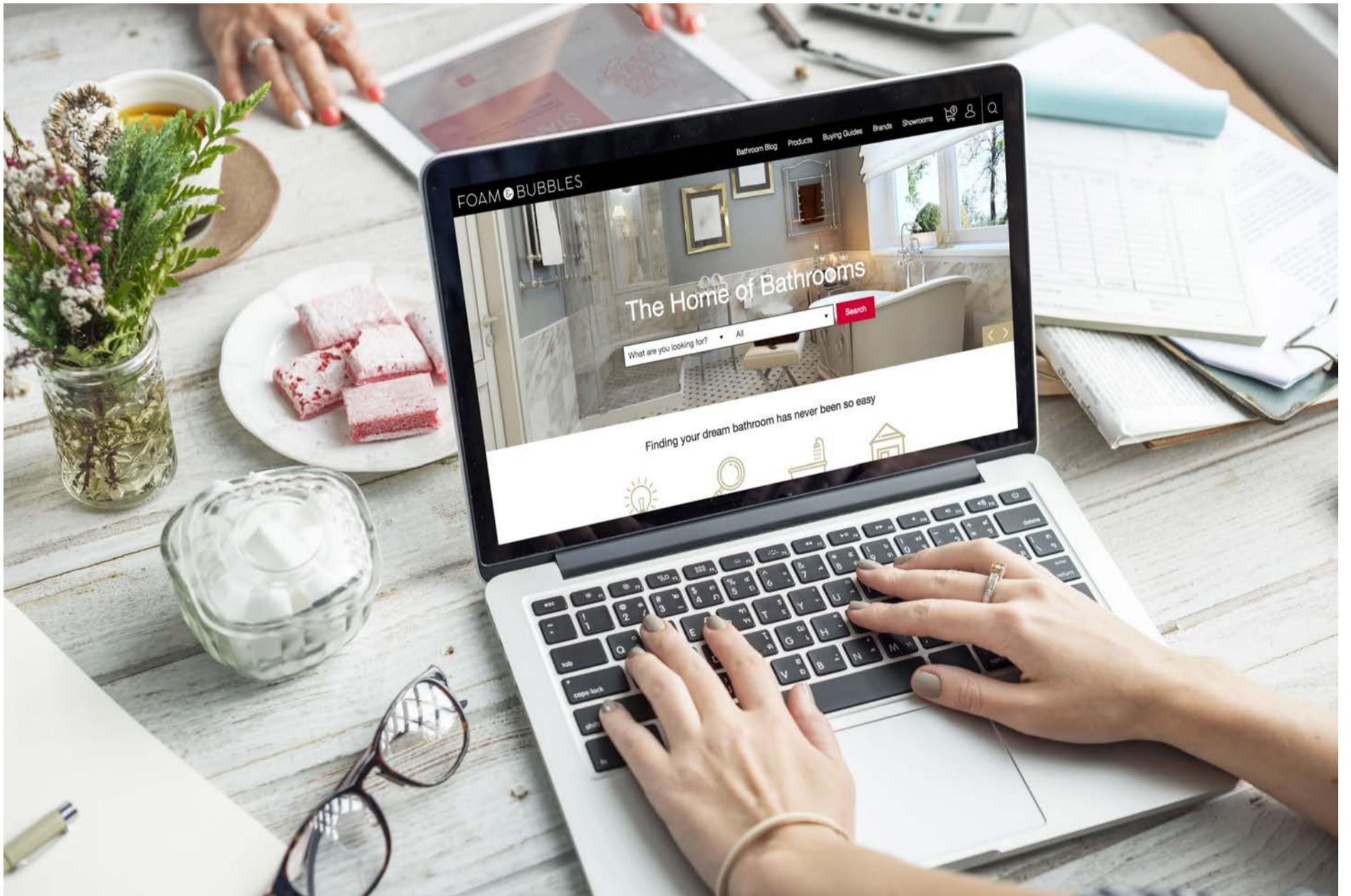


# FOAM & BUBBLES

THE HOME OF BATHROOMS



THE ULTIMATE  
**BATHROOM BUYING**  
CHECKLIST

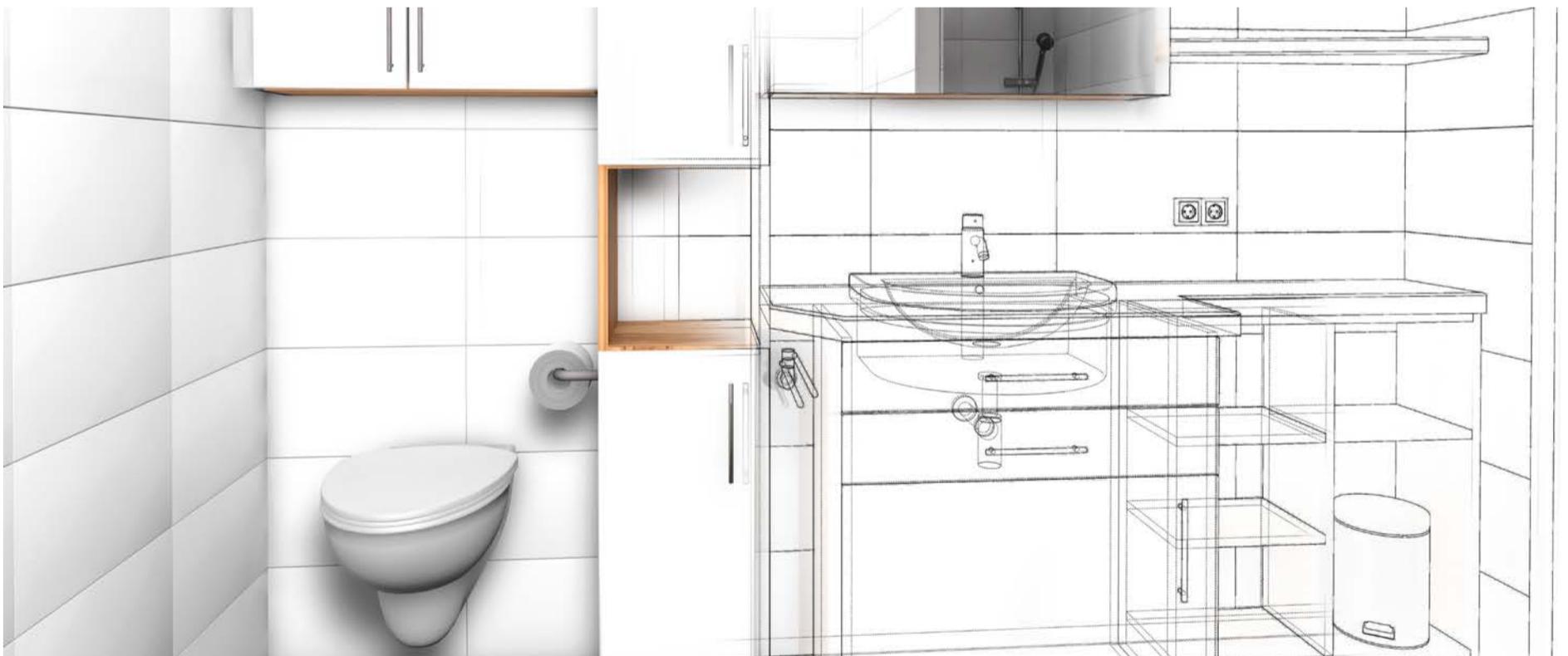
# THE ULTIMATE BATHROOM BUYING CHECKLIST

## WELCOME

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At Foam & Bubbles we know from decades of experience and consumer surveys that starting your bathroom refurbishment can be incredibly daunting and confusing. Not knowing where to start with such an important purchase can put many people off. Recent research revealed that homeowners are uncertain how to start a bathroom refit, with 57% being very unsure and 14% having no idea.

But not to worry! Our easy to follow guide will help you navigate this process and make sure you have considered all of the critical and often overlooked things which go into making your dream bathroom a reality. Follow our step-by-step guide and avoid common pitfalls and concerns by reading our tips and advice.



LOOKING FOR HELP?

**VISIT OUR DESIGN SERVICE**

[design.foamandbubbles.com](https://design.foamandbubbles.com)

# THE ULTIMATE BATHROOM BUYING CHECKLIST

## 1 Bathroom Type

When starting any bathroom renovation, it's important to first establish the scope of the project by deciding on each room type. Each bathroom will have its own considerations in terms of space, budget and plumbing, particularly if it's a completely new space.

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> A family bathroom | <input type="checkbox"/> An ensuite             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A cloakroom       | <input type="checkbox"/> More than one bathroom |

### Most Common Types

- 76% Family bathroom
- 14% Ensuite
- 4% Cloakroom
- 6% More than one bathroom

### Top tip

Remember stunning brochure images are taken in huge bathroom settings so make sure to get real world inspiration from friends, family and hotels too!

## 2 Inspiration

You'll need tonnes of inspiration in order to design your dream bathroom, so why not create a mood board – a scrap book of ideas that includes images, (swatches of fabric) and colour schemes – to inspire your new design?

Have you created an inspirational mood board?

