

Remodel Your Shower Easily

If you know what to expect, shower remodeling projects are much less intimidating. Bathrooms are the second-most expensive room in the house to remodel, with only the kitchen costing more. The biggest factor for cost is the fixtures and finishes. Your choices for these materials has a big influence on the price of your project.

As an example, a standard good quality toilet such as Kohler "Wellworth" sells for about \$130 (at a retail warehouse store) for the bowl, tank, supply line, shutoff, and seat. Kohler also manufactures a one piece toilet called the "Gabrielle" that sells for about \$542 (available in colors at contractor price without seat and hardware) for the toilet alone. Tub enclosures have three fundamentals options of materials: cultured marble, Corian, and tile.

Plumbing fixtures such as a bathroom faucet can sell anywhere from \$29.95 to well over \$500 for one fixture! Tile and natural stone can run from \$.79 a square foot (don't even consider buying that stuff) to more than \$8. The prices included below contain good quality, but not the highest end fixtures and finishes. Please keep in mind that these are estimated prices, and pricing can vary anywhere from 10 # 50 percent depending on your particular situation and location.

Standard Bathroom Remodel

This standard remodel would include an approximately eight by five foot bathroom, taking out everything and replacing it all. For a standard bathtub, 36 to 48 inches vanity, cultured marble shower enclosure and top, tile flooring, toilet, mirror, plumbing fixtures and medicine cabinet would cost roughly \$7,500, plus tax. Add about \$1500 to add on a tile surround, or about \$2,000 to upgrade to a Corian shower and top.

Master Bathroom Remodel

This master bath remodel would include an approximately 12 by eight foot bathroom removing everything and replacing, possibly in new locations. For a large tub or shower and 72 to 84 inches vanity, shower enclosure and top, plumbing fixtures, tile on the floor, toilet, mirror, cultured marble tub deck, and medicine cabinets, the cost would be around \$14,500, plus tax. Throw in an additional \$2,500 to upgrade to a tile surround and deck, or about \$3,000 to install Corian.

Standard Tub and Vanity Top Replacement

This replacement would entail tearing out the tub and surround down to bare studs. To replace the tub, install new cultured marble surround and matching top, new shower valve and lavatory faucets, new custom shower door would cost roughly \$3,900, plus including tax. Add another \$1000 to upgrade to a tile surround, or about \$1,500 to use Corian.

Standard Tub to Walk-In Shower and Top Replacement

This upgrade and replacement would include everything as above, but instead relocating the shower drain to center and change to a two inch waste line, adding a custom shower floor or pan and installing a 71 inch custom shower door for around \$4,900, not including tax. The budget would expand about \$2,000 to upgrade to a tile surround, or about \$2,500 to upgrade to Corian.

Tub / Shower Combination for a Large Walk-In Shower

This remodel replacement involves removing the existing tub/shower combination and replacing it with a large cultured marble shower with glass block partition wall and open entry for about \$11,500, plus tax. Add approximately \$2,500 to upgrade to a tile surround, or about \$3,000 to upgrade to Corian.

Of course, these prices can vary due to your specific situation and location, but this will at least give you an idea of basic ballpark prices. Check with your local contractors to see if they are licensed and view their complaint record. If they are licensed, request to see a certificate of insurance for liability and workers compensation policies listing YOU as the certificate holder.

Always look into references. Contact at least three previous customers and ask questions about the contractor's performance. Who performed the work? How effective was the communication? Did they stick to a deadline? Did they offer a detailed contract? Did they satisfy your expectations?

Don't spend your money unless you know what to expect!