

WHERE ON EARTH DID I PUT IT?

Bathroom storage is an age-old dilemma. It is a curable affliction, but one which requires a little thought and patience to resolve. Take two aspirin and sit down comfortably with paper and pen; ideally, this should be done *before* you revamp the entire room! That's the problem many fall into - storage is an afterthought. If you are planning to refit your bathroom, or even just a revamp, here's what you can do...

Firstly, is there any available wall space which can be utilised as an alcove? Virtually any wall can accommodate this type of storage facility, even the narrowest of stud walls or the thickest of cobs. As long as there are no light cables potentially in the way, this is a very easy operation to perform. Once cut and boarded out, the alcove can be tiled (if it's in a wet area) or painted.

Shelves are an easy addition too: glass or wood work well - glass especially so if you fit a light in the top of the alcove which will illuminate down through all the shelves. Any glass merchant can cut glass to your specific requirements. I would suggest toughened glass where possible, and do have all four edges ground to take away any sharpness. These can then be supported by pegs or those fabulous metal pins kitchen manufacturers use - et voila!

If you want all of this hidden away, a lovely bevelled mirror attached to a wooden base board can be hinged to one side of the alcove with a catch or key mechanism to keep the door closed and secure from unwanted eyes - very useful for medicine cabinets.

If you wish to steer away from glass shelves, a simple tiled alcove or two within the shower or bathing area is easily created, providing you with great storage for all those shower

bottles and gels which seem to multiply in even the most minimalist of bathrooms.

The same concept can be used if you don't want to cut into walls: take the idea, create a box and follow the principles above: stain, paint or tile; glass shelves or wood; doors or open fronted.

I have found that there is a total dearth of bathroom storage solutions easily sourced, even in specialist bathroom shops. Oh yes, wonderful selections of fully built in bathroom solutions, but what if this isn't your style? It doesn't sit too well in a period property, unless you're aiming for the modernist look. Glass shelves of many descriptions are also easily espied, but these rarely allow for the bespoke requirements our detritus demands. The final choice is the good old friendly bathroom cabinet - how much will this hold, and can you find a stylish design? Mmm, challenge.

If you have the room, why not use a trolley to hold stylish containers of soaps and towels? Many non-bathroom intended pieces work very well to add the all important storage, and will also provide the individual or quirky look to make the room your own, just be open to suggestions and keep looking. Now, where *is* the soap..?

Words: Ewa Shephard. Formerly an interior designer for Fired Earth, Ewa is a partner in the family business The Shephards Group: artisan craftsmen and specialist tilers, focusing on creative bathroom solutions project managed from start to finish working with your own chosen products, or providing a design and/or sourcing service.

*Please call or email for an informal chat and further details.
Tel: 07709 986871. Email: shephards@mac.com*

