



Wood Contracting Inc

WOOD CONTRACTING INC GUIDE

THE CHICAGO

Bathroom Remodel *Guide*

From first idea to final reveal. Everything Chicago homeowners need to plan a renovation they will love.

500+

HOMES
REMODELED

30+

YEARS
EXPERIENCE

4.9★

GOOGLE REVIEWS



SECTION 01 BEFORE YOU BEGIN

Pre-Project Checklist

Handle these items before you ever shop for a single tile. Skipping this stage is the number one reason bathroom projects stall before they start.

LOGISTICS & PLANNING

- Confirm scope of work in writing with your contractor
- Set a realistic budget with a 10 to 15 percent contingency
Older Chicago homes almost always have surprises behind the walls
- Lock in a project start date and expected timeline
- Review HOA or condo association renovation rules
Most Chicago condos require approval, COI, and weekday work hours
- Schedule freight elevator and delivery windows with your building
Required by most condos and high-rises in Chicago

DECISIONS TO LOCK IN

- Final layout: are you moving plumbing, walls, or fixtures?
- Tub vs. walk-in shower vs. wet room
- Single vanity vs. double vanity
- Storage priorities: linen closet, medicine cabinet, niches
- Heated floors yes or no
- Ventilation upgrade or replacement

PRO TIP

Have everything on site before demo. A back-ordered vanity will cost you more weeks than a slow contractor ever could.

SECTION 02 WHAT YOU SOURCE

Design Materials

You're not on your own. We'll walk you through every selection, share our professional input, and make sure nothing slips through the cracks. The list below is what you'll be shopping for. Aim to have everything on hand before demo starts.

TILE & STONE

- Floor tile (plus 15 percent overage)
- Shower wall tile
- Shower floor tile or pan
- Accent or niche tile
- Grout color selection
- Schluter or trim profiles
- Stone slab for vanity top
- Shower curb or threshold material

PLUMBING FIXTURES

- Toilet
- Bathtub (if applicable)
- Shower system: valve, trim, head, handheld
- Tub filler or spout
- Vanity faucet(s)
- Vanity sink(s) or vessel
- Drains and overflow covers

CABINETS & STORAGE

- Vanity (custom, semi-custom, or stock)
- Medicine cabinet(s)
- Linen tower or storage cabinet
- Cabinet hardware (pulls, knobs)

LIGHTING & ELECTRICAL

- Vanity sconces or bar light
- Overhead light or flush mount
- Recessed lights
- Exhaust fan or fan/light combo
- Outlet covers and switch plates
- Mirror (if not part of medicine cabinet)

FINISHING TOUCHES

- Towel bars and rings
- Toilet paper holder
- Robe hooks
- Shower door or glass enclosure
- Paint color selection

SECTION 03 BUILD YOUR TEAM

Key Vendors To Line Up

We've spent years building relationships with Chicago's best vendors and we're happy to share that network with you. Shop direct, skip the showroom markup, and get the same quality and service we rely on every day.

INTERIOR DESIGNER

Helps with layout, finish selections, and sourcing. Worth their fee on any bath over \$25K.

TILE SHOWROOM

For samples, ordering, and pulling coordinated collections. Bring photos and dimensions.

PLUMBING SHOWROOM

For trying out faucets and shower systems in person. Touch and feel matters.

STONE FABRICATOR

For vanity tops, thresholds, and shower curbs. Templated after vanity is set.

CABINET VENDOR

Stock, semi-custom, or fully custom. Lead times range from 2 to 12+ weeks.

GLASS SPECIALIST

For frameless shower enclosures. Measured after tile is installed.

LIGHTING SHOWROOM

For sconces, pendants, and fan/light combos. Bring your vanity dimensions.

PAINT STORE

Get sample pots and test on the actual wall before committing.

NEED INTRODUCTIONS?

We're happy to connect you with our trusted vendor network. Just ask during your free consultation.



SECTION 04 LOCK IT IN

Key Decisions That Shape It All

These six choices set the tone for everything else. Make them early, then commit. Second-guessing in the middle of a build is what burns budgets and timelines.

01**METAL FINISH**

Pick one dominant finish for plumbing and hardware. Matte black, brushed nickel, polished chrome, brushed brass, or gunmetal. Mixing is fine, but choose intentionally.

02**TILE COLOR PALETTE**

Light and airy, warm and earthy, moody and dark, or classic black and white. Lock this in before you shop.

03**VANITY STYLE**

Floating, freestanding, furniture-style, or built-in. Each affects your plumbing rough-in.

04**COUNTERTOP MATERIAL**

Quartz, marble, quartzite, or solid surface. Weigh maintenance and budget together.

05**GROUT COLOR**

Match the tile (seamless), contrast (graphic), or go neutral. This affects the whole feel of the room.

06**PAINT COLOR**

Choose paint after tile and vanity are selected. Paint adapts to materials, not the other way around.

PRO TIP

Lay every sample side by side in natural light before you commit. If they don't sing together on the table, they won't sing in the room.

SECTION 05 TAILORED GUIDANCE

Powder, Hall or Primary?

Not every bathroom needs every item on this list. Here's where to focus your time, your budget, and your design energy depending on the space.

Powder Room

MAKE A STATEMENT

TYPICAL: 2 – 3 WEEKS

Skip the tub and shower. Focus your budget on a statement vanity, eye-catching tile, a beautiful mirror, and great lighting. This is the room your guests see, so make it memorable.

Hall Bathroom

BUILT TO LAST

TYPICAL: 3 – 4 WEEKS

Prioritize durability and easy cleaning. Tub/shower combo, double vanity if shared by kids, plenty of storage, and finishes that hide water spots. Keep design choices timeless.

Primary Bathroom

YOUR DAILY RETREAT

TYPICAL: 4 – 6 WEEKS

The full list applies. Walk-in shower, double vanity, separate water closet if space allows, heated floors, layered lighting, and built-in storage. Invest accordingly.

PRO TIP

Renovating multiple bathrooms? Order everything together. One delivery, one coordination check, one efficient build.



A RECENT WOOD CONTRACTING BATHROOM RENOVATION



Wood Contracting Inc

READY WHEN YOU ARE

Let's Build Your *Dream Bathroom.*

You've got the guide. Now you need a team that treats your home like their own. That's where we come in.

READY TO START? VISIT US AT

woodcontractingchicago.com

Call or text · (312) 405-5837



SCAN ME