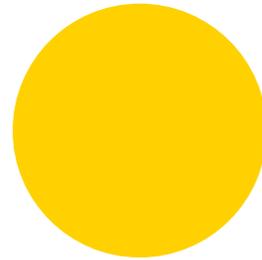


IMPROVEMENT CENTER



Tub & Spa Product Guide

Relaxing bath remodel: tub and spa options

Bathrooms are used for many purposes, but perhaps none is as enjoyable as sinking into a nice, hot bath. Whether you're relaxing some overworked muscles, enjoying a romantic moment, or just want to clean-up, a tub can provide a sanctuary away from the stress of everyday life. Regardless of the size of your bathroom or remodeling budget, there should be a tub or spa that is right for your project. And while function is important, many tub and spa models can also be used to complement your bathroom decor.



Bathtub basics

The two most important issues to keep in mind when shopping for a new tub are size and handing. It doesn't really matter how many features a spa has if it's too big for your bathroom or won't even fit through the door. Always measure your available space and the pathway to the bathroom before heading out to shop for tubs and spas.

The other factor to consider is the handing of your existing tub. Handing is determined by which side the drain is located on when you're standing in the bathroom facing the tub: a drain on the right side is considered to be a right-handed tub. Purchasing a new tub or spa with the same handing as your existing fixture can help eliminate costly plumbing changes.



New tub and spa options

As with almost all the fixtures being upgraded during your bathroom renovation, there are almost countless styles, colors, and sizes to choose from when shopping for a new tub or spa. Best of all, there are plenty of options for just about every budget.





Standard bathtubs: budget-friendly options

Just because you only have the space or budget for a standard bathtub doesn't mean it can't add a little excitement to your life. Many tub manufacturers offer models that have traditional dimensions, but in colors that may have made your grandparents' blush. While off-white or almond can be very nice, picture yourself relaxing in a tub that's black, tea green, skylight blue or one of the many other colors available. Standard bathtubs start at about \$200, but special styles, shapes, or colors can escalate pricing to about \$1,500.

Soak away your troubles

If your idea of relaxation is a good book, a cold drink, and a hot bath, you may want to add a soaking tub to your bathroom renovation. Soaking tubs are normally a little deeper than standard models to allow lots of hot water and bubbles. They may also be a little wider and longer so there's plenty of room to stretch out. Soakers are available as built-in or free standing units and can be found in many styles and colors. Add a few candles and you may have the perfect evening. Soaking tubs vary in price depending on size and style, but expect to pay in a range of about \$1,500 to \$4,000 or higher.

Take your bathing to the next level

Professional athletes head for the whirlpool when they have aches and pains after a game. While you may not have access to a training room, pampering your tired body is still possible when a spa is added to your bathroom renovation. Whirlpool spa styles vary, but most feature jets of water that can be adjusted to soothe aching muscles or just provide a little relaxation. If you don't think your water heater can handle the extra work load, choose a spa that has its own built-in heating unit.

Spas are available in numerous sizes with some being not much larger than a standard tub and others able to accommodate two people. Manufacturers offer enough styles and configurations that there's sure to be one that's right for your bathroom project. Spa prices are normally determined by size, style, and the number of jets. Expect to pay in a range of \$1,500 to \$5,000, but some models can be in excess of \$10,000.