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Bathroom Renovations

According to estimates from HomeAdvisor, the national average cost for a complete bathroom renovation in 2019 is \$10,349. It's a popular room to remodel as it gives many homeowners the chance to add value to their home while making it more livable.

Before jumping into a DIY renovation job, consider the extent of your needs. Since bathrooms feature plen-

ty of water connections, being unfamiliar with routing and sealing joints can create disastrous results. Leaks can cause more than expensive flooring repairs; it also introduces a breeding ground for health hazards like mold.

INSPECT FLOORING

Before any bathroom renovation project, you should ensure the integrity of the floor, especially for areas around toilets, showers and sinks. If you notice signs of water damage are already present, it's important to resolve them before going forward with the project.

If you will be replacing the flooring, it's easy to find damage by ripping up the old material. However, if you plan to leave the floor in place, make sure

it is free from sagging or signs of mold. These issues may not present themselves until some appliances are moved, so make sure to leave room in your budget for unexpected expenses.

Another issue that is common when water damage goes unresolved are problems to joists below the subfloor. This expensive remediation is necessary as it is a sound part of your home's structural integrity.

REPLACING APPLIANCES

When new bathroom appliances are in the cards, consider upgrading to energy and water efficient options. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, if every household in the country used these efficient fixtures and appliances, more than three trillion gallons of water would be

saved annually. You will also notice a decrease in your electricity expenses as the energy needed to power them is greatly reduced.

To discover these models at your local home improvement store, look for EPA-approved products labeled with a WaterSense certification and electrical appliances will advertise with a EnergyStar label.

ADDING NEW WATER SOURCES

When you are adding additional fixtures or appliances that require new water sources, assistance from a licensed plumber can take away most of the headache. For instance, if you will be upgrading to a double sink or adding a shower to a bathtub, piping must be rerouted and sufficient to supply the new components.