



BASIN BASICS

A statement piece or hidden beneath a vanity, basins can be the hub of your bathroom, writes Sarah Daly

The humble washbasin has continued to evolve with an array of sizes, shapes and colours available, and it's now taking pride of place in our bathrooms.

The leading international bathroom expo ISH in Frankfurt saw a lean towards minimalist bathrooms, making use of strong geometric lines.

Visitor at the ISH expo, Damien Cool from Argent Australia (agent for designer bathroom brands Grohe, Villeroy & Boch and Bette) says bathrooms are just as important as the kitchen in homes.

"Designed as statement pieces, black and patterned washbasins are making inroads into modern Australian bathrooms," Damien says.

The popularity of vanity top washbasins is growing, and is characterised by the generous surface area that surrounds the bowl, providing ample room for toiletries.

While the vanity top option draws attention to the basin, under-mounted is still popular and tends to be the choice for people wanting the vanity unit to be more about function than form. "Offering a touch of individuality, unusual colours

and striking patterns will also continue to feature over the next few years," he says.

If something totally outrageous isn't really your style, try an unusual profile in the usual white, or a striking colour in a simple shape.

We're also opting to go green by making responsible product choices and purchasing bathroomware that doesn't impact negatively on the environment.

A part of this has to do with reducing waste, and when you invest in a timeless, quality product, you're going to be more likely to value it and keep it around for longer before replacing it.

"Villeroy & Boch's products are also available with exclusive ceramicplus surface finish, which has a proven dirt-repellent quality," says Damien.

This means ceramics stay cleaner on a permanent basis and will minimise the need for harmful chemical-based cleaners, another eco-friendly plus.

Shallow bowls are also a great option if you want to be kind to the environment as they reduce excess water consumption.

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