



# 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**

