

Taunton's

NEW

Bathroom

I D E A B O O K



sink materials

- **ceramic**

Ceramic, especially vitreous china, is one of the oldest and most common bathroom sink materials. It is easily cleaned, but also easily chipped or cracked. Some new pricier versions have very durable, ultrathin sides.

- **cast iron and cast steel**

Cast iron is also a very old material and one of the most durable. It includes a metal core and high gloss enameled surface. Today's leadless cast iron won't necessarily perform quite like Grandma's did, though, and may rust at drain and faucet connection points.

Cast iron's heavy weight is another drawback, and has given rise to the cast steel sink. The core metal is lighter, more flexible stainless steel. These can be installed without bracing but are likelier to crack than cast iron.

- **solid surface, resins, and composites**

The popularity of solid surface countertops has led to the integral solid surface sink with its low-maintenance seamless appearance. Despite their soft feel, these sinks are fairly durable and repairable if damaged.

Resins and other man-made composite materials are also molded into integral sinks. These range from affordable cultured marble sets to fashion-forward troughs. Their blend of engineered materials creates a countertop and fixture with smooth and easy-clean surfaces.

- **the exotics**

Sinks can also be made from glass, natural stone, copper, pewter, bamboo, and even wood. Glass is among the most common, with the lowest maintenance, and is more durable than its reputation would imply. Natural stone, copper, wood, and concrete, on the other hand, require regular maintenance.



tub configurations

●●● WHETHER JETTED OR NOT, TUBS COME in a range of configurations that fit different needs and spaces. One of the most common is the apron front tub with a finished facade that installs between three walls.

These are typically designed for tub-shower combinations in smaller or secondary bathrooms.

Another type of built-in tub is the walk-in model. Designed to enable users with mobility issues to enjoy a bath, these tubs have a few drawbacks. One is that the user must sit in the tub while it is filling up and draining, both of which can be uncomfortable. Another is the cost of a walk-in tub, which is significantly more than a standard model. Last but not least, there are very limited style options that may not fit the look of your room, especially a contemporary one.

Drop-in tubs that fit into a deck and surround built to enclose them are widely used in master bathrooms. The tub's rim sits on the deck. A variation on this is the undermount tub that installs in the same setting, but is secured to the underside of the deck for a more upscale look. These are generally more expensive to purchase and install than drop-in models.

Freestanding tubs are increasingly popular in master bath projects. They come in a wide variety of shapes, sizes, and materials and are usually chosen for their style. Typically deep, they can be hard for some users to climb in and out of, so consider a user's agility and balance before choosing this type of tub.