

A SEASONAL SANCTUARY

Get your bathroom guest-ready in time for Christmas with these quick fixes and easy updates



There's so much to think about in the run-up to Christmas that it's easy to forget about the bathroom. If you're having family or friends over during the festive season, not only do you want your downstairs loo to be on best behaviour but you might like to smarten up the main bathroom too, especially if your guests are staying the night. Unless you're already in the middle of a full refit, this is probably not the best time to be switching out sanitaryware. However, our high-impact, low-effort ideas will help you give your bathroom a refresh without spending too much time or money. Pick one or more quick fixes for a boutique bathroom you can't wait to show off!

Carpe Diem wallpaper in Pink, Red and Ivory, £48 per roll, Lust Home

ADD STATEMENT WALLPAPER

Give the cloakroom instant wow factor by papering a feature wall with a striking design. This print features a swirling pink pool of ivory koi carp along with accents of red – great for making an impact in a small space. It's also a paste-the-wall design, making it super-easy to hang.

Feature Hayley Gilbert

HANG A NEW BLIND

Installing a new window blind may sound like a hassle, but it's a really quick way to give the bathroom a fresh new look and, if you choose a no-drill option, it's even simpler. You can upgrade many designs on Blinds 2go's website – browse the Click2Go options, which don't involve any tools or drilling.



Roman blind in Oasis Stripe Naturals, from £23.55, Blinds 2go

Floorpops Comet self-adhesive floor tiles, £16 for 10, Dunelm



REFRESH YOUR FLOORING

If your floor tiles have seen better days, you can quickly lay a new design on top with these attractive peel-and-stick designs. You don't need to remove existing tiles, use special tools or even add grout. The sticky back should be enough but, if you wish, you can always use some spray glue for extra adhesion. They are water-resistant and each tile measures 305 x 305mm.

6 HIGH-IMPACT BATHROOM ACCESSORIES



Painted Cutout Flowers print in Pink, 21 x 30cm, £14.50, Ink & Drop

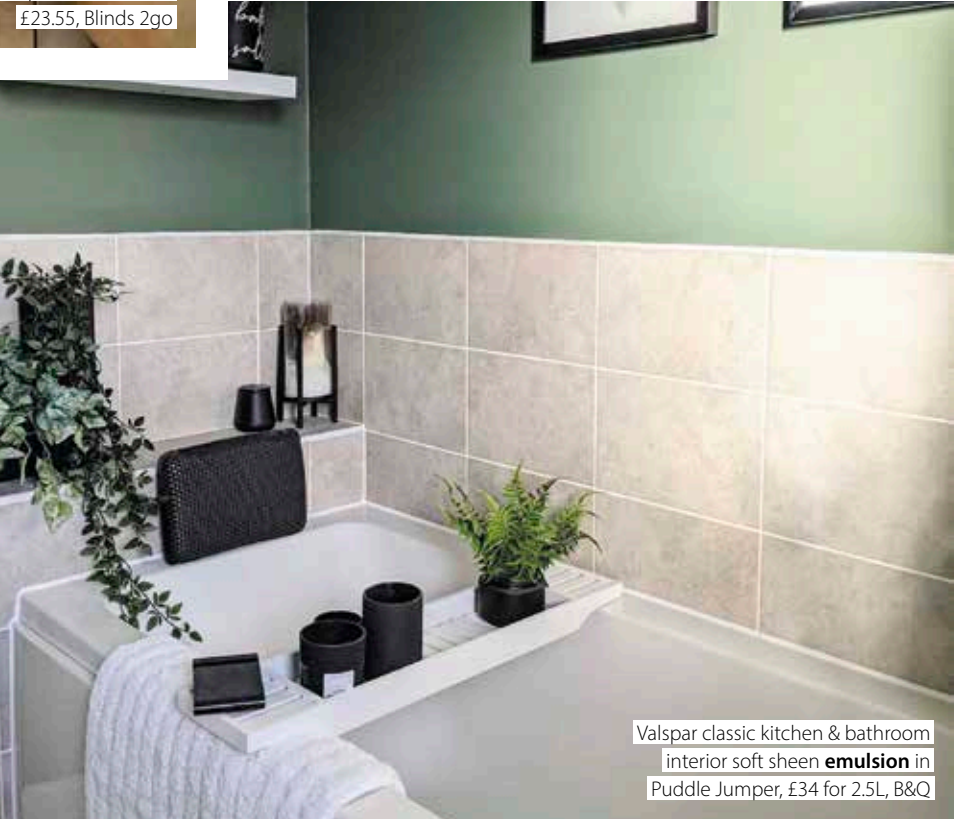
Baylis & Harding The Fuzzy Duck Winter Wonderland luxury hand care gift set, £10, Boots

