

# Award



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The Rivana faucet collection.



# Go With The Flow

## Plumbing products in 2022 bring some fun back into the world

by LAURIE JONES



The Brizo Kitchen Collection faucet.

**M**anufacturers of plumbing products, from baths and decorative faucets to kitchen spray heads, are all bringing the latest designs and technology to the forefront, giving builders and interior designers a plethora of options.

### FAUCETS

The Rivana faucet collection by Blanco Canada unites form and function to deliver powerful performance with modern aesthetics. A geometrical square base playfully transitions into a round spout with a streamlined pull-down spray head, blending organic shapes with ergonomic function. Inspired by Art Deco design, the full Rivana family features styles in semi-professional, high arc and bar, plus a co-ordinating soap dispenser.

“When it comes to the kitchen, you should never compromise on the quality of your sink, faucet, and accessories,” says Edyta Drutis, director, brand and communications, North America. “These three components are seamlessly integrated to create the Blanco Unit, a smart solution to transform the way you drink, prep, and clean.”

The Rivana faucets are available in Chrome, PVD Steel, and will debut Satin Gold and Matte Black finishes in Spring 2022. “This versatile faucet, combined with our durable sinks and smart accessories, creates the perfect semi-pro Blanco Unit for passionate home chefs,” says Drutis.

With bold faucets and ergonomic accessories, the semi-pro Blanco Unit is designed with home chefs in mind to streamline prep. Inspired by faucets used in professional, commercial kitchens, Blanco’s semi-professional faucets include state-of-the-art details, such as powerful pressure sprayers, flexible spring coils, and magnetic docking arms.

Adding to the growing range of intelligent plumbing products, the Kohler touchless bathroom faucet incorporates embedded sensors and a remote puck that makes a retrofit simple and an easy add-on to any Kohler single control bathroom faucet. Users will enjoy the hands-free activation as they complete their bathroom routines and avoid potentially spreading bacteria or germs.

On the commercial side, Kohler’s Purist wall-mount touchless faucet features Insight technology and 8-¼-inch, 35-degree spout that is eye-catching. Also in this line is the Geometric, Sculpted, and the Gooseneck design models, all touchless and incorporating the same technology for accurate and consistent operation. The adaptive infrared sensors gather and analyze the surrounding area upon installation, calibrating to filter false triggers and optimize operation.

For decades, people have been purchasing water in bottles, installing filters in their existing plumbing, or having it delivered in multi-litre bottles, ready to be mounted on the latest dispenser. Add to that the option of creating sparkling water from tap water, with syrup added from major brands.

But the latest option from Grohe offers all three (minus the syrups) for refreshing water at home or the office with the Grohe Blue Chilled and Sparkling 2.0 faucet. Marlon Thompson, leader of brand marketing at Lixil

Canada says, “The Grohe Blue system combines sleek, stylish design with the convenience of filtered, still, or sparkling water at home without the hassle of bottled water – and no compromises on taste or health.”

The pull-out head from the faucet allows for filling large pitchers and cleaning the sink much faster. Another internal feature of this system is the inner waterways. “Inside the tap, the filtered water never comes into contact with anything that could affect the clean, pure taste,” says Thompson.

The five-step filtration process leaves important minerals in place, while filtering out particles of all sizes, including chlorine, lime scale, and heavy metals.

Masco Canada has introduced its Jason Wu for Brizo Kitchen Collection faucets with streamlined aesthetics for upscale looks in any décor. With a white finish, the pull-down prep faucets are available in a number of styles including Square Spout and Arc Spout, both of which can be paired with three handle options – Matte White, Brilliance Polished Nickel, or Guyana Teak for a natural look.

Delta’s Trinsic VoiceIQ single-handle pull-down Kitchen Faucet with Touch2O Technology pairs with home devices such as Alexa or Google Assist to give exactly the amount of water the user needs, such as one cup, six ounces, a gallon, or any other measure. It can record custom container commands like coffee pot or dog bowl.

Activation of the Trinsic faucet is done by touching the spout or handle, with a finger or forearm. Also built into the faucet is the Delta TempSense LED light that changes colour to alert users of water temperature and eliminate possible discomfort. A further factor in high-end technology for the Trinsic faucet is the powerful Delta MagnaTite Docking system; the faucet spray wand can be pulled to the precise spot, then locked back in place when not in use.

