. I wish we'd done the makeover years ago!'

Budget, better, best

Set the scene (and the scent) for a relaxing soak in the tub with a candle or two



£2

Blue lagoon

No.2 candle, Primark

Eternal flame

Ceramic votive, Debenhams



Common scents

Scented candle, H&M



£9.99

£18

'As well as looking gloomy, our previous bathroom wasn't particularly practical, either. It had all the necessary basics but lacked any storage, so we fitted a floating vanity with ample drawer space and a tall floating cupboard to conceal our toiletries. Now, we don't have bathroom bits spilling into our bedroom space.'



Christine used magazines, like *HomeStyle*, to find inspiration for her bathroom makeover. She chose to use just one tile design on the floor and walls for a sleek, classy finish

My experience...

This has been our family home for eight years. It's quite a new property; built in 2003, and it's spread over three storeys. We love the fact that it has a quirky layout and is deceptively spacious. We live in an 'upside down' house, which means that the bedrooms are on the ground floor. The house was only five-odd years old when we moved in so the décor was pleasant, but a little on the clinical side. Everything was white, including the bathroom, so it was quite high maintenance and required a lot of cleaning. It also often felt like it lacked personality. Now that John and I are retired, we're really enjoying renovating our home one room at a time, and the bathroom was at the top of our list. I had an idea of the kind of look I wanted before we started our search; modern, with clean lines and a contemporary suite. Like my very own spa. We began browsing online and came across Bathroom Takeaway. We were impressed by the products (not to mention the bargain prices!), but I was hesitant to buy a suite online. We put the Bathroom Takeaway idea to one side, and visited a few showrooms to see if we could find anything that could compare both look and price-wise – but we couldn't! I'm delighted with our decision to buy our suite from Bathroom Takeaway. I'd always wanted a freestanding bath, and John had his heart set on a spacious shower – now we've got the best of both worlds! We chose grey slate tiles for a sleek finish, and added subtle storage solutions. It's everything I hoped it'd be and more.

Decorative towels from H&M add flecks of colour to the muted scheme

TOTAL
£1,570