Medium round metal hanging wall planter, 30cm, £22.99, Homesapes

Blue Wave glass toothbrush holder, £12.50, Oliver Bonas

Multicoloured hand towels, £16.99, TK Maxx

Christmas soap on a rope in Amélie with French pink clay, £12.99, The Vely Soapery



Valspar classic kitchen & bathroom interior soft sheen emulsion in Puddle Jumper, £34 for 2.5L, B&Q

PAINT THE WALLS

Give walls a fresh lick of paint to revive a tired or dated scheme. Choose a soothing shade such as dark green and tie it in with potted and hanging plants, framed foliage, fern prints and green accessories. This paint is stain-resistant, scrubbable and inhibits mould and moisture, making it ideal for steamy bathrooms.

BE CREATIVE WITH COLOUR

Add colourful elements to create instant impact that's practical, too. Opt for a cabinet in a punchy pastel or bold shade to store towels and toiletries if you have space. Alternatively, think fun and functional with brightly coloured baskets, caddies, over-door hooks and corner shelves.

Mustard Made Shorty
locker in Berry, £139,
Rose & Grey



REPLACE THE MIRROR

Make sure guests can look their best, day and night, with an illuminated mirror. This design is compact enough for cloakrooms, as well as smaller bathrooms, and is battery-operated, so it doesn't need to be wired in. It comes fully assembled with wall mounted fittings.

Emielia battery-
operated illuminated
LED cloakroom **mirror**,
600 x 400mm, £89.99,
Bathroom Mountain



From tired...

... to refreshed!
V33 renovation
wall tile &
panelling **paint**
in Cotton, £27 for
750ml, B&Q

PAINT WALL TILES

If your wall tiles are less than impressive, give them a whole new look with specialist tile paint. This one requires minimal prep as it doesn't need an undercoat. Application is easy too, as you can use it on tiles and grout and it won't flake. It has a built-in waterproof barrier and is available in six shades.



Pretty Posy **hand towel**, £5; Popcorn **towels**,
from £6 for a hand towel; Bauble **soap dispenser**, £6;
Bauble **trinket dish**, £5; Bauble **bath mat**, £12; Black **candle**
holder, £14 for 3, all Stacey Solomon for George Home

UPDATE YOUR ACCESSORIES

Turn your bathroom into a cosy sanctuary with a few special touches. Look for seasonal accessories such as toothbrush holders, soap dishes, bath mats and towels. We love the latest At Home with Stacey Solomon range from George Home with its warm textures, dark tones and vintage-inspired pieces.

PROVIDE EXTRA STORAGE

Give guests somewhere to pop their overnight things by bringing in some extra freestanding storage. A tallboy with shelves concealed behind doors is ideal, while fresh towels in pretty prints can be left on display, folded neatly.



Heritage Caversham
freestanding **tallboy** in
Maritime Blue, £684,
Sanctuary Bathrooms

3 DESIGN TIPS FROM THE EXPERTS

This month's pro designers are all members of the British Institute of Interior Design. Here are their top tips

Best for...

modern bathrooms

'A quick way to refresh a modern bathroom is by focusing on small, high-impact details. Crisp white towels – or ones that pick up the tones of your tiles or walls – instantly elevate the space. Floating shelves or slim wall-mounted cabinets with pull-out baskets or trays can make storage feel more considered, almost like bespoke joinery. An antique mirror or a piece of art adds character, while swapping out cabinet handles for warm metals gives an instant update. I also love using a sheer Roman blind to soften the light and add texture. And do not underestimate the power of finishing touches – a scented candle, elegant hand soap and a single eucalyptus stem in a vase can transform the mood completely.'

Claudia Ludwig, interior designer and owner of Claudia Ludwig Design



Best for... **vintage-style bathrooms**

'Simple and effective ways of updating a vintage bathroom include changing the wall colour and adding battery-powered, antique-style wall lights either side of a mirror above the vanity basin (we love Pooky designs with an Alice Palmer shade resting on top). To complete the look, add a new mirror and some vintage artwork in a frame from Etsy.'

Lauren Caisley, founder and creative director, Caisley



Best for... **cloakrooms**

'Cloakrooms are the perfect places to be bold. We love layering textures, embracing rich palettes, daring wallpapers, bespoke joinery and statement lighting. Panelling adds depth, while flamboyant lighting creates drama. A budget-friendly option is to use a mirror you wouldn't usually find here. Since it's a small space, luxury finishes can be used affordably, making it ideal for a quick refresh.'

Manuela Hamilford, founder and creative director, Hamilford Design

