

# This Old House

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# *vintage bath* *at a budget* *price*

We all love the look of marble floors and polished faucets.

It's the top-dollar price we can live without. Which is why *TOH* editors scoured the marketplace for money-saving replicas of the high-end goods found in this tony retreat. The results?

Products that are proof positive you don't have to take a bath to make a bath



By Deborah Baldwin

Room photographs

by Erik Johnson

Still-life photographs

by Ted Morrison

Produced by Colette Scanlon

Styling by Mariellen Melker

## *1 > basket-weave floor tile*

Two takes on the classic trick-of-the-eye mosaic: pale marble with hints of gold and green and crisp black-and-white porcelain.

## 2 > cross-handle faucet

Multispoke handles and flared spouts were staples of early spigots. New versions do wonders for a plain sink.

### in fine detail

The hand-polished nickel finish on this widespread faucet gives it a vintage patina, and the porcelain buttons and wide spout are authentic period details. Its French-made, all-brass construction comes with a long-wearing ceramic disc valve and lifetime warranty.

Julia faucet, \$847; [waterworks.com](http://waterworks.com)



### compact curves

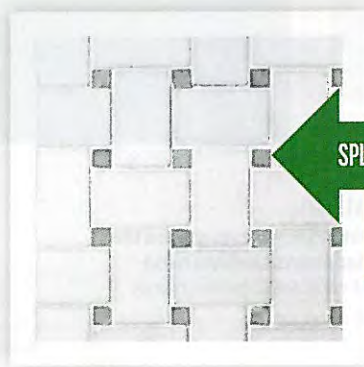
This chrome-finished centerset faucet, suitable for a sink top with holes 4 inches apart, gets its charm from a curvaceous spout and handles. Made in Taiwan, its all-brass construction has a 10-year warranty, which doesn't cover a washerless cartridge valve that may need replacing every five or so years. Model 32184, \$72; [plumbusa.com](http://plumbusa.com)

SAVINGS: \$775



### shades of light

Italian Calacatta gold rectangles and dots made of pale green give the Parramore Basketweave marble tile its luminous palette. Its polished, light-reflecting finish requires sealing. \$90 per square foot; [waterworks.com](http://waterworks.com)



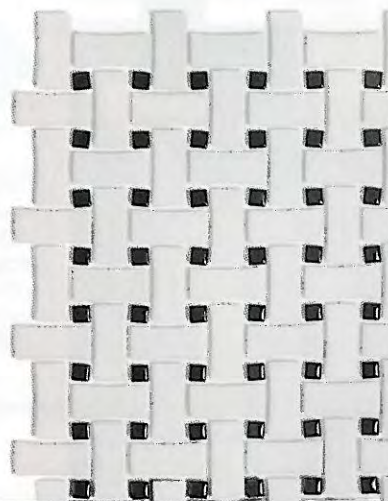
### graphic look

Contrasting colors and finishes—matte white rectangles and glossy black dots—give this pattern its updated look.

Interlocking mesh-mounted squares make this tile extra-DIY-friendly to install.

\$10 per square foot; [nemotile.com](http://nemotile.com)

SAVINGS: \$80 per square foot



### 3> wood medicine chest

Painted or not, early mirrored cabinets typically hung on the wall above the sink with framed inset doors and nickel knobs.

#### well framed

This painted, 33-inch-high solid-wood cabinet has a vintage-style inset door with a beveled mirror, three adjustable glass shelves, and satin-nickel knob. Finished with a decorative wood frame, it can be recessed or wall hung. Devon cabinet, \$660; [afinacorporation.com](http://afinacorporation.com)



#### wall-mounted simplicity

With its wood-framed overlay door, laminated box, and single fixed shelf, this no-knob cabinet is a trim 19 by 15 inches. It's meant to hang on the wall. Sheridan cabinet, \$74; [nutone.com](http://nutone.com) for store locations

SAVINGS: \$586



### 4> leaf-motif border

Decorative subway tiles with floral or leaf patterns were popular in the 1890s. Today's versions may serve as both border and cap rail or just as an inset.

