

# BATHROOMS *for the Farm Home*



HELEN  
MATHEIS

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**W**ELL-ARRANGED bathroom facilities in the farm home are often uppermost in the plans of the family preparing to modernize or build. There is more to a bathroom than the three standard fixtures, tub, lavatory, and water closet. In fact, people who have enjoyed these conveniences for years are the first to ask for more "use value" when they have a chance to remodel. Improvements may take the form of better arrangement of fixtures, more room, more storage space for toilet articles and linen, work places such as counters, better lighting, and easier cleaning, all well worth the time spent by the family in planning them.

### **CONSIDER THE FAMILY NEEDS**

The farm family adding bathroom facilities for the first time can avoid some of the mistakes made in the past. At very little extra expense, the first bathroom can be a modern one, suited to the needs and habits of the family.

The needs of the family over a period of years should be considered because bathrooms are relatively permanent and cannot be changed often. Some families may have to start with simple and inexpensive installations and improve the setup later. Study these questions:

Do you plan an extra washroom for the men coming in from the barns so as to divert traffic from the family bathroom?

How many persons will there be in the family? Next year? Ten years from now? Twenty years from now?

Will there be older people who cannot readily climb stairs to reach the bathroom?

Answers to these questions may influence size, location, and equipment of the bathroom.

### **WASHROOM, BATHROOM, OR BOTH?**

Most farm families would like both a washroom and a bathroom, but it may take several years to achieve this goal.

Costly remodeling can be avoided by keeping in mind the space requirements of these rooms when planning the heating and water systems.

It may be simpler first to install a washroom near the rear entrance, off the workroom or back hall, or even in the basement. If a water closet, and perhaps a shower stall, can be added, the family will have facilities that will be very useful until a full bathroom can be planned elsewhere on the ground floor or upstairs.

Plan D, page 4, shows an installation in small space complete with shower, lavatory, water closet, and storage cabinets. Plan G, page 5, shows a bathroom and washroom together, a very useful combination under some circumstances.

If possible the washroom should have both ventilation and outside light. Good artificial light should be supplied as well. A closet for clothes nearby will be a great convenience.

If a second floor bathroom is placed above the washroom or kitchen, installation of plumbing will be more economical. A more important feature of location is that the bathroom be convenient to the bedrooms. The nearness to the sleeping area is of greater benefit and more lasting satisfaction than the slight saving realized by eliminating a small amount of plumbing.

## ESSENTIALS OF A BATHROOM

The best test of an adequate bathroom is that it serve the farm family for which it is planned. Its usefulness is based on certain essentials:

**Location:** Downstairs, if possible, near stairway and bedrooms, unless the sleeping area is entirely on the second floor.

**Size:** Provide elbow room and space for good-sized fixtures, as well as storage.

**Light:** This room needs sunshine and daylight as much as any other, so it should have adequate window space. For privacy, it is better to have windows high but broad. Avoid a window over the tub since drafts are likely and the window is hard to reach. Good artificial lighting is also necessary, especially at the lavatory and mirror.

**Ventilation:** A window is preferred, but a motor-driven exhaust fan can be used if necessary.

**Storage:** There should be cabinets and shelves for everything used in the room: toilet articles, linens, medical supplies, and so forth. Counter space is gaining favor as a bathroom convenience.

**Ease of cleaning:** There are many materials now available which make for easy cleaning: linoleum floor with rounded baseboard trim; linoleum wall covering, tile, or fiberboard with tile-like surface. Oil cloth, washable paper, and waterproof paint can be used on walls and ceilings.

## SPACE NEEDED FOR FIXTURES

In planning arrangement of fixtures, it is well to know their basic sizes.

