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## UPDATING A BATHROOM ON A BUDGET?

### CELEBRITY INTERIOR DESIGNER WILL SMITH SHARES TIPS ON WHAT'S HOT & WHAT'S NOT IN BATHROOM REDESIGN – AND HOW TO GET THE BIGGEST BANG FOR YOUR BUCK

**CHARLOTTE, N.C.** (Summer 2008) – For homeowners looking to make their home stand out from the pack, a bathroom rehab is always tops on the list. But, according to *Remodeling Magazine*, the average cost of a mid-scale bathroom remodel is a whopping \$15,789\* – a high price to pay amidst today's slowing economy and housing market. So, how can homeowners who are on a budget get that updated look for less?

“Knowing what's in and what's out in bathroom design is important for homeowners deciding just where to spend their makeover dollars,” explains Celebrity Interior Designer Will Smith. “I suggest they look at four key areas: the mirror, paint, hardware and lighting. Each can be easily and inexpensively updated to provide a new, modern look for the bathroom.”

Smith, who is known for creating high end looks for less, shares his tips for making over a bathroom on a budget – without sacrificing style:

#### 1) Bathroom Mirror

- What's Out: Unframed, builders-grade mirrors are a thing of the past.
- What's In: A frame completes the mirror and gives a bathroom a finished, updated look. Homeowners can find over 40 frame styles to choose from at [www.mirrormate.com](http://www.mirrormate.com). It will be custom cut to fit their mirror and delivered right to their door. The frame then mounts in a matter of minutes, directly to the mirror while still on the wall – covering all clips, channels and edges. A good tip for selecting a frame is to think about what you'd frame a piece of artwork in for the room. The mirror is the focal point in the bathroom and can make a real statement with the right frame.

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### 2) Paint

- What's Out: Paint is never out. It is a tried and true way to make a big impact with little cost. Colors do change though – you'll want to stay away from mauves and pinks.
- What's In: Create a spa-like setting with paints in beige and pale tones. Some popular colors are chocolate, aqua, olive, and golds. When choosing color, remember the more contrast, the more "POP."

### 3) Hardware

- What's Out: Mismatched hardware gives the room an uncoordinated feel. Brass finishes also add to a dated look.
- What's In: Choose brushed nickel, pewter, antique or oil-rubbed bronze finishes that coordinate with the lighting and fixtures, bath bars, knobs, pulls, switches and receptacle covers. These quick fixes pull the room together with one modern, cohesive look.

### 4) Lighting

- What's Out: Take down that bright, bare-bulbed Hollywood lighting that casts a harsh light.
- What's In: Go with a fixture that adds beauty and soft lighting with shades or sconces. They can run above your mirror or flank it on each side. And remember, these accent your room's greatest focal point so be sure to select a style that is right for you and makes a statement in the room.

"You don't need to do a full scale renovation to get the look of an updated bath," explains Smith.

"Some strategic and cost-effective changes can go a long way to giving you the look you desire."

### About Will Smith

Will Smith, known for his modern and clean living spaces, is the owner of interior design firm Interior Motives by Will Smith LLC ([www.interiormotives.ws](http://www.interiormotives.ws)) in Charlotte, N.C. He has designed hundreds of spaces for prominent clients and commercial spaces around the country. His most notable clients are renowned author Omar Tyree and retired NFL receiver Yancey Thigpen. Will was a finalist and fan favorite on HGTV's *Design Star Season 2* (2007).

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### **About MirrorMate LLC**

Headquartered in Charlotte, North Carolina, MirrorMate LLC was founded by Lisa Huntting, who invented the product as a design solution for the four bare mirrors in her own home. The patented design allows the custom-cut frame to tape directly to the mirror currently on the wall, covering clips and channels and fitting seamlessly with any mirror - even if it sits atop a backsplash or runs to the wall or ceiling. MirrorMate comes in over 35 styles, installs in a matter of minutes and gives the bathroom a finished, updated look. As the original and industry leader, MirrorMate frames are patented in the U.S. with additional patents pending in the U.S. and Canada. For product and company information, as well as a demonstration video, please visit [www.mirrormate.com](http://www.mirrormate.com).

\* *Remodeling Magazine's* Cost vs. Value Report 2007.