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KITCHENS BEDROOMS & BATHROOMS

THE MAGAZINE FOR HOME REMODELLING, EXTENSIONS, LARGE RENOVATIONS, AND INTERIORS ADVICE

THE AUTUMN EDIT

DISCOVER OUR
FAVOURITE
INTERIORS LOOKS
AND LAUNCHES
THIS SEASON

BRING ON
THE BUBBLES
WHICH
STYLE
OF BATH
IS RIGHT
FOR YOUR
HOME?

HOW TO DESIGN A KITCHEN

THAT'S AS UNIQUE AS YOU ARE

plus

• THE ULTIMATE BATHROOM WISHLIST • STATEMENT ISLANDS • THE PERFECT INDOOR-OUTDOOR CONNECTION

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If you're in the market for a new tub but can't work out what style suits your space best, **Irina Iacob** breaks down the top considerations to help you decide

Spatial planning and positioning

Start by looking at your bathroom layout, as this will dictate your choice – not the actual bath, according to Matthew Kallum, founder of Kallums Bathrooms. “Space efficiency is the main practical argument,” adds Dimitri Zobnin, design lead at House of Enki. “A fitted bath uses every millimetre of the footprint, which matters in smaller UK bathrooms.” Which Shamila Iqbal, director at Bathroom Mountain, says is possible because it can sit directly against one or more walls; often the more practical option for family bathrooms or shower-bath set-ups. “If the bathroom has an unusual shape or alcove, a fitted solution can be made to measure,” adds Dimitri.

When it comes to freestanding baths, Joel Fry, showroom manager at West One Bathrooms Chelsea, suggests avoiding cramming one into a recess: “It becomes a nightmare to clean and looks exactly like what it is; squeezed in rather than considered.” Another key aspect is the gap between the freestanding bath and the wall. “It tends to collect splashed water and lost toiletries, so plan either a true island position with room to clean all around, or a deliberate, accessible offset,” says James Roberts, director at Sanctuary Bathrooms.

Prioritise practicality

Consider how the bath will be used. For example, if you need a family-friendly tub, which doubles as a shower, Joel recommends a fitted model as “it's the easiest to clean and the most time-efficient.” But if you've got ample space in a master ensuite, a freestanding bath will add impact and elegance, he continues. This type of bath “tends to work best where bathing is the priority, and the layout does not ask it to perform two jobs,” says Keeley Sutcliffe, design manager at BC Designs.

Size

Take a step back and analyse what the room can properly accommodate, advises Keeley. Freestanding tubs come in many sizes, from compact solutions around 130-140cm to grand 190cm baths. Plus, Joel notes that some designs can often be bigger internally than they look. “A 150cm freestanding bath can have more internal space than a standard 170cm fitted bath.”

As for built-in models, the standard length is 170cm, says Louise Ashdown, head of design at West One Bathrooms, “though many homeowners now opt for smaller 120cm space-saving options – still comfortable, but freeing up room for a larger shower, and using less water.”

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far left Carola Arabescato marble freestanding bath 170cm, £14,445, Haddon.

left Design by Sean Symington. Photography Chris Wakefield

below BC Designs Senator bath with bun feet, £6715, and BC Sanitan wall-mounted bath shower mixer, £1101.

