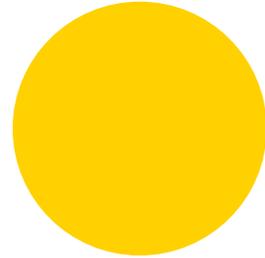


IMPROVEMENT CENTER



Bathroom Faucet Product Guide

Bathroom faucets: from functional to fancy configurations

While style and cost are important considerations when selecting faucets for a bathroom renovation, there are a few other factors that should also play a part in your decision. Many homeowners don't realize that bathroom faucets can be matched to the size and shape of the sink bowl or that manufacturers offer various configurations to help achieve this goal.



Bathroom faucet configurations

Does your new vanity top already have the faucet holes or do they need to be drilled? Either way, it's important that you know a little bit about faucet spread and how it can affect your model choice. Faucet spread is defined as the distance between the centers of the two outermost holes required to install a particular faucet in a vanity top.

If your top already has drilled holes, then you must choose a faucet that can accommodate the existing spread. However, if you're drilling a top to accept a new faucet, it's very important that the correct spread is marked -- especially when the top is an expensive material such as granite or marble. Most faucet manufacturers include a drilling template with each model. These are a few common faucet configurations:

- **Single hole.** These models don't have a spread: only a single hole is needed. Hot and cold water are normally controlled by the same lever.
- **Center-set.** This configuration normally features spout and handles located close together on a single faucet base. The design and its 4-inch spread can be ideal for smaller sink bowls and vanity tops.



- **Mini-spread.** This design can be perfect for medium-sized sinks and vanity tops as the spout and handles sit fairly close to each other, but each has its own mini-base. These models can be found in spreads ranging from 4 to 8 inches.
- **Widespread.** If you have a large sink bowl or vanity top, this may be the ideal faucet configuration for your renovation. The faucets feature a defined separation between the spout and handles with spreads that can range from 8 to 16 inches.
- **Wall-mount.** These faucets are similar to widespread models, but are designed to mount on the inside face of a sink bowl rather than the top surface of the sink or vanity top. Your sink must be designed to accept this configuration. Spreads can vary depending on the manufacturer.

If your vanity top already has holes and you're concerned about the spread being correct, many manufacturers offer models that allow small adjustments to be made to the spread during installation.

Bathroom faucet costs

There's a wide selection of bathroom faucet options available regardless of your remodeling budget. This is what you can expect in the three primary price ranges:

- **Budget-friendly.** Faucets in this price range are normally center-set or single hole, but other configurations can also be found. When you get to the upper end of this category, manufacturers offer finish options such as brushed nickel and oil-rubbed bronze on some of their models. Expect to pay from about \$50 to \$200 for these budget-friendly faucets.
- **Mid-range.** Options and features abound when you choose faucets in this category that can range from about \$200 to \$500. Many dramatic styles in all of the various spread configurations are available, and many models offer numerous finishes such as wrought iron, bright brass and antique bronze.

- **Up-scale.** If price is no object, the unique finishes and styles offered in this category can make your faucet the focal point of your bathroom. Expect to pay from about \$500 to \$1,000 or even higher for these state-of-the-art faucets that can make your renovation the talk of the neighborhood.

Regardless of how much you pay for your bathroom faucet, remember that it needs to be a good match with your sink and vanity top.

