



# step by step: bathrooms



## step by step: regROUT your tiles

Regrouting can totally rejuvenate an old tiled area. But even more importantly, over time grout in old bathrooms can loosen, allowing water to get behind your tiles.

Regrouting is cheaper than retiling and it's a DIY project anyone can handle.

- 1 Remove the old grout**  
Remove loose grout using a toothed carbide grit-edge cutting blade. The angled handle means you can apply heavy pressure where needed.
- 2 Clean up**  
When all loose grout is removed, vacuum to get rid of all the dust and then wash the surface with a solution of water and white vinegar.
- 3 RegROUT the tiles**  
Mix your new grout. It should be the consistency of toothpaste - detailed instructions will be included with your product. Sweep a rubber float or squeegee diagonally across the tiles to push grout into the gaps. Leave it to set for 30 minutes then use a damp sponge and clean water to wipe away the excess.
- 4 Seal the grout**  
The grout will take up to two days to cure. After that you can apply a sealer with a small paintbrush. Use a rag clean any excess of the tiles. The sealer will prevent water from penetrating the grout and mould forming again.



## step by step: waterproof with silicone

Silicone plays a key part in waterproofing a bathroom.

Any bathroom renovation should include refreshing the silicone. To prevent water damage at a later date, apply a bead of silicone to seal gaps between the vanity bench top and wall, and between the tiles and the bathtub.

- 1 Mask it**  
To ensure you get a nice, clean finish and to protect the surfaces of your bathroom fittings, apply strips of masking tape to either side of the area you are siliconing, at about 4mm apart.
- 2 Run a bead**  
Cut the nozzle on the silicone tube at 45°, keeping the hole relatively small for better control. Start at one end and pull the trigger slowly and steadily; pushing the caulking gun away from you. Adjust your speed to match variations in the silicone flow speed and lift the gun as soon as you reach the end of the area you are siliconing.
- 3 Smooth the bead**  
Dip your finger in soapy water, and run along the bead continuously from one end to the other. Use enough pressure to create a smooth, even surface. Remove the masking tape immediately and allow the silicone to dry.

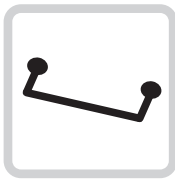


## step by step: paint the bathroom

Painting offers the biggest "bang for buck" when it comes to renovating. As a wet area, the bathroom has special needs and most bathrooms are also small rooms

which have many fittings and fixtures. But it's still an easy DIY project...

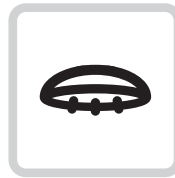
- 1 Preparation**  
First, you need to prepare the area by making sure the surface is perfectly clean and ready for the paint. We recommend using Sugar Soap for cleaning.
- 2 Mask up**  
Now mask off the bathroom with your painters tape. Tape around all of the surfaces that you won't be painting - including the ceiling. Press the tape firmly to guard against paint bleed.
- 3 Shake up and pour**  
Shake the paint bucket thoroughly, then stir. It is important to ensure the paint is properly mixed so be thorough. Pour a small amount of paint onto a painters tray or small bucket to get started.
- 4 Outline the room**  
Dip your brush in the paint. You're about to outline the room. While this is the trickiest part of the job, it will affect the overall impact of the room, so be patient. Make sure you use a small brush to get into the fiddly bits around and behind the fittings. If you do 'paint outside the lines', clean up while the paint is still wet, as that's when it's easiest to remove excess paint.
- 5 Roll the rest**  
Now you can tackle the larger areas with a roller. This will happen much more quickly. Make sure you roll the roller in the paint tray until it is completely covered with paint - but not dripping - to get even coverage.
- 6 Touch ups**  
Once you've done painting, leave the room for a while. When you return with "fresh eyes" you can easily spot any areas that need to be touched up. When the paint is completely dry, remove the painters tape. And you're done!