### BATHTUBS & SHOWERS

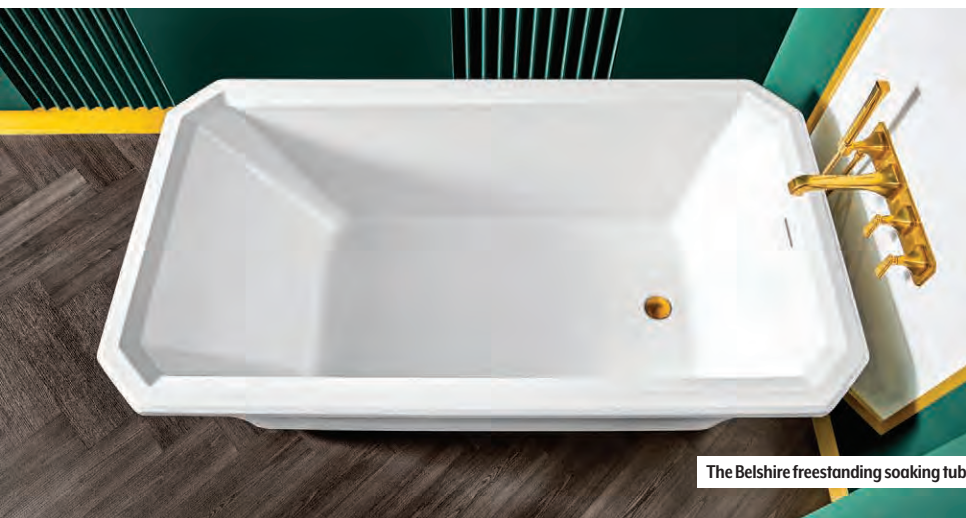
Julie Metras, marketing operations co-ordinator at BainUltra notes the Celestia 6233 freestanding soaker tub continues to be a favourite among customers who enjoy bathing time in luxurious surroundings. “The simple silhouette is purely stunning, with gentle curves and subtle waves that make this tub a true artistic masterpiece,” she says.

The Celestia offers a softly feminine aesthetic that is also dramatic and powerful. Its sculpture-like composition perfectly incorporates BainUltra’s signature comfort and ergonomics to create a luxurious bathing experience that is out of this world. Making the Celestia even more extraordinary is the fact that this tub is the first to be offered in FineStone, the brand’s new high-quality solid surface material that pushes the limits of design and technology. “Comprised of refined minerals and pure liquid acrylic, FineStone offers a new level of design possibilities,” Metras explains. “The exceptional insulation properties keeps bathwater warm longer, and the material is extremely durable.” The light, colour resistant finish has a non-porous surface that is naturally hygienic and easy to clean.

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY BLANCO CANADA; MASCO CANADA

A distinctly serene offering from Kohler is the Stillness Bath, inspired by the Japanese forest bathing, or shinrin-yoku. Unlike most tubs, the Stillness Bath fills from the bottom, then overflows into a Hinoki wood moat, creating the soothing sound of trickling water. The signature chromotherapy lighting sets a relaxing mood and essential oils finish the spa-like experience.

The Belshire freestanding soaking tub from DXV brings a new level of style to luxury bathrooms. “The Belshire tub is ideal for homeowners looking to create a spa-like experience with its sophisticated Art Deco style and a gently sloped interior that adds support for soaking in 16-inches of serene, soothing comfort,” says Marlon Thompson, leader of brand marketing at Lixil Canada.



The Belshire freestanding soaking tub.

Featuring comfortable lumbar support, this stylish tub has an 81-gallon (307 L) capacity with levelling feet included. The unique, faceted design gives a clean finish to the already elegant selection.

The new DoloMatte material from MTI Baths has quickly become very popular; so popular, in fact, that the company has opted to expand its initial offering to now encompass most tubs in their Designer Collection, including drop-ins, undermounts, and Sculpted Finish tubs.

DoloMatte has a distinctive snowy colour, incredible tactile surface, and on-trend matte finish that creates a pristine space that feels fresh, elegant, and calming.

The thermoformed material is unique in its moldability and preparation process, which includes hand-finishing to create a velvety texture. DoloMatte is crafted from a thick, U.S.-made slab of solid-surface specialty polymers blended with ground minerals. The result is an easy-to-clean, non-porous surface that is highly resistant to impact, scratches, stains, mould, mildew, and UV damage.

