DIY Bathroom Remodel: Let The Construction Begin

Let's begin with a walk through the scope of work for our bathroom remodel. This house is a ranch house with a basement and 1 ½ bathrooms

Scope of Work

Complete gut rehab of the bathroom to include. Removal of everything down to the studs

1. 36" vanity replaced same location
2. 60" cast iron tub shower with tile walls, tub stays, walls replaced, it has a window in it, same location
    a. Replaced with new tile walls
    b. Remove the window
    c. Install new 12x12 ceramic tiles
3. Round toilet replaced with elongated (boy) toilet
4. Flooring replaced
    a. Vinyl plank flooring installed
5. New fan/lite combo unit installed (none existing)

Completion of Scope of Work

6. All your planning is completed.
    a. All your materials are on site

b. All the tools you need are at the ready
c. You have numbers of a plumber and electrician if you need them
d. Dumpster is on site
e. New furnace filter has been installed

Lets get started

1. I want you to go downstairs in the basement/or crawlspace and look very carefully at the underside of the bathroom floor for any water stains, particularly around the toilet
    a. Have someone, the heavier the better, walk around in the bathroom while you watch for signs of movement. Have them sit on the toilet and get into the tub
    b. Average tub holds 30 gallons of water for bathing, actually it holds 42 gallons but you will displace some water when you get into it.
    c. 30 gallons x 7 lbs per gallon = 210 lbs plus your weight of 170 =380 lbs. The floor area of a tub is 60" x 30" = 12.5 sq ft. 380/12.5 = 30.4 lbs per sq ft, plus a cast iron tub weighs about 320 lbs. So all totaled up we are pushing 60 lbs per sq ft of load o n a floor what was designed for 40 to 50 lbs per sq ft when built, depending on the span of the floor joists
2. Flooring and walls pathway are protected from bathroom to the outside

3. If you have a bathroom window open it and hand out debris through the window, or place a fan in it blowing outside
4. Put on safety glasses and dust mask and gloves
5. Remove all towel bars, etc and the mirror/medicine cabinet. Everything from the walls.
6. Make sure you properly install wire nuts and electrical tape to all exposed wires
7. Install temporary pig tail light socket or portable work light
8. Next shut off water to the vanity
    a. Use a small bucket to catch trap water
    b. Disconnect drain and feed lines
    c. Stuff a rag into the drain pipe in the wall
9. Shut off water to toilet
    a. Flush toilet, holding handle down to get as much water out of the tank as possible
    b. Soak up the rest with large sponge or rags and wring out in a bucket
    c. Remove toilet bolts
        i. If they won't come out and the toilet is to be junked tap the area around the bolt to crack the toilet. Be careful pieces will fly and those edges are like razors.

d. Open up large trash bag on floor and lift toilet onto trash bag, and pull up around the bowl, to help keep remaining water from spilling when you carry it outside
e. Scrape the wax ring off the toilet flange and stuff large rag in the toilet pipe

10. Before you demo any walls, place tape over the tub drain and drape moving blanket in and over edge of the tub. Then place a (blue) tarp or heavy plastic sheeting over moving blanket to protect the tub
11. Remover all door and window trim as well as baseboard
12. Okay now hammer/sledge hammer and flat or crow bar time to the walls. I would suggest leaving the ceiling if at all possible. That way you eliminate the need to re-insulate.
13. A double handle 35 gallon garbage can works well to carry out debris. Fill it 1/2 way
14. After the walls are finished go to town on the floor. For now just take off the flooring and watch for signs of water damage.
15. Sweep up and vacuum when you are done and rest those aching bones.
16. Now putting back together time
17. I want you to measure the height difference between the stripped down bathroom floor and the floor outside the doorway.

We don't want to be too far off with regard to finished floor height difference

a. If your sub floor is in good shape you can use ¼" or 3/8" underlayment and then your plank flooring can be installed directly over that.
b. If you are on a slab you should install a vapor/moisture barrier. Please see manufacturer's instructions for what they recommend.

18. Time to address any plumbing concerns or additions
19. Time to address any electrical concerns/additions

a. Installing a new fan/lite combo unit
b. Locate where you want it in the ceiling (go back to the podcast keeping the moisture out of your house for more information about bathroom fans)
c. Install per instructions and hook up electric power and switch
d. To run the exhaust I would suggest a roof mounted vent
    i. Go into the attic and hold up the exhaust duct to the bottom of the roof where you want it.
    ii. I would suggest staying close to the bottom of the roof so you can work from the ladder and not have to get onto the roof to finish the install

iii. Make sure you are away from any other roof penetrations of anything on the outside of the roof
iv. Mark the bottom of the roof sheathing
v. Drill a 1" hole
vi. Using a sawzall, cut the opening for the roof vent. You may find it easier after drilling the hole to go outside and work off the ladder
vii. Finish installing the vent per instructions
viii. Make sure you spread the insulation back out in the attic around the new light/fan, being aware of any clearance requirements of the unit.

20. I realize removing the window and repairing the exterior with siding/stucco, etc. is the correct way to go, but I also realize that can be very expensive. Here is a trick for covering the window
    a. Leave the window and frame installed as long as it is flush with other framing .
    b. Cut some white faced foam board or stryofoam and fit it into the inside of the window frame.
    c. Go outside and look at it. Looks like the shade is drawn, huh
    d. Back inside caulk between the foam and the frame
    e. Add additional insulation as able.
21. Time to install backing for grab bars in the tub shower area.

a. Install a 2x6 or 2x8 flat in the wall flush with the face of the studs.
b. Grab Bars should be mounted 33” to 36” AFF (above finished floor) above the bottom of the tub and the center of a vertical grab bar should be centered on 33” to 36” above AFF
c. Hold a tape measure on the top edge of the tub to the backing and snap several pictures both vertically and horizontally and beep as a reference for later when you install the bars.

22. Insulate the walls
23. Install drywall and tape
24. Prime walls and put 1 coat of final color on walls
25. Install tile on the tub walls
    a. Grout walls
26. Install floor underlayment, screwed and glued is best. (if you are installing any type of ceramic, etc use underlayment according to manufacturers specifications
27. Install flooring
28. Install light fixtures and outlets, etc.
29. Install vanity/top and hook up (remove rag from pipe)
30. Install toilet and hook up (remove rag from pipe)
31. Install door casing

32. Install baseboard and shoe
33. Install backing plates for towel bars, etc.
34. Install “J” channel for mirror, if any
35. Final coat of paint on trim, if any
36. Final coal of paint on walls
37. Caulking
38. Install towel bars, mirror, door stops, shower curtain, all finishes
39. Cleaning

Move Into Your New Bathroom