The following tabulation may be helpful:

**Bathtub**—Width: 2 ft. 6 in. to 3 ft. Length: 4 ft. 6 in. to 6 ft.

**Lavatory**—Depth: 1 ft. 3 in. to 2 ft. Width: 1 ft. 6 in. to 2 ft.

**Water Closet**—Width: 1 ft. 10 in. to 2 ft. Depth: 2 ft. to 2 ft. 6 in.

**Shower**—Square: 2 ft. 6 in. to 3 ft. 6 in.

Based on the above sizes, cut pieces of cardboard to scale and use these in working out the most desirable arrangement of fixtures. A scale of  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch to one foot makes a convenient layout. Don't crowd the fixtures if it can be avoided. Clearance around and between them is desirable for easy cleaning and for the convenience of those using the room.

## BATHROOM FLOOR PLANS

The floor plans which follow on pages 4 and 5 present some of the typical situations encountered when building or remodeling a bathroom. Problems as well as opportunities present themselves when one is studying floor plans and checking for the best possible arrangement and use of equipment.

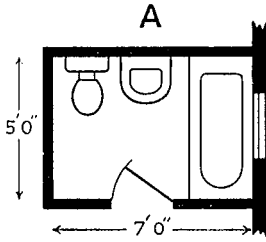
Plans A and B compare wise and poor decisions in installation of the three standard bathroom fixtures. Note that the tub is placed against an inner wall in plan B, instead of under the window.

The principal emphasis throughout the plans is that of utilizing wall and floor space to create storage facilities and counter space. Often this is accomplished simply by using waste space. Sometimes it means changing the door from the center of the wall to one end, thereby gaining wall space for a cabinet. This is illustrated in plan B. Or it may be that the swing of the door can be changed to make a storage unit more handy for use as in plan D. Here the door swings against the shower stall and permits an easier use of the drawer-storage unit under the window.

Generous counter and storage space bordering the lavatory as in plan E is gaining favor. These units add spaciousness to small rooms.

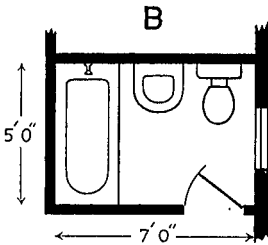
Learn to give an appraising look to waste space in the bathroom. Be critical of it and you will develop all sorts of new, worth-while ideas for greater satisfaction in your bathroom.

# Bathroom



Floor plans A, B, and C represent the minimum space of 5 by 7 feet practical for a bathroom. Fixtures on one wall provide for the most economical installation.

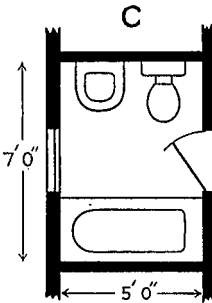
Try to avoid putting the tub under the window. For example, in plan A the tub could as well be placed on the inner wall.



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Storage facilities in plans A and B are possible if wall cabinets are hung over the lavatory and water closet.

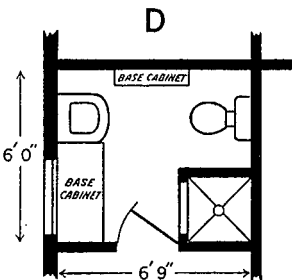
In plan B the wall cabinet might be extended to the window, and a similar cabinet installed between the tub and the door.



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If the door is centered in a 5 by 7 foot bathroom, the fixtures are installed on two walls. Plan C is a basic pattern commonly used in larger bathrooms.

If future enlargement is considered, the entrance to the room might be extended to provide for closets on either side. One could be used for linen storage in the bathroom, and the other, opening on the hall, could hold bedroom linens.



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Plan D provides for a shower stall and no tub. This is a good arrangement for the farm washroom. A storage unit of drawers could be worked in under the window. Another base unit could be located against the wall, as illustrated, between the water closet and the lavatory. Over this a longer wall cabinet could be hung. Ample storage can be provided if wall space is used to best advantage.

# or Plans

The larger family appreciates storage facilities in the bathroom. Plan E utilizes the wall on both sides of the lavatory for storage cabinets. Excellent counter space is provided by means of the base cabinets.