DoloMatte joins other fine materials offered by MTI for bath fixtures: its signature Sculpture Stone, Mineral Composite, and Acrylic CXL.

## WASHING STATIONS

Bradley Corp.’s newest model of its award-winning WashBar Series delivers Bradley’s exclusive touch-free clean+rinse+dry functionality along with an ultra-modern, edgier profile designed to make a statement in upscale commercial washroom applications.

“Now more than ever, touch-free handwashing technologies like WashBar are at the forefront of limiting the spread of germs in public restrooms,” says Kris Alderson, senior marketing manager, Bradley Corp. “The next generation WashBar combines touchless hygienic handwashing with a new iconic-looking profile featuring a thin, L-shaped design that gives the feeling that the all-in-one fixture is floating above the sink for an innovative and sleek aesthetic.” Alderson explains that with only one connection point to the sink, the unique design provides more open space for cleaning, while providing a striking design element. “Its super slim angular shape – complemented by its flat top surface – reflects modern architecture and interior design.”

This modern WashBar combines touch-free soap, water, and dryer in a durable chrome-plated cast alloy fixture featuring LED lighting to visually orient the user through handwashing with easy-to-identify icons on top of the bar.

Bradley has added five new beautiful PVD finishes to its popular Washbar series. Finish options include Brushed Black Stainless, Brushed Nickel, Brushed Stainless, Brushed Brass, and Brushed Bronze, as well as Polished Chrome, which is the original finish for the series. “Whether the washroom design calls for traditional or modern styling – or polished or matte effect – all six finishes improve design flexibility, adding the perfect finishing touch to any washroom,” she says.

PHOTOGRAPHY COURTESY JENNINGS & COMPANY; LIXIL



The Bradley WashBar Series.

## TOILETS

The Studio Touchless Right Height Elongated toilet from American Standard features a fully skirted contemporary design that suits most bathrooms. A slow wave of the hand, 1.5 inches from the sensor, activates a powerful Cadet flush. The compact, 2.5-inch sensor module can be installed on a wall within three feet of the toilet or on top of toilet tank.

The hands-free operation provides for a more hygienic bathroom, however, a manual flush option is available in the event that batteries need replacing. The 16.5-inch chair height of the toilet, combined with the elongated seat makes for a comfortable bathroom experience.

The EverClean double-coated finish inhibits the growth of stain and odour-causing bacteria, mould and mildew on the surface, and the lift-off cover makes for easy cleaning.

With a simple yet elegant design style, Kohler offers the Innate Intelligent toilet, part of the company’s collection of intelligent products.

The affordable price belies the upscale features, such as a heated seat, auto open and close, and intuitive remote. A big benefit for homeowners looking for DIY projects, the Innate toilet offers Kohler’s ready-lock installation.



The Studio Touchless Right Height Elongated toilet.

## MORE INNOVATIONS & COMPANY UPDATES

The research and development experts at Maax have launched a next-level safety product for shower doors. GlassShield features an added layer of protection to the tempered glass security features, bonded directly and permanently into the panel, which provides a more effective retention of glass fragments in a rare case of breakage. Exceeding standard requirements, GlassShield was tested for long-term usage from chemicals to soft abrasive products.

There is no need to use an abrasive product on the surface since the Lotus Easy clean glass treatment is subsequently applied to the glass, therefore preserving the clear and shine of the glass.

And if there’s any more proof needed that this industry is still strong, just look to Ipex, which, as a critical part of its North American growth strategy and customer service focus, has expanded its warehousing and distribution capabilities. The newest distribution centre is in Charlotte, North Carolina, and is now fully operational. This new distribution centre follows the company’s other strategic openings across North America.

The new Charlotte facility is more than 200,000 square feet, nearly doubling the company’s warehouse space in the region. To ensure world-class safety practices, all new Ipex facilities will incorporate industry-leading health and safety best practices and technologies. Scanning and material handling equipment, and forklift and pedestrian safety equipment are all being evaluated for installation in the new year.

“At Ipex we place the customer at the centre of all of our decisions, and expansion in key markets to bring products closer to them is one of the ways we continue to deliver an exceptional experience,” says Alex Mestres, Ipex’s CEO. “Our new facility will be equipped with industry-leading technology to help us better serve our customers and ensure the health and safety of our employees.”