- |                              |                             |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes | <input type="checkbox"/> No |
|------------------------------|-----------------------------|

## 3 Bathroom Styles

There is a huge variety of bathroom styles out there so as you're browsing images try and get an idea of what best represents your personal style, you probably don't fit into just one box!

What is your preferred style?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Modern            | <input type="checkbox"/> Traditional      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Scandinavian      | <input type="checkbox"/> Luxury/Glamorous |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Country/Farmhouse | <input type="checkbox"/> Urban/Industrial |

### Popular Bathroom Styles

- 64% Modern
- 15% Traditional
- 9% Scandinavian
- 6% Luxury/Glamorous
- 4% Country/Farmhouse
- 3% Urban/Industrial

# THE ULTIMATE BATHROOM BUYING CHECKLIST

## 4 Bathroom Goals

It's easy to get carried away during the renovation process and lose focus of what you really wanted in the first place. To make sure you stay on track it's a good idea to write down three things you love and hate about your current bathroom and stick to these improvements above all else.

What do you like/dislike about your existing bathroom?



### Some ideas:

Need more storage space?

Want a freestanding bath?

Want a double basin?

Wish cleaning was easier?

## Advice

When you go to any retailer they will want to know the width, depth and height of your bathroom all in millimetres. They may also want to know if you have a slanting ceiling or where your soil pipe is located which is normally where your current toilet is located.

## 5 Measure Your Space

It's critical to first measure your bathroom before deciding how to best use the space, the biggest mistake people make is trying to do too much with what they have.

Have you measured your bathroom?

Width (mm):      Height (mm):      Depth (mm):

## 6 Budget

It's always hard to budget for a new bathroom but it's important to have a range in mind as you don't want to limit yourself on such an important purchase. The one thing to bear in mind is that the installation of any bathroom is normally as much as the parts and fittings.

Do you have a budget in mind?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> My budget is quite tight                   | <input type="checkbox"/> I have only a rough idea             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I know exactly how much it's going to cost | <input type="checkbox"/> As much as I need to get what I want |

Target budget £\_\_\_\_\_ and Max Budget £\_\_\_\_\_

### Research Shows

Overall the average cost of a **new bathroom** is **£4,900 in the UK**, including fixtures and fittings.

# THE ULTIMATE BATHROOM BUYING CHECKLIST

## Research Shows

# 12 days

is the average amount of time a typical bathroom installation takes.

## 7 Timeframe

People often start thinking about their new bathroom more than 6 months before it's installed. So, think about other building works or life considerations so the installation happens to your schedule, with as little interference as possible.

When would you like the installation to start?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> 1 to 4 weeks           | <input type="checkbox"/> A couple of months    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Between 3 and 6 months | <input type="checkbox"/> Timeframe not set yet |

## 8 Bath or Shower

One of the biggest bathroom design factors is whether or not you have the space to fit a built-in / free-standing bath or shower. So first decide which you'd prefer most, thinking about your living situation and use. Then if the space allows you might be able to have both!

Which core fittings are you after?

- |   |                                 |                                |                                 |
|---|---------------------------------|--------------------------------|---------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bath                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Shower | <input type="checkbox"/> Basin | <input type="checkbox"/> Toilet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Combined bath and shower |                                 |                                |                                 |

## Research Shows

47% of the country would choose the

**bath, 43% the shower.**

Perhaps surprisingly, younger people prefer a bath with the older generation would choose a walk-in shower.

## Top Tip

Taps are a real feature for any bathroom so you want to pay for the extra wow factor! Taps are also the one fitting in the bathroom where you want to buy the best you can afford because it has moving parts which you want to last.

## 9 Taps & Brassware

There are several types of tap to choose from. More traditional bathrooms will have 'pillar' taps which stand alone, whereas mixers combine both hot and cold water through a single spout.

Which core fittings are you after?

- |  |                                      |                                       |
|--|--------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bath/shower combination mixer | <input type="checkbox"/> Bath mixer  | <input type="checkbox"/> Bath pillar  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bath filler                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Basin mixer | <input type="checkbox"/> Basin pillar |

# THE ULTIMATE BATHROOM BUYING CHECKLIST

## 10 Tiles & Textures

Tiles are an important finishing touch which brings the whole bathroom together. There is such a huge choice in terms of material, texture and shape that you can use tiles to achieve any look you like either bold or subtle.

Will you be tiling your new bathroom?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Just the walls       | <input type="checkbox"/> Just the floor                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Both floor and walls | <input type="checkbox"/> No, I'll take a different option |

### Did You Know?

Porcelain tiles are more durable and scratch / stain resistant than ceramic tiles making them ideal for family and hard-wearing bathrooms.

