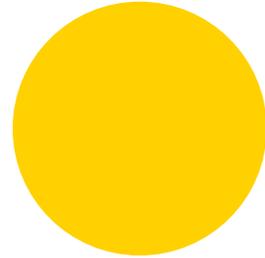


# IMPROVEMENT CENTER



## Vanity Cabinet Guide

# Vanity cabinets: endless choices and possibilities

One of the most exciting parts of a bathroom remodeling project is picking out the fixtures and choosing finishes. The selections you make go a long way toward creating the atmosphere of the completed room. While plumbing fixtures and wall finishes make large contributions, perhaps no other item does as much to determine the room's look as your vanity cabinet.

Cabinets often act as the bathroom's focal point or cosmetic anchor, but don't forget that your selection needs to be functional as well. There are many factors to be considered when choosing a vanity cabinet, but the most important might be the amount of available space in the bathroom and your remodeling budget.



## Vanity cabinet costs

Vanity cabinet prices can range from less than a hundred dollars to as much as you want to spend. While there can be various issues that determine cost, the primary factors are the following:

1. **Size.** While bathroom cabinets are normally only offered in two standard heights, there are numerous standard widths available. Single cabinets usually range from 24 inches to 60 inches, but larger and smaller units may also be found. As you would expect, larger cabinets normally cost more to purchase.



2. **Construction.** Vanity cabinets are built with either all wood or composite construction. Both styles have a solid wood face, but a composite cabinet box is constructed with particle or composite board rather than wood. All wood cabinets can be more costly, but they should hold up better when subjected to the moisture that's often present in bathrooms.
3. **Wood species.** Exotic or rare wood species are normally more expensive than common varieties such as oak.
4. **Door style.** Simple door styles, such as flush or recessed panels, are often less expensive than designs such as raised panels, which can be more difficult to manufacture.

If you're remodeling on a tight budget, one method for reducing costs is to use ready-to-assemble (RTA) vanity cabinets. RTA cabinets are designed to be assembled on the job-site and can often be put together with little more than a screwdriver. Quality can be as good as with any pre-assembled cabinet, but they may cost quite a bit less.

## Vanity cabinet configurations

Single vanity cabinet boxes normally have doors or drawers that provide storage space or, depending on their width, they may have a combination of both. However, if you have enough space in your bathroom, several single cabinets can be placed together to create your own unique configuration. Using a single cabinet in a wide width or combining several boxes often allows you to use a double-bowl, vanity top, but there are a few considerations to keep in mind:

1. **Cabinet design.** The bowl(s) in your vanity top must have room to set down inside the cabinet boxes. This means that your layout must have vanity sink base cabinets in the proposed bowl locations.
2. **Spacing.** It is usually advisable to have at least 60 inches of cabinets for a double bowl vanity top.
3. **Sitting room.** It's possible to create sitting space in your vanity cabinet configuration by spreading two cabinets apart and spanning the open area with a long vanity top. The opening can be dressed up with a cabinet apron.



4. **Layout.** A large vanity cabinet may seem like a good idea, but perhaps not if it means sacrificing usable space in the bathroom. Layout your proposed vanity cabinet dimensions on the floor of the bathroom using tape or string to determine whether the size might encroach on any space needed to access other fixtures in the room.

If you need help deciding which is the best vanity cabinet size or configuration for your project, consult with a local design professional or remodeling contractor.