Chicago Bathroom Remodeling Pros

Educational Resources for Chicago Homeowners
www.chicagobathroomremodelingpros.com

Accessibility & Aging-in-Place Bathroom Planning Checklist

Create a Bathroom That Is Safe, Comfortable & Beautiful for Every Stage of Life

An accessible bathroom should do more than meet today's needs—it should continue to serve you comfortably for years to come. Whether you're planning for retirement, accommodating a family member with mobility challenges, recovering from an injury, or simply wanting a safer bathroom, thoughtful planning today can help you remain independent while increasing your home's value.

Modern accessibility remodeling focuses on **Universal Design**, creating bathrooms that are functional for people of all ages and abilities without sacrificing style. Features like curbless showers, elegant grab bars, improved lighting, and spacious layouts blend seamlessly into today's luxury bathroom designs.

Use this checklist to organize your ideas, establish priorities, and prepare for a successful remodeling project.

Homeowner Information

Name: _____

Property Address: _____

Phone: _____

Email: _____

Desired Construction Start Date: _____

Step 1 – Define Your Goals

What is the primary reason for remodeling?

□ Planning for retirement

□ Aging in place

□ Wheelchair accessibility

□ Recovery from surgery or injury

□ Caring for a family member

□ Improve bathroom safety

□ Prevent falls

□ Improve mobility

□ Increase comfort

□ Complete bathroom renovation

□ Increase home value

□ Future-proof the home

Other:

Step 2 – Evaluate Your Current Bathroom

Which challenges currently exist?

□ Difficult bathtub entry

□ High shower curb

□ Slippery flooring

□ Poor lighting

□ Narrow doorway

□ Limited turning space

□ Small shower

□ Difficult-to-reach storage

□ Low toilet

□ Vanity too high

□ Limited maneuverability

□ Poor ventilation

Notes:

Step 3 – Budget Planning

Desired Investment:

$_____

Maximum Budget:

$_____

Emergency Contingency (10–15%):

$_____

Total Budget:

$_____

Step 4 – Walk-In Shower Planning

Would you like to include:

□ Curbless shower

□ Low-threshold shower

□ Extra-large shower

□ Frameless glass enclosure

□ Built-in shower bench

□ Fold-down seat

□ Slip-resistant shower floor

□ Linear drain

□ Handheld shower

□ Rain shower head

□ Thermostatic valve

□ Pressure-balanced valve

□ Recessed shampoo niches

□ Multiple niches

Step 5 – Tub-to-Shower Conversion

If replacing a bathtub:

□ Remove existing tub

□ Install walk-in shower

□ Increase shower size

□ Improve accessibility

□ Add seating

□ Install handheld shower

□ Install decorative grab bars

□ Upgrade plumbing fixtures

□ Improve lighting

Step 6 – Bathroom Flooring

Choose flooring that balances beauty with safety.

Preferred flooring:

□ Textured porcelain tile

□ Matte ceramic tile

□ Slip-resistant luxury vinyl

□ Heated tile flooring

□ Mosaic shower flooring

□ Large-format tile

Additional considerations:

□ Low transition heights

□ Easy maintenance

□ Radiant heated flooring

□ Slip-resistant finish

Step 7 – Grab Bars & Safety Supports

Would you like:

□ Decorative grab bars

□ Shower entrance grab bar

□ Shower interior grab bars

□ Toilet grab bars

□ Vertical support bars

□ Fold-down support bars

Preferred finish:

□ Matte Black

□ Brushed Nickel

□ Chrome

□ Brushed Brass

□ Oil-Rubbed Bronze

Future Planning

□ Install wall blocking behind tile for future grab bars

This inexpensive upgrade allows grab bars to be added later without opening finished walls.

Step 8 – Toilet & Vanity Selection

Toilet

□ Comfort-height toilet

□ Wall-mounted toilet

□ Bidet seat preparation

□ Easy-access controls

Vanity

□ Floating vanity

□ Wheelchair-accessible vanity

□ Open knee space

□ Soft-close drawers

□ Pull-out organizers

□ Easy-grip cabinet hardware

□ Rounded countertop edges

Step 9 – Plumbing Fixtures

Choose easy-to-use fixtures.

