

Customize your bathroom vanity for a personal look

By Jill Sell

The bathroom is the most personal place in a home. So why shouldn't the vanity reflect the homeowner? Manufacturers are offering more choices in vanity tops and cabinets than ever before. Gone are the days when one look fits all.

The bathroom is often the first room that new owners of a home want to change. This is one room where you don't want to skimp on vanity material or workmanship due to the potentially damaging moisture factor. Good choices for vanity tops always include marble, granite and onyx.

The new Stephen Collection from The Furniture Guild's Signature Series is an upscale example of vanities with many customizable options. The collection offers 14 cabinet finishes and a choice of stone tops. Finishes include China Red or Sable for a contemporary look, a Robin Egg's Blue for an Arts and Crafts inspiration, and others.

Vanity sizes range from a single 20-inch model designed for a powder room to a 72-inch double vanity with a set of

drawers in the middle that is suitable for a larger master bath.

The Furniture Guild is known for its built-in optional accessories, which include a hair dryer/curling iron kit, internal power outlet, automatic LED lighting, and laundry hamper. Matching linen towers and mirrors are also available.

Taking the idea of a custom vanity to its most creative level means one-of-a-kind furniture for the bath. If a homeowner really wants a special vanity, it takes some planning and a professional cabinetmaker, carpenter, or a really good do-it-yourselfer. Consider a vintage dressing table, small chests of drawers, or even desks which can be fitted with plumbing and a vanity top. For a more modern look, consider two unadorned end or coffee tables stacked on top of each other. Use the lower table to hold towels or personal grooming items.

Remember that the fit of the plumbing and vanity top must be perfect or you may ruin a perfectly good piece of old furniture. Consider the height of the



The Stephen Collection from the Furniture Guild's Signature Series is available in Sable and 13 other finishes.

vanity and materials. A wood veneer, for example, may separate in a humid bathroom.

Think about the potential reaction of the next buyer of your home if you don't plan on staying there long. It may take a special buyer who doesn't mind that the

powder room vanity cabinet is really an old wine barrel. On the other hand, that unique vanity made from a tree trunk may just sell the house.

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