Wow Bathroom Renovations Releases Expert Planning Guide for Adelaide Homeowners

New guide draws on more than a decade of local renovation work to outline the planning decisions that most often determine whether a bathroom project runs to schedule and budget.



Adelaide , South Australia Aug 6, 2026 (Issuewire.com) - Bathroom renovations remain one of the most commonly undertaken home improvement projects in South Australia, driven partly by the age of housing stock across Adelaide's established suburbs and partly by owners choosing to upgrade rather than relocate. Bathrooms also carry more technical complexity than most other rooms, combining plumbing, electrical work, waterproofing, tiling and cabinetry within a confined space, usually with a fixed sequence of trades. Decisions made before demolition begins frequently determine whether a project finishes on time and within its original budget. Wow Bathroom Renovations, an Adelaide bathroom renovation company established in 2012, has released an Expert Renovation Planning Guide intended to help homeowners understand those decisions in advance. The guide was developed in response to questions the company has fielded repeatedly from clients over the past decade and draws on more than 1,000 completed projects.

The release comes as more Adelaide homeowners choose to renovate existing properties rather than relocate, placing greater emphasis on informed planning before construction begins. The guide is intended to help homeowners make better decisions early and reduce the likelihood of unexpected costs , delays and budget variations.

“Most of the stress we see in a renovation comes from people finding things out too late,” a spokesperson for Wow Bathroom Renovations said. “Someone signs a contract without realizing water proofing wasn’t included, or picks a vanity that doesn’t fit once the wall goes up. None of that is the homeowner’s fault. It’s just information they were never given. We put the guide together because clients kept asking us the same questions, and the answers aren’t secret. If people understand what they’re deciding and when they need to decide it, the whole job gets easier for everyone, including us.”

Free Guide Available Online

The company has made the guide available at no cost through its website. Wow Bathroom Renovations said the material is intended to be useful regardless of which renovator a homeowner ultimately engages, and that better-prepared clients generally experience fewer variations, shorter timelines and results that more closely reflect what was originally discussed.

The guide covers the planning mistakes the company says it encounters most often, several of which surface only after work is underway and options have narrowed.

Comparing Renovation Quotes

Quotations are the first topic addressed. Comparing prices is a reasonable starting point, but the guide notes that quotes for the same bathroom can differ by thousands of dollars because they describe different scopes of work rather than different value. A lower figure may exclude waterproofing certification, tiling to ceiling height, rubbish removal, or the replacement of damaged framing. Homeowners who select on price alone can find the difference reappears later as variations. The guide suggests requesting an itemized breakdown from each renovator, confirming what is excluded, and asking in writing how hidden damage will be costed if it is found behind existing walls or under flooring.

Budgeting Beyond the Contract Price

Budgeting is treated as a separate discipline. The guide recommends homeowners set aside a contingency of roughly ten to fifteen per cent beyond the contract sum, particularly in older homes where floor levels, wall linings and existing plumbing are unknown quantities until the room is stripped. It also flags provisional sums as a common source of confusion, since allowances for tiles or tapware are estimates rather than fixed figures. Selecting finishes early, and pricing them accurately, removes much of that uncertainty.

Waterproofing and Compliance

Waterproofing receives extended treatment. Membranes must comply with Australian Standard AS 3740 and be installed by an appropriately licensed applicator, and the guide explains why documentation matters as much as the work itself. Failures rarely announce themselves immediately. Moisture typically migrates into adjoining rooms or subfloor timber over months or years, and rectification usually means removing the finished bathroom entirely. Homeowners are advised to keep the waterproofing certificate and applicator details on file, both for warranty purposes and for any future sale of the property.

Planning Ventilation Correctly

Ventilation is an area homeowners often underestimate. An exhaust fan that is undersized for the room, or one that discharges into the roof cavity rather than outside, moves the moisture problem instead of solving it. Persistent condensation leads to mould on ceilings and cornices, damaged paintwork and, in some cases, corrosion of fixings. The guide sets out how fan capacity relates to room volume and recommends confirming at the planning stage that ducting will be run to an external vent.

Making the Most of Bathroom Layouts

Storage and layout are addressed together, since one usually constrains the other. Bathrooms in older Adelaide homes are often compact, and the guide encourages homeowners to map door swings, shower screen openings and vanity depths on the existing floor before finalizing anything. Recessed shower niches, wall-hung vanities and mirrored cabinetry are presented as options for recovering usable space. Storage decisions made late, once plumbing has been roughed in, are considerably more expensive to accommodate.

Choosing Fixtures Before Construction

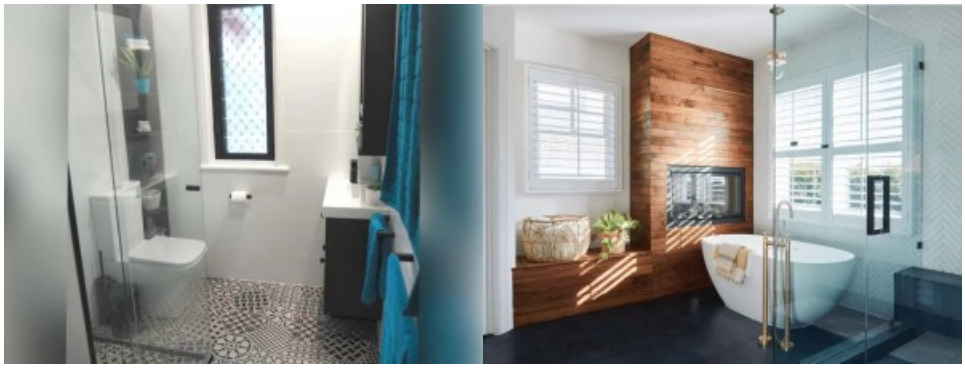
On fixtures, the guide takes a practical position. Tapware and shower systems should be matched to the home’s actual water pressure, and floor tiles selected with reference to their slip rating rather than appearance alone. It also raises the availability of replacement parts, noting that cartridges and seals for imported or discontinued tapware can be difficult to source several years on. Bathroom design in Adelaide, the guide observes, works best when material selections are made before the build begins rather than during it, since lead times on some items can extend well beyond the construction program.

Coordinating Trades Efficiently

The final section deals with trade coordination. A bathroom typically involves demolition, plumbing, electrical work, waterproofing, tiling, cabinetry, glazing and painting, each dependent on the one before. Where homeowners engage trades individually, a single delayed contractor can stall the entire project, and licensing and insurance obligations sit with the homeowner. The guide sets out the sequence in plain terms and recommends confirming license numbers, insurance and the point of responsibility for scheduling, whether that sits with the homeowner or with the renovator.

About Wow Bathroom Renovations

Wow Bathroom Renovations is an Adelaide bathroom renovation specialist established in 2012. The company has completed more than 1,000 bathroom renovations across metropolitan Adelaide and operates a design-to-build service covering initial concept, material selection, construction and handover. Work is carried out by licensed in-house trades rather than subcontracted teams, and projects are delivered under fixed-price contracts. A 15-year guarantee covers all quality. The company works with homeowners on projects ranging from single bathroom upgrades to full renovations in older properties. Further information is available at https://wowbathroomrenovations.com.au.



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Source : Wow Bathroom Renovations

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