□ Lever-handle faucets

□ Touchless faucet

□ Handheld shower

□ Rain shower

□ Thermostatic controls

□ Anti-scald protection

□ Easy-reach controls

Preferred Finish:

□ Chrome

□ Brushed Nickel

□ Matte Black

□ Brushed Brass

Step 10 – Lighting & Electrical

Good lighting improves both safety and comfort.

Select desired upgrades:

□ LED vanity lighting

□ Recessed ceiling lights

□ Motion-sensor lighting

□ Night lighting

□ Under-vanity lighting

□ Backlit mirror

□ Dimmable lighting

□ Additional GFCI outlets

□ Exhaust fan with lighting

Step 11 – Bathroom Storage

Storage should be easy to access without excessive bending or reaching.

Choose desired upgrades:

□ Recessed medicine cabinet

□ Floating shelves

□ Built-in shower niches

□ Linen cabinet

□ Pull-out drawers

□ Drawer organizers

□ Tall storage cabinet

□ Wall-mounted shelving

□ Hidden electrical outlets

Step 12 – Universal Design Features

Select features that improve usability for everyone.

□ Wider doorway

□ Open floor plan

□ Increased turning radius

□ Curbless shower

□ Lever door handles

□ Minimal thresholds

□ Easy-to-clean finishes

□ Contrasting colors for better visibility

□ Rounded corners

□ Easy-access controls

Universal Design creates bathrooms that remain functional for homeowners of all ages.

Step 13 – High-Rise Condominium Planning (If Applicable)

Before remodeling:

□ HOA approval

□ Building superintendent meeting

□ Freight elevator reservation

□ Product delivery schedule

□ Contractor parking

□ Insurance requirements

□ Building protection procedures

□ Construction hour restrictions

Step 14 – Choosing Your Contractor

Before signing a contract:

□ Detailed written estimate

□ Remodeling experience

□ Accessibility remodeling experience

□ References

□ Online reviews

□ Insurance verification

□ Warranty information

□ Material allowances

□ Timeline reviewed

□ Communication process established

Step 15 – Before Construction Begins

□ Finalize all selections

□ Order materials

□ Empty bathroom

□ Remove personal belongings

□ Arrange temporary bathroom

□ Protect adjacent rooms

□ Secure pets

□ Review construction schedule

□ Confirm product deliveries

Step 16 – Final Walkthrough

Before final payment:

□ Shower drains correctly

□ Grab bars securely installed

□ Bench securely installed

□ Flooring inspected

□ Lighting tested

□ Plumbing fixtures tested

□ Vanity inspected

□ Drawers and doors adjusted

□ Caulking complete

□ Paint complete

□ Warranty documents received

□ Product manuals collected

My Accessibility Priorities

Must-Have Features

Future Features

Questions for My Contractor

Accessibility Remodeling Tips

✔Design your bathroom for the next 20 years—not just your current needs.

✔Curbless showers improve both safety and resale value.

✔Reinforce shower walls during construction so grab bars can be added later if needed.

✔Choose slip-resistant flooring throughout the bathroom.

✔Install layered lighting to reduce shadows and improve visibility.

✔Select lever-style faucets and hardware that are easier to operate.

✔Incorporate seated showering options even if they are not immediately needed.

✔Plan generous storage so frequently used items remain within comfortable reach.

✔Keep floor areas uncluttered to reduce tripping hazards.

✔Universal Design benefits everyone, regardless of age or mobility.

Chicago Bathroom Remodeling Pros

Creating an accessible bathroom is about more than adding safety features—it's about designing a space that supports independence, comfort, and quality of life without compromising style. At **Chicago Bathroom Remodeling Pros**, we help homeowners throughout Chicago create elegant bathrooms featuring curbless showers, universal design principles, custom storage, premium materials, and thoughtful accessibility solutions. Whether you're planning ahead or addressing immediate mobility needs, our experienced team is committed to building a bathroom that will serve you beautifully for decades to come.

Chicago Bathroom Remodeling Pros | www.chicagobathroomremodelingpros.com