#### cream-colored leaves

Its warm white color, crackle glaze, and detailed acanthus leaf motif give this border tile—which doubles as a wainscot cap—a Victorian-era feel. Each 3<sup>3</sup>/<sub>4</sub>-by-6-inch tile is hand-pressed and hand-glazed in California; purposeful pooling of the glaze adds dimension. Architectonics Collection bay-leaf tile, \$28 each; [waterworks.com](http://waterworks.com)



#### more nature inspiration

A semitranslucent 4<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub>-by-8-inch snow-white-glazed tile is meant to give its factory-made consistency a hand-crafted look. Acanthus tile, \$14 each; [daltileproducts.com](http://daltileproducts.com)

SAVINGS: \$35 per linear foot

## 5 > candlestick sconces

Baths of yore were softly lighted with chandeliers and sconces—a look that's making a comeback. Here, two candle-style fixtures, each a foot tall, in polished nickel.

### fully fashioned

Its designer provenance (it's credited to Bill Blass), linen shade, and concealed fasteners give this fixture a flawless traditional look. Single French sconce, \$126; [circaighting.com](http://circaighting.com)



SPLURGE

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### streamlined value

The taller shade, made of synthetic silk shantung, on this slightly simpler version has a more contemporary look, as does its all-metal candlestick. It attaches with two screws that have decorative caps. Butler sconce, \$59; [feiss.com](http://feiss.com)  
SAVINGS: \$67

## 6 > washstand sink

Sinks with exposed metal console supports (and pipes) span the 1880s to the present, keeping baths open and airy and towels right at hand.

### like the console of old

Its marble top—in this case Italian Calacatta gold—with a graceful ogee edge, vitreous-china basin, and nickel-finished tubular frame, replicates console sinks of an earlier era. It fastens securely to the wall and is poised on ball feet. Danby console with Savoy, \$1,890; [waterworks.com](http://waterworks.com)



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### leggy wall mount

This vitreous-china sink gets old-fashioned flair from a built-in washstand-style backsplash that secures to the wall. Chrome front legs attach to the floor, and optional towel bars snap onto the sides. Essex sink, \$530; [cheviotproducts.com](http://cheviotproducts.com)

SAVINGS: \$1,360

### lots more details

Find other ways to give your bath a vintage look at [thisoldhouse.com/bonus](http://thisoldhouse.com/bonus)

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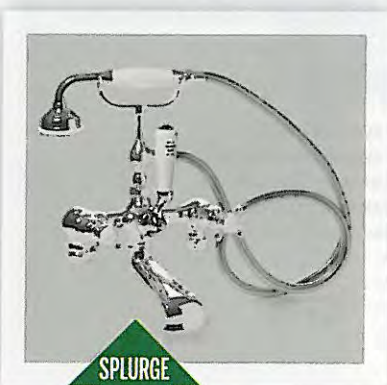
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## 7 > tub filler

These two versions of the statuesque Victorian tub filler feature cross-handle faucets and a cradle for a hand shower.

### stand-alone sculpture

This large-scale Edwardian-style floor-mounted tub filler, made in England, stands on exposed legs and rises nearly a foot above the tub's rim. It has a polished-nickel finish over all-brass construction, a 5-foot hose, and porcelain trim on its diverter lever and cross handles. A generous ceramic disc valve is designed for fast tub filling. Comes with a lifetime warranty. Model U.3521X, by Perrin & Rowe, \$4,292; rohlhome.com



### off-the-wall value

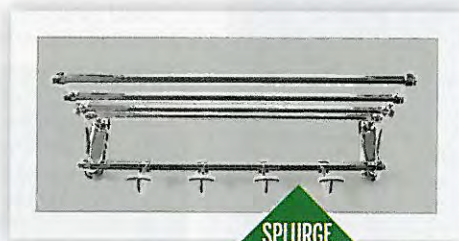
Chrome-over-brass construction and porcelain trim give this smaller set its retro look. It is shown as a wall mount but can be deck- or floor-mounted with additional parts. Made in India, it has a 5-foot hose, ceramic cartridge, and lifetime warranty. Besco chrome tub filler, \$299 (wall mount) or \$695 (floor mount); bathsfromthepast.com