Plan F has ample room between fixtures and the advantage of a linen closet inside the bathroom. A base cabinet might be added under the window for bathroom supplies. A wall cabinet could be extended from the window over to the door. A storage unit might well be planned around the lavatory.



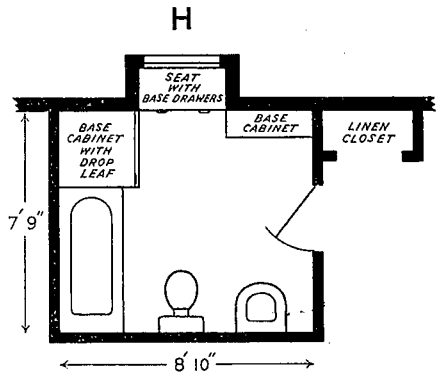
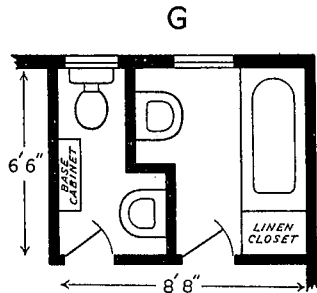
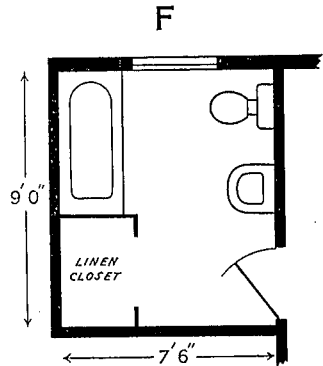
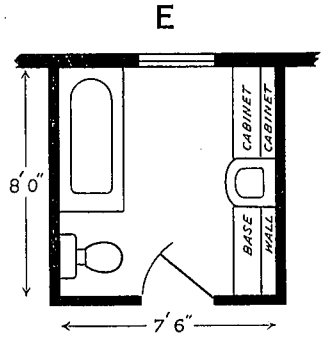
Plan G shows a partitioned bathroom with the added convenience of two lavatories. The lavatory-water closet combination could be used as a washroom and a large sink could replace the usual smaller wash basin. This is a practical arrangement in the home where there is a lot of traffic and guests.



The dormer window in plan H is an ideal arrangement for a bathroom. Additional storage can be had by installing two full-length drawers to create a window seat. In them linens and other supplies might be kept.

This plan permits base cabinets inside the dormer. These, if equipped with drop-leaf shelves, give counter space.

For the family with very young children, counter space is helpful for bathing the baby and the cabinet space is useful for storage of baby equipment.

