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designer's eye

Selecting a sink and faucet for your *bathroom*

Perfect pairings

by TRISH KNIGHT AND NICOLE VARGA • photos JANIS NICOLAY

Your bathroom sink is more than just a functional fixture; it's a key design element that helps influence and define the overall esthetic of your space. With an array of sink styles available at various price points, it's essential to consider your home's style, the users of the room, and your personal preferences when selecting a sink. Beyond the sink itself, successfully pairing it with the right faucet and cabinet style can enhance your bathroom's functionality and visual appeal.

UNDERMOUNT SINK

Versatile and practical

An undermount sink is the workhorse in the world of bathroom sinks. Ideal for high-traffic areas such as kids' bathrooms and ensuites, it is favoured for its easy cleaning and durability. Another key advantage is its esthetic versatility, complementing a range of home styles from traditional to contemporary.

This type of sink pairs well with a white quartz or light-coloured marble countertop for a seamless and cohesive look. Beneath the countertop, a classic vanity cabinet style is a good option. To maximize storage space, consider roll-out racks or drawers designed around the plumbing fixtures. With an undermount sink, you can easily choose between counter-mounted or wall-mounted faucets, since the sink style is versatile and boasts a classic design that looks nice with a variety of design choices.



VESSEL SINK

An elegant focal point

A vessel sink is akin to jewellery for your bathroom. This decorative piece is available in different materials, including ceramic, glass and stone. While a vessel sink can enhance a primary ensuite, it is often chosen for powder rooms and guest bathrooms due to its intricate design that requires a bit more attention during cleaning.

Wall-mounted faucets are a popular choice, with the faucet height ideally positioned six to eight inches above the sink's edge.

Installing a wall-mounted faucet requires careful planning, including locating rough-in valves in advance. While this choice adds sophistication, it also comes with additional costs. In a compact bathroom, consider a semi-recessed vessel sink. This allows for a shallower counter/cabinet while accommodating the faucet, which optimizes space without compromising on style.

INTEGRATED SINK

Luxurious, seamless design

An integrated sink is the epitome of luxury, often crafted from natural stone or quartz. It seamlessly blends into the countertop, offering a contemporary look that oozes elegance and sophistication. It also allows for easy cleaning, so regular maintenance is a breeze. However, incorporating an integrated sink demands advanced planning with a designer and contractor to ensure the installation is done correctly.

If you prefer esthetics over storage, an integrated sink can replace traditional cabinetry. Opt for a thick leading edge on the countertop and a floating shelf below to create a minimalistic yet stunning bathroom ambience.

FAUCET PLACEMENT

Influence on sink style

Where the faucet is placed can significantly impact which sink style you choose and the cabinetry layout. For example, to prevent splashing and potential water damage, it's crucial to consider factors such as the faucet height, depth and position. For wall-mounted faucets, the risk of splashing increases when the water hits the drain directly. Changing the faucet's position after installation can be costly, so it is important to plan thoroughly beforehand. To avoid splashing issues, analyze the sink's shape and depth in relation to the faucet's water stream.



MANY OPTIONS

Selecting the right bathroom sink and faucet demands a thoughtful approach that encompasses the overall look of your home, your functional needs and your design preferences. There are plenty of options, each offering unique

benefits that can transform your bathroom into a sanctuary of style and functionality. Some forethought and a little professional guidance from a designer can certainly ensure a functional, stylish design that will elevate your bathroom experience.



Designers Trish Knight and Nicole Varga are co-founders of Knight Varga Interiors. Collectively with two decades of experience, this Vancouver-based multi-award-winning design firm is known for creating well curated interiors. The firm provides complete bespoke residential design services throughout Vancouver & North America. knightvarga.com @knightvarga



design tip

When shopping for an undermount sink, pay attention to the slope of the bowl to the drain and the sink's depth, which will impact how functional it is for its intended uses.

