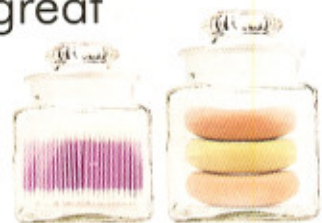




If you long for your bathroom to be an oasis of comfort, cleanliness and refreshment, here are some great ideas for achieving that goal.



← **Clear out the Clutter.**

Clean out toiletries that haven't been used in six months, medications that have expired (take to the pharmacy for disposal), products that are dried up, duplicate hair styling appliances, seldom used nail polish and eye shadows, old towels, and anything that does not belong in the bathroom. Most cosmetics have a shelf life of only six months and deteriorate with age, causing problems for sensitive skin. Even toothpaste expires - check out the crimp on the tube.

← **Put Like Things Together.**

Examples are cosmetics, soaps and lotions, shaving supplies, hair supplies, dental products, nail care, bath accessories, medications, first aid care, and cold remedies. Group towels by color and size - roll for maximum storage. Remove excess items that crowd your space and consider donating to a battered women's shelter that always needs these products.

← **Simple Storage Solutions.**

Store only frequently used items on or near the counter such as toothpaste, toothbrushes and hair brushes. Use drawer organizers for cosmetics, hair and nail products. Add glide-out shelves under vanities for easy accessibility to items in the back of cabinets. Install towel bars or rings for adults and children at their level. Add a hook beside the shower and on back of the door for bathrobes. Hang a shower caddy for shampoo, conditioner, and soap. Purchase a standing cabinet, shelving unit or over-the-toilet cabinet for supplies if storage space is limited. Install a recessed medicine cabinet by the vanity. Include a magazine rack beside the toilet for reading materials. Place a hamper in the bathroom for damp towels if space permits.

← **Sharing the Bathroom with Others.**

Assign each person a different color towel so family members don't have to grab a fresh one each time. Assign each person a different color toothbrush so there's no confusion. Have a shelf or container for each family member's personal items. Hang a mesh bag for kids' bath toys on a suction hook on the tub wall. Turn cleaning and organizing the bathroom into a fun contest for kids and watch them learn good habits for life.

← **Consider Color, Lighting and Accessories.**

Use a monochromatic (single) color scheme in light pastel colors for a relaxed mood in the bathroom. A light-colored shower curtain will give the room a more spacious look and feel. Add task lighting for applying make-up and shaving. Use scented candles around the bathroom to enhance the feeling of tranquility. And don't forget to add a dimmer switch for turning down the light during a relaxing bubble bath in the oasis you've created!

