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Installing a bathroom vanity



Difficulty



Experience/Time

Novice: 3 hrs.
Experienced: 2 hrs.
Pro: 1 hr.

A new bathroom vanity cabinet can give you more counter space and better storage options. Installing a vanity is almost the same as installing a kitchen cabinet. Because vanities tend to get a lot of use and are exposed to moisture, pay particular attention to the quality of construction.

This project guide outlines the steps to install a single cabinet, one piece bathroom vanity. If you are installing a series of cabinets, you may also want to refer to the Installing Kitchen Cabinets project guide.

Before you go to the store

Carefully measure your bathroom space to ensure you have adequate space for the vanity you select.

Preparation:

- Shut off the water supply lines at the sink, or at the home's main supply if necessary.
- Disconnect the supply lines and the waste trap from the sink.
- Disassemble the sink and existing vanity.
- Patch up and paint or tile the wall where the sink and vanity once stood if necessary.

Safety:

- Follow generally accepted guidelines for clearance with the bathroom, particularly around fixtures.
- Ensure the room is well lit and safe for occupants of all ages.

Savings:

- Include plenty of storage and plan for privacy.
- Installing a vanity that features two sinks instead of one can speed preparation time in the morning and help to maximize available space.

What you will need

Tools:

Electric Drill
Screwdriver Bits
Stud Finder
2-foot Level
Utility Knife
Hammer
Nail Set

Materials:

Vanity
Drywall Screws
Trim Molding
Finishing Nails
Shims



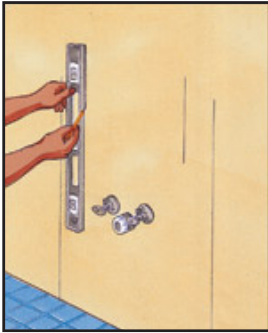
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Steps

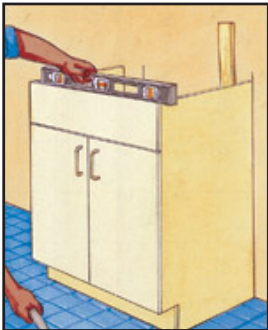
Steps 1-3 of 3

Step One



Put the vanity in place and trace its outline on the wall. Use a stud finder to locate the studs to which you will screw the vanity. Then, with a level, draw lines along the studs from the floor to the top of the vanity. These lines will help you spot where to place the screws in Step Three below.

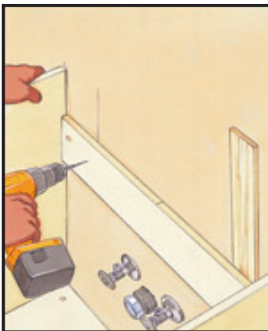
Step Two



If the vanity has a back, measure, mark, and drill holes through it for drain pipes and supply pipes. Then put the vanity in place.

Set a level on top of the vanity and shim at the floor until the vanity is level. Then hold the level against the edge of the unit and shim at the wall until it's plumb.

Step Three



From the inside, attach the unit to the wall by screwing 3-inch drywall screws through the mounting rail into the studs. Check for level again before trimming the shims flush with a utility knife. If it's not level, add shims.

If there are large gaps at the wall or floor, attach quarter-round moulding along the wall or floor edge with finishing nails.

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