

How to light the bathroom right

YANIC SIMARD

THE DESIGN FEED



we view ourselves in the mirror can make or break our mood for the morning, I think it's worth the effort to get the light right.

Here's my top five ways to fill out your lighting scheme, for a layered look you'll appreciate on so many levels.

Potlight planning

If your bathroom already has a few potlights (even just one), you're off to a good

The bathroom, despite being a room we typically visit every day, is often overlooked by homeowners eager to invest in the more obvious living spaces, such as the family room or kitchen.

However, seeing as the way

start. However, it's important to realize that a single overhead light source is probably not optimal, especially for a primary bathroom where you typically shave, apply make-up, or otherwise perform tasks that need bright and even light without harsh shadows.

Tip: A grid of lights in at least two rows is ideal, bringing light closer to the edges and balancing out shadows (on a dimmer if possible to control the mood). Also, don't forget to include a light in your shower/tub area if possible!

Sconces secrets

Sconces can be beautiful themselves, while also helping you look your best when you start your day by bringing a light source that will wash your face (no pun intended) in a direct glow.

Tip: To place sconces, first check the centreline of your mirrors. If this centre is around or above eye level, use this same line for the centre of the light part of the fixture, i.e. where the bulb will hang once installed.

If the centreline is a little low, place them about 65" (aiming for 2/3-3/5 of the way up the mirror). In a compact space, you can place a sconce above or on top of the mirror instead, centred just overhead, using a twin-bulb fixture to keep the lighting soft and even.

Pendant power

A fun alternative to installing sconces for functional vanity lighting is to hang a pair of pendants instead. This is especially effective over large single-pane mirrors that are already installed without access for wiring, as the lights can simply dangle in front for a functional yet elegant solution.

Tip: A bathroom — especially a powder room — is a smart place to use a small chandelier to make a big room-defining statement. Choose a style that emits a soft glow rather than shadowy lighting, and let the piece create a beautiful focal point every time you or your guests enter.

Lantern lights

Besides the hardwired lighting in a bathroom, consider all the other fixtures and accessories you can add for a bal-

anced sense of brightness. A pair of lanterns on your vanity (candle-lit or battery powered) or one nestled near the tub can add an extra layer of light coming from a low angle to balance out other sources. Look to my cage-like Yanic Simard Selected Wire Husk Lantern for a contemporary option.

Tip: A table or even floor lamp can also add a surprising and inviting touch to the bathroom, making it feel less like a functional space and more like part of the whole home. Be sure to use a water-safe fixture, such as a battery powered table lamp in translucent plastic for a fun mod vibe.

Window watch

Love the natural glow from a window, but don't want to give up on privacy? One option is to use frosted glass, or a cling-on semi-transparent film for a faux-frosting effect. Recently you can find products at hardware stores which will spray on an even more realistic, frosting-like (but non-etching) film, which can then be taken off later to reset the window before you move out or redecorate.

Tip: For a fabric treatment, try a stretched-fabric screen rather than a curtain (like I used in singer Matt Dusk's bathroom), for a clean but welcoming look that still allows the window to open fully when privacy isn't a concern.

For more illuminating inspiration visit tidg.ca/interiors, and don't forget to share your bright bathroom ideas with me on Twitter and Instagram @yanicsimard!

Hot Product: Check out Lumi Design for their illuminated mirrors in many different shapes and sizes — perfect for a bath space

Quick Bites

1. If possible use a grid of potlights balanced with secondary sources (and a dimmer system).
2. Hang sconces at eye-level (average 60-65") for effective vanity lighting.
3. Try a pair of pendants as a stylish sconce alternative, and consider a statement chandelier!
4. Use lamps or lanterns to round out the scheme for the most even lighting look.
5. Skip the drapery and let a screen or window film filter

light in and eyes out.

And don't forget: It's safest to use a qualified electrician, especially for bathroom lighting.

— Yanic Simard is the principal designer of the

award-winning Toronto Interior Design Group (tidg.ca) and regular TV design expert on CITY's Cityline. Check out his accessory line at **YANIC SIMARD SELECTED** at www.yselected.com.



It's worth the effort to get the light right — Lumi Design



Keep lighting soft and even — photo by Brandon Barre



Love the natural glow of a window — Lumi Design.



Pendant lighting is a fun alternative - photo by Ted Yarwood.