### Top Tip

Storage doesn't have to take up space, if you have any stud walling you can barrow from that to hide your storage behind a mirror or in a recess in the shower for example.

## 11 Storage

One of the most overlooked but important factors in any bathroom is storage because you normally need more than you'd think to keep everything tidy. Think about how important this is to you and how many toiletries you currently have.

How much storage will you need?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Not much – just enough for loo rolls and cosmetics                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Lots – I need to store toiletries, kids' bath toys, loo rolls etc. as well as linen and towels |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Quite a bit – For loo rolls, toiletries, cosmetics and cleaning products |   |

## 12 Lighting

Don't forget to factor lighting into your plans and consider what you need it for and what circuits you want to run. Do you prefer ambient lighting or will you need focused, task lighting to help with makeup for example?

What type of lighting will you be installing?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ceiling lights (Ambient lighting) | <input type="checkbox"/> Wall-fixed (task lighting often around the mirror) |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Accent (subtle lighting)          | <input type="checkbox"/> I'm not sure                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I'm keeping my existing lights    |   |

### Did You Know?

Great care needs to be taken when choosing your lighting as there are strict regulations about the types and placement of lights in bathroom.

# THE ULTIMATE BATHROOM BUYING CHECKLIST

## 13 Accessories

Bathroom accessories provide the final touch and flare that can bring the whole bathroom together. Consider what you need and how the accessories will match the rest of your fittings.

Which bathroom accessories are you looking for to finish the look?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bathroom mirror              | <input type="checkbox"/> Towel rings/ Toilet roll holder, toilet brush, etc. |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Soap dish/ toothbrush holder | <input type="checkbox"/> Baskets and shelves                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I want a full package        | <input type="checkbox"/> I've already got all my accessories                 |

### Remember...

Accessories may be the last thing you pick up after the much bigger items, but no bathroom renovation is complete without them.

### Remember...

Your bathroom needs to be **functional** as well as fabulous. A little long-term planning could **save you thousands in repair costs.**

## 14 Plumbing

Plumbing is the biggest practical consideration in the bathroom and one that needs professional guidance if you are moving any major fittings or installing a completely new bathroom.

Can you use your existing plumbing?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> No, I plan to move around some of my fixtures and will need plumbing | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes, I'm keeping my sanitary ware in the same place |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I may need some help from an expert before I make up my mind         |  |

## 15 Water System

Water systems are key to achieving the bathroom experience you want and a home with low pressure or an inadequate boiler need to be upgraded.

Which of these best describes your water system?

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> There is a tank in my airing cupboard, and it has a pump | <input type="checkbox"/> There is a tank in my airing cupboard, but there is no pump to increase water pressure |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I have a mains pressure tank that stores hot water       | <input type="checkbox"/> I have a combi boiler that gives me instant hot water                                  |

### Did You Know?

The UK has some of the worst water pressure in Europe so think carefully about what systems you need and products you choose.

# THE ULTIMATE BATHROOM BUYING CHECKLIST

## Did You Know?

Underfloor heating is one of the most cost effective ways to heat your home.

## 16 Heating

Warm fluffy towels and a soothing underfloor sensation is the ultimate in any bathroom upgrade so think about what you want most from your heating and what a difference it will make from what you already have!

What do you consider important when it comes to bathroom heating?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fluffy, dry towels                 | <input type="checkbox"/> A nice feeling of toasty warmth throughout the room |
| <input type="checkbox"/> A warm floor that will dry quickly | <input type="checkbox"/> I want the full package!                            |

## 17 Ventilation

From steamed up mirrors to mould secretly taking over your bathroom, it's important to make sure you have the right system in place to properly remove the moisture from the air.

Do you have a window in your bathroom?

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Yes – The room is sufficiently ventilated  | <input type="checkbox"/> Yes – But I am looking for an extractor fan |
| <input type="checkbox"/> No – I'll definitely need an extractor fan |  |

## Did You Know?

A bathroom ventilation system is important, no matter your bathroom size. It's a myth that larger bathrooms don't need a ventilation system.

## Top Tip

Look out for experience as much as accreditations. Make sure you are comfortable with them. Get quotes that cover everything. Establish a payment plan. Ensure there are follow ups after the build.

## 18 Installation

Choosing the right styling and fittings for your bathroom is half the battle and you need to make sure everything is properly installed by a qualified professional to make sure everything works for years to come.

Who will be installing your new bathroom?

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> I've got a quote from a contractor/fitter | <input type="checkbox"/> All taken care of by friends/relatives |
| <input type="checkbox"/> I haven't decided yet                     |   |