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GLOSSARY
of commonly used terms
BATH REMODELING - edition

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Things you might hear us say — and what we mean

Bathroom Remodeling Glossary

- **Rough-In:** The stage where plumbing and electrical lines are installed behind the walls before the drywall or tile goes up.
- **Vanity:** The combination of a bathroom cabinet and sink; "Floating" versions are wall-mounted for a modern, airy look.
- **Wet Room:** A fully waterproofed bathroom where the shower is not separated by a tray or curtain, often featuring a floor drain.
- **Niche:** A custom-built, recessed shelf in the shower wall for a streamlined way to store shampoos and soaps.
- **Thermostatic or pressure balance shower valve:** A high-end shower control that keeps water at a precise temperature, preventing "shower shock" from toilet flushes.
- **Handheld:** A detachable shower-head on a hose—essential for cleaning the shower and versatile bathing.
- **Soaking Tub:** A deep, often freestanding bathtub designed for full-body immersion and relaxation.
- **Rain-shower Head:** A large, overhead fixture that mimics the feeling of standing in a gentle tropical downpour.
- **Steam Shower:** A moisture-sealed shower enclosure equipped with a generator that produces clouds of therapeutic steam.
- **Under-mount Sink:** A sink installed beneath the countertop for a clean, seamless look that is easy to wipe down.
- **Vessel Sink:** A bowl-style sink that sits entirely on top of the counter, acting as a decorative centerpiece.
- **Backer Board:** The water-resistant panel installed behind your tile to provide a rigid, mold-proof foundation.
- **Diverter:** The valve that switches water flow between different outlets, like the tub spout and the showerhead.
- **Pop-up Drain:** A modern sink drain that opens and closes with a simple press, replacing the old-fashioned pull-lever.
- **Sconce:** Wall-mounted lighting typically placed on either side of a mirror to provide even, flattering light for grooming.
- **Water Closet:** A small, private room within the bathroom specifically for the toilet.
- **Backsplash:** The tiled area above the vanity or behind the tub that protects the wall from water splashes.
- **Toe Kick:** The recessed space at the bottom of a vanity cabinet that allows you to stand closer to the sink comfortably.
- **Mitre Corner:** A luxury finish where tile edges are cut at 45 degrees to join perfectly, removing the need for metal trim.
- **Curb:** The "step-over" threshold at the entrance of a shower that keeps water contained.
- **Linear Drain:** A sleek, narrow drain that allows the shower floor to slope in one direction, perfect for large-format tiles.
- **Change Order:** A formal update to the project scope or materials after the initial contract has been signed.