SAVINGS: \$3,597



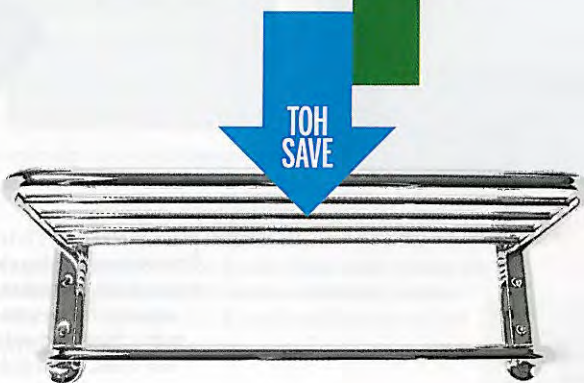
## 8 > train-style towel rack

Credit railway cars and hotel baths with popularizing storage racks that can hold a stack of terry cloth.



### euro-style flair

This solid-brass rack is 28 inches wide and 11 inches deep, with a hand-polished nickel finish, hidden screws, and four beefy hooks. Lugarno towel rack, \$329; restorationhardware.com



### scaled down

This lighter-weight, chrome-over-hollow-brass rack is 22½ inches wide and 9 inches deep, with curved top and bottom rails, and semiexposed screwheads.

Hotel towel rack, \$69; dynastyhardware.com

SAVINGS: \$260

**9 > pedestal tub** Like the earlier tubs they echo, these centerpiece soakers are made of cast iron to hold the heat.



**right curves and complexion**

This 68-inch-long, 13½-inch-deep, two-piece tub has a porcelain enamel finish with a tough titanium glaze guaranteed not to peel or corrode for two years. It weighs 383 pounds and costs \$100 to \$350 to ship. Dual model 806, \$2,650; [sunrisespecialty.com](http://sunrisespecialty.com)



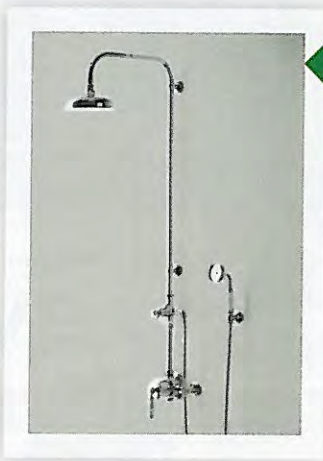
**same shape, different finish**

This two-piece cast-iron tub, 66 inches long and 13½ inches deep, has a porcelain enamel finish with a glaze guaranteed not to peel for one year. It weighs 552 pounds but shipping is free; just be sure to check your floor supports. Double-ended pedestal tub, \$1,400; [vintagetub.com](http://vintagetub.com)

SAVINGS: \$1,250

**10 > dual showerheads**

The Victorians cleaned up under rainhead “roses” atop exposed nickel risers with attached hand showers.



**two easy pieces**

This octagonal 9-inch rainhead is a simple retrofit for an existing wall shower. A separate chrome hand spray, with four shower settings, has a 69-inch hose and can be positioned anywhere along its 30-inch bar for hanging. Inspire showerhead, \$68, and four-function hand shower, by Moen, \$215; [moen.com](http://moen.com) for store locations

SAVINGS: \$3,394

**high-rise profile**

Porcelain levers, an exposed mixer, and a hand-polished nickel finish give this single-stem French-made unit its true vintage style. The 8-inch rose, fed by a large valve, is designed to drench; the handheld shower has a porcelain handle and 60-inch hose. Easton Exposed Shower System, \$3,677; [waterworks.com](http://waterworks.com)

**TOTAL TOH SAVINGS > \$11,404**

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