

BATHROOM *** excerpt from Large Family Mothering Amy Maryon

Items you will need:

- Towels—keep 3-4 towels per person. If you purchase the big fuzzy ones, they are going to take up more space in your washer and have a longer drying time. Consider lighter towels as colored and darker ones will start showing white fuzz as you wash them frequently.
- Two hand towels---keep one for using and one for getting washed.
- Washcloths—you can get a big pack of these quite inexpensively. As they get worn, turn them into rags and replace.
- Shower curtain and liner. Get a polyester liner and keep it clean. At the first sign of mildew or mold—use bleach to kill it. If you keep it rinsed off daily and sprayed with vinegar and water solution, this will help deter mold. Use a fabric liner that will match your bathroom. If you don't know your color scheme, wait till you find your home.
- Trash can—get a neutral colored, inexpensive basket and line it with a plastic shopping bag. This helps keep the can clean and free of bacteria growth.
- Shower caddy---get one big enough to hold all of your shampoos, a place for scrubbies, and a place for bar soap. The white rubberized ones last longer than the shiny metal ones.
- First aid kit—keep these supplies simple. You typically don't need “all” of the items they supply you with. Here are some items you will need:
 - pain reliever or ibuprofen
 - band aids-variety of sizes
 - hydrocortisone cream
 - antibiotic cream
 - bottle of hydrogen peroxide
 - bottle of alcohol
 - allergy medicine---for allergic reactions to things
 - cough/cold medicine---best to have on hand instead of when you are at home and sick and can't get to a store.
 - cough drops
 - thermometer—digital is easiest
 - bug spray
 - sunscreen
 - keep small packets of condiments in the freezer to place on burns. You can tape them on to keep in place. This is much easier than carrying around a washcloth filled with ice.
- Kleenex—best to have on hand, instead of when you need it.
- Toilet paper---we use the 1000 sheets per roll, it is better on our septic system. Plus it is more value for your money.
- Plunger---you will NEED one of these one day and it is best to have it on hand.

Skip all the frills that they offer for bathrooms: soap dish, Kleenex holder, toilet brush holder, bath mats, rubber suction tub math, rugs, etc. These are just things that you will have to clean extra. Keep it simple, less mess, and it will stay neater.

Most everyone will have their own personal products that they use and won't have to pre-purchase before they get married, because you use them each day. Here are some:

- shampoo/conditioners
- bar soap/body soap
- scrubbies
- personal menstruation products
- toothbrush/toothpaste/flossers/mouthwash
- make up
- face routine items—cleansers, toners, etc
- razors/shave cream
- hair comb/brushes
- hair styling products
- hair styling items---blow dryer/hot rollers/straightener
- electric razor

Bathroom organization

On the top of your sink surface is where you will want to store everyday items. If you are preparing your home for a husband, he will need all his daily grooming items in one zone. This will make it much easier for him not to have to hunt down items. For yourself keep daily items together. Instead of just setting your toothbrush by the sink, place it in a cup or get a mounted toothbrush holder. Limit the makeup that you wear on a regular basis on the counter top. Place the rest in a drawer. Keep hand pump soap near the sink. Bar soap tends to get messy skip and go for the pump.

Door racks can be installed on sink cabinets and you can place your blow dryer and curling iron out of the way under the sink.

For your shower organization, store only items used on a daily basis in here. A wire shower caddy can hold shampoo, bar soaps, and bath loofahs. This helps keep them off the edge of the tubs.

If you don't have much space to store bath towels, roll them to take up less space. If you don't have any space under sinks or in a closet, consider a large basket. If you still are tight on space, get an over the toilet storage rack. The wire ones are inexpensive and give you more room in an unlikely space.

Hampers are needed to catch dirty laundry. If you are not concerned about space, you can choose a floor standing model. Store inside the shower if you don't want to look at it. If you are low on space use a mesh bag on the back of the door.

Consider small baskets to help organize items within a drawer. Use small containers to hold q-tips, flossers, and cotton balls. A spray paint lid works well to store q-tips in within the drawer. Get acrylic plastic containers with lids to store them within view on your over the toilet metal rack.

Cleaning the bathroom

This is something that needs to be done on a daily basis. Nothing is worse than using someone's bathroom and having it smell like urine. I understand we aren't always able to do a deep clean, but an everyday wipe takes seconds and makes all the difference in this room.

Doing a weekly scrub is important. Use a powdered cleanser with an old bath pouf to scrub out the tub and shower. This helps remove bath scum easily. Wipe every inch of your bathtub. Move out soap and shampoo bottles and wipe down. Carefully scrub around the faucet and any bars. Do a check with your fingers and see if you feel any "film" left on the tub walls. Rinse down with cold water and place items back inside. This is a good time to stock back up on items almost gone. If shampoo is almost gone, squirt it into the next bottle, or just place the new bottle in the shower. Check bar soap size and place a new one in if needed. Launder any washcloths that have been sitting in here.

If you want a bathmat, laundry it each week. Each day after your shower, place it over the edge of the tub to dry. Or just dry your body while you are standing inside the shower and wipe your feet off before you step out. When you are all dried off, wipe up the floor with your towel and place it in the hamper.

When cleaning the sink, make sure to wipe behind it and inside the bowl where germs accumulate. You can do this with some wipes, or a sponge and all purpose cleaner.

Lack of proper toilet cleaning is the number one cause of smell in this room. If you have a male in the home, they are likely to pee in areas outside of the toilet. I know, gross?!?! But a reality. Make sure after thoroughly cleaning the inside of the toilet that you pay careful attention to the outside and all of its bends and corners it offers. Wipe the floor all around the toilet well too. You can go as far as wiping the walls that surround the toilet to ensure all urine is removed.

Wipe the entire floor well each week. Check faces of cabinets or walls for anything that needs to be wiped off.

Daily cleaning

If you keep a spray bottle with ½ water and ½ vinegar in this room, you can wipe it down quickly on a daily basis. You won't have a need to worry about a child getting into poisonous cleaners as it won't be toxic. Keep a roll of paper towels to wipe with or store some cut up rags with it. You can throw them in the wash after wiping down. Do this as soon as you get out of the shower each morning for a clean space.

Your bathroom should have an exhaust fan to keep out moisture to prevent mildew growth and to help aid in the removal of "smells." If your bathroom does not, keep a spray bottle of air freshener on the toilet for this purpose. It is very embarrassing to be using someone's bathroom and having no way to get rid of the smell. If you can install an exhaust fan do so. If you are unable to do that, place a small fan in this room. Use a small 5-inch clip on fan to help detour mold and mildew from growing in this room. It is the perfect growing zone for this type of mess, you don't want to have to try and get rid of it. A simple fan turned on every time you use it and then shut off after it is dried will save you, trust me.