



from **ugh**

to *ahhh!*

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knew that to accomplish the Shultzes' goal the project would require removing a built-in closet, the current white and baby blue tile and tub and significantly rearranging the current layout. After presenting the designs, picking colors and talking through the "what ifs," the Bathroom Makeover Team went to work.



We do it all!

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Groff's Bathroom Makeover Team and Groff's Home Comfort Team have served Lancaster, York and Chester counties for more than 20 years providing high efficiency heating and cooling, plumbing and electrical service and repair and bathroom remodeling. For more information, visit us online.

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creating a bathroom you like to look at in the morning

Looking to revive your living space? You're not alone. After a significant slow down, the remodeling industry is positioned for an uptick in 2011, with homeowners across the country and here at home investing in significant home improvement projects like additions and kitchen and bathroom makeovers.

For Groff's Bathroom Makeover Team, there's been a steady stream of bathroom remodeling calls across its service area of Lancaster, York and Chester counties. The jobs span the spectrum, from partial makeovers to complete bathroom overhauls. Among the trends: high-designed vanities, large format tiles for flooring and walls that showcase more tile and fewer grout lines and reinventing an older, smaller bathroom to create a modern, more spacious destination.

Feeling Blue

For the Shultz family of Willow Street, remodeling their 1960-something bathroom wasn't a necessity. There were no leaks, no wall or flooring ailments and the toilet did ... well, what it was designed to do. The issue, simply put, was that the beauty was no longer in the eye of the beholder, and as the only bathroom in the ranch-style home, the Shultzes were feeling a bit cramped.

For the Groff's Bathroom Makeover Team the challenge was two-fold, create a more contemporary look and feel and make the 11' x 6.5' bathroom more spacious, without actually adding square footage. After considering the options with the Shultzes, Ray Kauffman, Groff's Bathroom Consultant and Designer,





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8 Days to Total Transformation

While the project was slated to take just eight days, having only one bathroom can make that eight long days. To make life bearable for the Shultzes, the Groff's team created a schedule and a plan to minimize disruptions and to make sure the family had a working toilet and bathtub at the end of each day throughout most of the process—a standard Kauffman says he sets for all projects.

Being handy and wanting to minimize expenses, the Shultzes handled the initial demolition work on their own, removing the existing tile, plaster walls, linen closet and flooring. When the Groff's team arrived on January 31, the room, down to its studs, was ready for its transformation.

Day 1

After removing the existing tub and vanity, the Groff's team tackled the re-working of the plumbing, installing new drain and water lines to the tub/shower and installing a new 60" x 30" fiberglass Lasco tub. By the end of day one, the Shultzes had running water and a working tub for bathing.

Days 2 – 4

Electric and drywall were next. The Groff's team re-worked the existing electrical circuits, roughed-in the recessed lighting above the vanity and a new fan/light unit to sit above the tub's new location. After wrapping up the drywall, the new flooring underlayment was put into place.

Days 5 – 6

On to the flooring and walls. The Shultzes selected 16" x 16" taupe DuraCeramic tiles with ivory grout for the floor and complementary cultured marble shower walls and vanity top in almond granite with black and white vein. Using the larger tiles with fewer grout lines gave the bathroom a more airy, contemporary feel. The Shultzes also selected widespread faucet fixtures (8" apart) in brushed nickel, giving the vanity the same trendy, high-end look.

Day 7 – 8

Finishing touches. The end is in sight, as Groff's Bathroom Makeover Team moved the wooden linen cabinet into place, installed the crown molding, trim for the windows and doors and hooked up the vanity faucet and shower trim. After installing the medicine cabinet and new cabinet hardware, the job was complete. All that was left was painting and hanging the wainscoting, both of which were handled by the Shultzes.

Even though the Shultzes were involved in the remodeling, having a contractor capable of handling all aspects of the project offered great peace-of-mind. "Having one company with the skills to handle all aspects of the job was great. The team worked well together and kept us informed," said Erma Shultz. "Working with Groff's made it easy. I have already recommended them to a friend."

Where to Start

Knowing what you want is only half the battle. Choosing the right bathroom remodeling contractor can make the difference between a successful project and one plagued with post-remodeling issues. Hiring one contractor who can handle the whole job—from design and drywall to electric and plumbing—not only streamlines the project, but can also result in fewer headaches for the homeowner. Before you hire your contractor consider the following suggestions.

1. Make sure you hire a contractor licensed to do work in Pennsylvania. The Home Improvement Consumer Protection Act requires all contractors who perform \$5,000 or more of home improvements per year register with the Attorney General's office. You can verify the license by calling the AG's hotline at 1-888-520-6680.
2. Check references and ask to see samples of completed projects, which are similar in scope.
3. Hiring a remodeling contractor that offers turnkey services can streamline the process and reduce on-site problems. If you chose a contractor who subcontracts the work, ask for a list of subs he plans to use and their license status.

4. Look for a contractor who offers free estimates.
5. Look for a contractor who makes you feel comfortable. Do they really listen? Do they offer you options on how to accomplish your remodeling goals?
6. Ask for and review the written contract.

Remodeling your bathroom is a big investment. Doing your homework to find the right contractor is the first step in helping you get the bathroom of your dreams. Good luck.

R&A

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From a simple vanity top to creating an elegant getaway in your home, Groff's Bathroom Makeover Team has the expertise to make your bathroom remodeling dreams a reality.



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