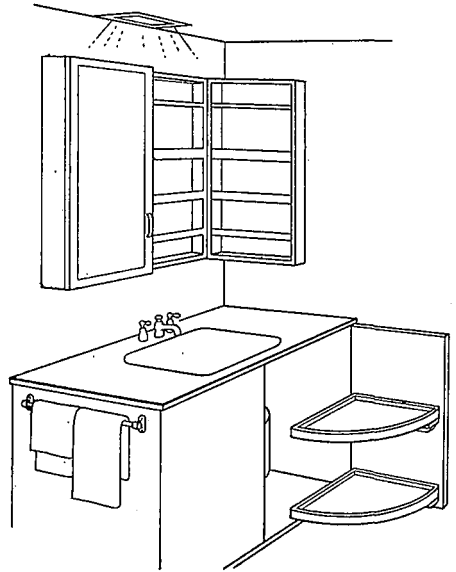


## GOOD QUALITY PLUMBING

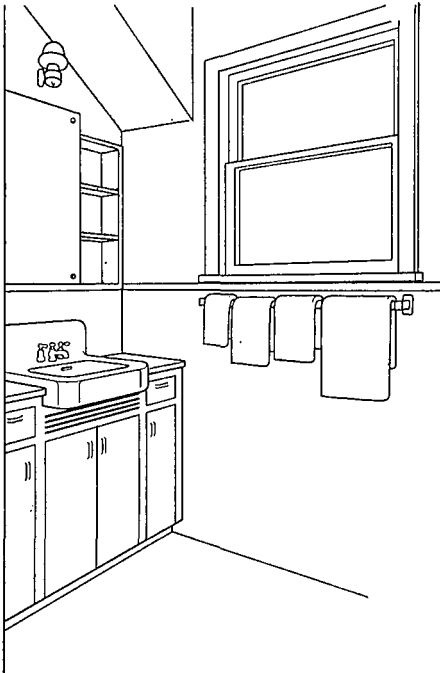
While this publication does not concern itself with plumbing problems, certain precautions enter into the planning of the bathroom. Supply pipes should not be carried in an outside wall because of the danger of freezing. If an outside wall must be used, special insulation around the pipes will be necessary.

Galvanized pipe is least expensive and most commonly used. However, this piping is subject to corrosion, and the extra expense of flexible copper tubing may be easily justified. Another feature which may more than pay for the extra expense is shut-off valves for each fixture.

A good job of pipe-fitting by an experienced plumber is essential if the system is to give good service for many years.



Swing-door racks and ample counter space add usefulness to this lavatory-storage unit



Built-in lavatory topped by open shelves and a cabinet—ample storage and good light

## SELECT GOOD FIXTURES

There is much variety in both quality and design of plumbing fixtures. Newer models are designed to be safer, easier to clean, and more attractive. Built-in bathtubs are preferable because they leave fewer surfaces to be kept clean.

Farm families are not likely to be satisfied with fixtures that are too small. The cheaper fixtures are usually made of cast iron or stamped steel with a glazed enamel surface. Next in price is vitrified china with a porcelain glaze. Solid porcelain fixtures are most expensive. Water closets are always made of porcelain.

The faucets are as good as the materials from which they are made. Cheapness of material and construction show up quickly in leaks and poor wearing quality. To be serviceable, faucets must contain sufficient amounts of copper and brass to resist corrosion and should be plated with some material like chromium.

Most storage cabinets in the bathroom will be of the built-in type. However, it will be well to investigate some of the new ready-made cabinet fixtures that have recently come on the market.

## STORAGE

There is a distinct trend toward more storage and counter space, planned to fit the needs and habits of the farm family. Storage may vary from simple units of shelf, cupboard, and drawer arrangements, which can be built of inexpensive materials, to the more elaborate "built-ins" equipped with adjustable shelves, sliding racks, and drop-leaf counters.

It is a good plan for members of the family to enumerate the various items each would like to store in the bathroom for convenience, so that storage space can be planned accordingly. Special facilities for bathing the baby may be desirable. An amazing amount of storage and shelf conveniences can be worked into the plan for even a small

bathroom if the family knows what it wants and uses imagination in turning every corner and wall space to good use.

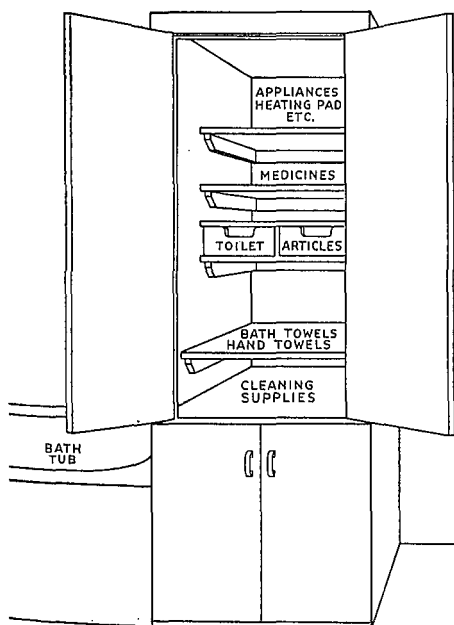
Whether storage takes the form of a cabinet, closet, or built-in feature, it should fit into the architectural scheme and should be as near as possible to the fixture with which it will be used.

