



Boost your BATHROOM TECH

Give your bathroom a digital design edge with the latest time-saving gadgets

Every room of the home can be enhanced with technology and the bathroom is no different. A recent Houzz UK survey found 16 per cent of recently updated showers, 11 per cent of WCs and 6 per cent of baths included high-tech features, such as digital controls and mood lighting. But tech isn't just about indulgence – much of it is useful, saving time, money and energy or alerting you to potential problems.

Functional features

Part of the reason for the rise in technology in our bathrooms is that they've become a destination rather than a basic, functional space. Most

of the features are about transforming bathrooms into more efficient places and making life easier; adding value rather than being tech for tech's sake. 'Whether it's something as simple as watching the news on a TV in your bathroom while you're getting ready for work, or telling a bath to fill using a remote from your bed, gadgets are about convenience and saving time,' explains Kirsten Wain, designer at West One Bathrooms.

As well as being easy to use, technology is making bathrooms more hygienic, with touchless flushing, self-cleaning WCs, motion-sensor taps and automatic

lighting. Even the bathroom mirror has had a tech makeover. 'Mirrors have become more than just a piece of glass,' says Helen Shaw, marketing manager at Roper Rhodes (01225 303 900; roperrhodes.co.uk). 'They're practical light sources, with many featuring low-energy LEDs operated by no-touch infrared switches. Many feature digital displays and wireless Bluetooth technology with speaker systems so users can listen to music from their smartphone. Some will have demister pads to keep glass steam-free.'

Tech features can make using the bathroom safer, too, with thermostatic and digital showers →



Projects Bathrooms

IN FOCUS

Future technology

» 'Mirrors may upgrade to become personal doctors – we might be able to get a health check by standing in front of them,' says John Wilson, product training manager at Bathstore (0330 053 5661; bathstore.com). 'We could also have floor tiles that monitor our weight.'

» 'Products with user recognition features will become more common, such as we are seeing in other parts of the home with sensors,' says Kelly Everest, marketing communications at Grohe UK (0871 200 3414; grohe.co.uk/en_gb). 'Grohe's Sensia shower toilet remembers your favourite cleansing settings.'



DITCH THE DIALS

For a sleek finish, choose an electronic shower with screen controls. Banco touch screen shower column in xcryl solid surface, £4,360; Fuga shower tray in Corian, from £1,100, Welchome (020 7610 9108; welchome.co.uk)



WASH AND DRY

Cleanliness and convenience are watchwords for the latest WCs, with this design having personalised washing options, drying functions and heated seat. V-care Comfort WC, from £1,849, Vitra (01235 750 990; vitra.co.uk)



SMART SHOWERING

Hi-tech showers have gone beyond digital. This model greets you as you approach. Q Edition smart shower, £1,812 for configuration shown, Aqualisa (01959 560 010; aqualisa.co.uk)



SENSOR LIGHTS

Bathroom mirrors have come of age. As well as demisting pads, the backlit and ambient lighting is activated with a wave of the hand. Outline 80 LED Ambient mirror, £299, HiB (020 8441 0352; hib.co.uk)