## step by step: attach a towel rail to tiles

Replacing bathroom accessories like towel rails is a great way modernize your bathroom. They should be positioned so they can easily be reached from the shower or bathtub, but far enough away so that the towels won't get wet.

- 1 Mark it up**  
Select your towel rail position and measure between the fixing points; remembering that you don't want to drill too close to the edge of the tile. Run masking tape along the tiles and use a spirit level to draw a straight line on the tape. With a pencil mark the spacing of the fixings on the line.
- 2 Attach fixings**  
Select a sharp masonry bit to match the size of the supplied plastic plugs supplied with your towel rail, and fix to a power drill. Carefully start drilling, using a masonry bit and the 'drill' (not 'masonry') setting on your drill. Gently tap the plugs into place and screw in the lugs, or fixings.
- 3 Install the rail**  
Slide the rail sleeves and coverplate, over either end of the rail and over the fixings. And tighten the screws at each end with the allen key supplied with your towel rail.



## step by step: install an exhaust fan

Bathrooms need adequate ventilation to ensure you don't develop a mould problem - or an underlying smell of damp - but your window may not be enough. The best solution is an exhaust fan. You'll need a qualified electrician to provide the power, but the rest you can do yourself...

- 1 Mark it up**  
You'll need to access the roof cavity to locate the ceiling joists, so that the exhaust can can be installed between them. Tape the template supplied with the exhaust packaging and mark the outline with a pencil.
- 2 Cut it out**  
You should begin with a starter hole that is around 10mm in diameter, which is inside the outline you've drawn. After that, you can use an appropriate jigsaw or hacksaw to cut out around the marked area. Be sure to use a drop cloth underneath to catch the dust and plasterboard waste.
- 3 Electrical works**  
Use a qualified electrician to hardwire a power point into the ceiling cavity near the fan.
- 4 Install the exhaust**  
Plug the unit into the powerpoint and fit the unit into the cavity you created. Gently push the exhaust into place and the spring locks will click into place on the plasterboard. Finally, clip on the cover plate and you're ready to go.

## the diy toolkit: essentials

by graeme homewood from [renovatehomes.com.au](http://renovatehomes.com.au)

The purpose of the nail bag is to carry the essentials for day-to-day projects. The essentials are a hammer / measuring tape / pencil / timber chisel / small and large nail punch / ruler /carpenters pencil and a combination square.

The style of an apron is a personal taste. I always prefer multiple pouches so that things are easy to find and you can organize things to suit yourself.

When setting yourself up an apron start with a belt and just purchase the attachments to suit your needs, for example chisel pouch, pliers pouch, ruler pouch and holster for your battery drill.

When purchasing a hammer avoid going too heavy. You will carry it around all day and, along with your tape, it will be the most used item in your kit.

When selecting a measuring tape my preference is 8 metres long and about 25mm wide blade. This will allow you to push the tape about two metres before it bends. This is great for measuring up walls or in between openings.

In all construction work it is important to keep your levels, straight and plum so you'll require a level, string line and preferably a straight edge about 2.4 metres.

Things like timber saws, one fine and one medium tooth will absolutely last for years if kept dry and a thin coat of Vaseline used in between use.

Purchase well, keep maintained and you will have many years with the enjoyment of renovating and maintaining your property as it grows in value.



We are happy to provide Bretts "step by step" project sheets. And our friendly staff are always available to talk through your renovation needs.

However, if you are considering a major building or renovation project, we suggest you speak with a professional first.

You can use our Trade Services Search Directory at [www.bretts.com.au](http://www.bretts.com.au) to find someone who can help with your project.

**bretts**  
let's talk timber & hardware

**Timber + Hardware**  
Homezone Centre  
142 Newmarket Road  
Windsor Qld 4030  
Phone: 07 3361 0777

**Architectural**  
Homezone Centre  
142 Newmarket Road  
Windsor Qld 4030  
Phone: 07 3361 0540

**Manufacturing**  
Cnr Barcham Street  
& Curtin Ave West  
Eagle Farm Qld 4009  
Phone: 07 3623 0122