## FLOORS AND WALLS

In the group of permanent wall finishes tile remains a favorite for all or part of the walls. The new fiber-tile is less expensive than the porcelain types and easier to install. Fiber-tile has a smooth, nonabsorbent surface for enameling, or it may be bought already finished in a variety of designs and colors. It is  $\frac{1}{2}$  inch thick, strong, and easy to handle. It requires no backing and is applied directly to the studs in new construction. Frequently one finds it used over plastered walls without furring. It is easy to install because it is held in place with fasteners and no nails mar the surface. Fiber-tile has lasting beauty and provides extremely low finishing cost.

Structural glass and glass blocks may become more popular in the future because of their permanency and ease of cleaning. They also aid illumination. Newest bathroom designs show a liberal use of glass block, ribbed sheet glass, glass shelving, and mirrors. Glass block units come in an 8 by 8 inch size, 4 inches thick. They are made with a vacuum core, insulating against heat or sound. This material might be within the budget if only a line of it were used as a facing around the tub or shower stall. There is a new grey-green glass available which is being used in bathrooms.

Plexiglass, the aircraft plastic, is now being adapted for home construction. Plexiglass is a transparent plastic less than half as heavy and just as transparent as glass. It can be sawed, drilled, carved, and otherwise worked like



Commodious storage unit bordering the tub

wood. Plexiglass is now being used in bathrooms to construct walls, doors, and fixtures such as lavatories, shelving, towel bars, and lights.

Plastic-finished wallboard is another material used to finish the bathroom. It comes in clear colors, in tile effects, in wood grainings, and in cloth pattern designs.

Linoleum can be used very successfully for walls and counters as well as floors. It is durable, easy to clean, and permits a variety of decorative treatments because of its many colors and designs.

A good grade of inlaid linoleum remains the most practical and inexpensive floor covering for the bathroom. The modern curved baseboard treatment with linoleum will greatly reduce time needed for cleaning.

### LIGHTING

When the general plan for the bathroom is being developed, decisions should be made as to lighting. Adequate light, installed so as to avoid glare, is required first at the mirror for shaving and dressing. However, there is often too much contrast between the light at the mirror and that in the rest of the room.

As a rule there should be no unshaded light sources. Glare, often produced by wall brackets at eye level, should be corrected by shading or by use of new type fixtures or fluorescent lighting. Lighting experts recommend 60 watts in an approved wall fixture for shaving and 60 watts or more in a ceiling fixture, depending on the size and color of the bathroom. Ceilings of flat white reflect about 85 per cent of the light, walls of ivory about 70 per cent, and

those of medium blue, green, or grey only about 35 per cent.

Lighting experts say the best kind of general lighting is indirect or reflected lighting—with the light diffused over a large area and the light source itself concealed. Indirect lighting does away with the deep shadows that contribute to glare. However, a room with only indirect lighting looks flat, so a good plan balances direct with indirect lighting in a way that will benefit the room.

### COLOR

Color schemes can be used with good effect in the bathroom to balance the clinical whiteness of the fixtures. The very materials used lend themselves to pleasing and startling designs—the lustrous beauty of the fixtures, the interesting patterns of tile and linoleum on walls and floor, the mirror surface above the lavatory, and other appointments in the finish of the room all contribute to the decorative scheme.

Contrasts of texture can be capitalized on by playing one material against another, such as tile or fiber-tile against plaster. Both have their effect increased by a contrast in color. These contrasts give pattern to the wall or floor and pleasure to the eye.

After the material has been selected for the walls and floor the color scheme should be considered with care. Studying illustrations will aid in making good decisions. Unless striking effect is desired, a neutral color, such as cream, pale green, light peach, or some similar hue, makes a more satisfactory background than do the more vivid colors. The color scheme selected should tie together all the elements of the room into a harmonious whole.

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UNIVERSITY FARM, ST. PAUL 8, MINNESOTA

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