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PRODUCT SHOWCASES: Bathrooms and Fireplaces

picture-perfect POWDER ROOMS

The smallest room in the house is a playground for daring design choices

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PHOTOGRAPHY BY STEPHANI BUCHMAN



Don't let a petite powder room discourage you from being creative; even small spaces deserve a stylish look. The powder room consists of five main essentials: vanity, mirror, lights, toilet and envelope (aka floors and walls).

Sometimes, these essentials are simple at best, mainly white and borderline-boring. However, that doesn't have to be the case. I have decorated many small-scale bathrooms and created a wow-factor by emphasizing luxury with bold colours and eye-catching fixtures.



CHOOSING YOUR VANITY AND FAUCET

The vanity is the first thing you notice when entering the powder room and acts as an anchor. Invest in a nice piece that draws the eye. I often use freestanding vanities to make powder rooms feel more like decorated rooms.

A contemporary, open vanity with a marble base provides lightness. On the other hand, don't be afraid to integrate a repainted, antique vanity into your powder room. Complementary-painted or patterned wallpaper allows even heavier pieces to blend seamlessly into small spaces.

Stand-alone pedestal sinks come in classic or modern designs and are usually less expensive than traditional vanities. However, some pedestal sinks offer very little counter space, making it necessary to include an additional stand-alone table for toiletries.

Consider the faucets: they should be beautiful and striking. Today, faucets are available in many fabulous shapes and finishes. Opt for black, bronze or brass and avoid the everyday standard chrome faucets. Sleek and less elaborate faucets allow an ornate vanity to shine; however, the faucet can also be the crown jewel.

Prior to choosing a faucet, consider whether you're fitting a new faucet on an existing sink or buying a new vanity and sink assembly. Make sure the faucet you choose matches the hole-openings in your sink.



TIPS

A closed cabinet will house your toiletries and hand towels. Use baskets, bins and shelves to store guest amenities in an open cabinet.

Create an element of surprise and wow your guests with a wall-mounted faucet, a trough sink or a fabulous piece of artwork.

Little things like sumptuous hand towels, fresh-cut flowers, and beautiful accessories not only pack a punch but also welcome your guests.



For the average person, hang the mirror 62 to 66 inches from the floor measured from the centre line.



A chandelier or a pair of sconces on either side of the mirror is like jewelry on a dress.

THE RIGHT MIRROR

When decorating your powder room, the mirror should not be an afterthought. It should stand out and act as a design element in the room. Frameless, bevelled or etched mirrors can be stunning in a small space but they are trickier to install.

Framed mirrors are less expensive and easier to hang. Large mirrors or even a wall of mirrors behind the vanity, gives the illusion of more space; whereas, a tiny mirror can make the room appear even smaller. Just make sure when hanging your mirror that it's hung to accommodate all heights.

THE ENVELOPE

A small powder room is the perfect place for adding wallpaper that creates a visual impact, as it adds drama to a small space. Don't be afraid to use dark, bright, or even busy wallpaper; it will create a mood and set the tone. Just remember to choose paper that complements and enhances the style of your vanity and fixtures.

The powder room is usually the smallest room in the house but it will often experience the most traffic. Granite, marble, ceramic and slate are popular choices that offer an upscale look. You might also choose to run the same hardwood from the hall into the powder room for a more unified flow.

LIGHTING YOUR SPACE

Powder rooms are generally tucked into hallways without natural light. Consider a ceiling fixture and sconces. The appropriate lighting adds sparkle and shine.

A chandelier or a pair of sconces on either side of the mirror is like jewelry on a dress. Go ahead and choose lighting that's a little more flamboyant or prettier than what you might choose for the main bathroom. Keep in mind, the lighting should match the style of the room.

The scale of your powder room might be smaller but that doesn't mean you can't make a bold statement. Unleash your imagination. The powder room is the perfect place to be daring with design. ♦

SOURCES

ALL BATHROOMS Mirrors: renwil.com **Cabinetry:** somersetkitchens.com
Accessories, Towels, Decor: homesense.ca, gingers.com **Lighting/Chandeliers:** royallighting.com **Faucets, Sinks:** gingers.com



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