Ask Jennifer Adams: ***Tips for tiny bathrooms***

**Q:** My dilemma is I have a small bathroom. Wall to wall, tub to door, it’s 5 feet long x 4 feet wide. I bought a sink and sink hardware before thinking about size in relation to the vanity. I’m told the sink is way too big for my bath, but everyone is suggesting a box or pedestal. Knocking out a wall to make my bathroom bigger is not an option. This is my “forever” home, I appreciate any advice!

-Joan

**A:** Oh my, you do have a small bath! And, you’re not alone. Most people just don’t have the luxurious bathrooms you see in all the magazines. A small bath isn’t impossible, you just have to be careful about the decisions you make.

A few tricks I use to make a small bath feel airy include good lighting and a window or skylight if possible, quiet patterns and horizontal lines. Ironically, large tiles in a small bath can make the room look much bigger because it’s less busy!

If this isn’t the only bath in your house, consider removing the tub and adding a tile shower where the tub was. Choose the same tile for the bathroom floor and shower, this will make the entire space feel larger.

A wall-mounted sink will allow more floor to show, giving a feeling of space. Choose a big sink with a wide edge so you have a place to set things like makeup bottles or a glass. A lidded basket under the sink will hold essentials, but cleaning supplies and towels of course will need to be in another closet nearby.

A large mirrored medicine cabinet will help the bath feel airy, and will add valuable storage. To reduce clutter, keep your toothbrushes and everything in this cabinet, nothing on the sink except for a soap dispenser. And, towel hooks take up less space than bars.

I hope you find these ideas helpful and let me know how it goes!

*Jennifer Adams is an award-winning designer, writer and TV personality. Send your questions to* [*AskJennifer@JenniferAdams.com*](mailto:AskJennifer@JenniferAdams.com) *or on Twitter: @JenniferAdams. For more tips, watch Jennifer’s YouTube channel at* [*www.youtube.com/user/JenniferAdamsHome*](http://www.youtube.com/user/JenniferAdamsHome) *or visit* [*www.jenniferadams.com*](http://www.jenniferadams.com)*.*

*Additional notes about the photos:* The bath with white and green tile and pumpkin walls is 5 feet x 8 feet, barely larger than a piece of plywood! This homeowner used a wall-mounted toilet and sink to give the floor an open, roomy feel, and by avoiding a tub and glass doors, the shower essentially becomes a part of the room. There is also a large niche in the wall in the bath for shampoo and soap. The sink is a large one, with an edge big enough to set things like toothpaste tubes and hair brushes. Even though it’s a small bath, there is no need to feel cramped. While the style of this bath may not suit Joan, the design principles and space plan are good.

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<http://www.bhg.com/bathroom/storage/storage-solutions/declutter-your-bathroom/>

<http://www.sandiegouniontribune.com/lifestyle/home-and-garden/sdut-tips-to-make-bathroom-seem-bigger-2015feb27-story.html>

Big Ideas for a Small Bathroom

Have you noticed that almost all the bathroom images online and in magazines are huge? They sure photograph nicely and have a beautiful open feeling. Even though most of us don’t have homes with bathrooms that large, you can still add luxurious touches.

For a small bath that lives large, maximize your bathroom storage in creative ways. Here are ideas I shared with a reader in my “Ask Jennifer” column published in The San Diego Union-Tribune.

The walls are your friend in a small bath. So keep the floor space open by using a pedestal or wall hung sink. And ditch the tub for a big shower instead! By using tile the same color as the floor, your small bathroom will feel nearly double in size. And going with a shower curtain instead of glass door will literally give you more elbow room at the sink!

Since you’ll need plenty of storage in a small bathroom, add baskets and a roomy medicine cabinet to hold the essentials. Store the cleaning supplies elsewhere.

Here is another article with creative bathroom storage solutions for any bath -- not just small ones -- on the Better Homes and Garden website. Share your secret tip or ask me a new question in the comments section below!