



# Measuring a Bathroom

## Corporate Page

MyReno411 is becoming the one-stop shop to inspire and enable the home design and renovation experience, serving the \$70 billion home renovation industry in Canada and the 2.4 million homeowners hiring contractors.

This means answering the “what”, the “how” and the “who” for home renovation.

- Photographs or design ideas will be a source of inspiration, the “what” of home renovation.
- Articles and eBooks will inform homeowners on the “how” of a home renovation.
- Lists of contractors, with reviews and ratings will connect homeowners with reliable contractors, the “who” of home renovation.

Equally, contractors are encouraged to advertise their services, to differentiate themselves from their competitors. We intend to build an online community of homeowners and contractors, helping both, so that they can help each other.

**MyReno411. Better Home Renovation.**

## About the Author



### Alan Nisbet

**Title:**

Renovation Specialist  
& Author at  
myreno411

**Tip:**

use ¼ inch graph  
paper when sketching  
the bathroom

Alan Nisbet has over 30 years of experience in all aspects of home design and renovation, building homes as well as building subdivisions. Since 1980, he has provided expert advice to help clients to understand and develop their requirements, through to designing small to grand renovations, and project managing the entire build process through to quality inspection, prior to acceptance. He has worked with homeowners as well as home builders: planning, creating, and implementing residential subdivisions of 100 units or more, and providing on-site supervision for residential projects including single family homes, townhomes, and multi-storey wood frame residential buildings.

The experience gained as a trained design professional and project manager in the construction industry has given Alan an insight and a depth of knowledge of the full build process from the inception of an idea and through to its successful implementation.

Field experience has provided him with a thorough understanding of building systems, scheduling, and build processes including the unique experience of managing site personnel. In addition, he has led lead teams and negotiated contracts.

Alan is fully aware of the serious nature and responsibilities required of an architectural professional and welcomes the opportunity to continue to share that knowledge and expertise.

# Objective

This eBook will help you accurately measure your bathroom. It will help you when speaking to contractors and shopping for fixtures.





# MEASURING A BATHROOM

The bathroom is usually the smallest room in the home. When renovating, this can pose some challenges compared to other rooms of the home. When doing a renovation you can either keep the layout the same or change. Changing the layout could be something as simple moving the placement of the bathtub, toilet and sink to maximize the amount of space. Or, it could be an expansion of the space itself. Presenting measurements of the space will ensure that contractors and sales associates at fixture stores will be able to help you.

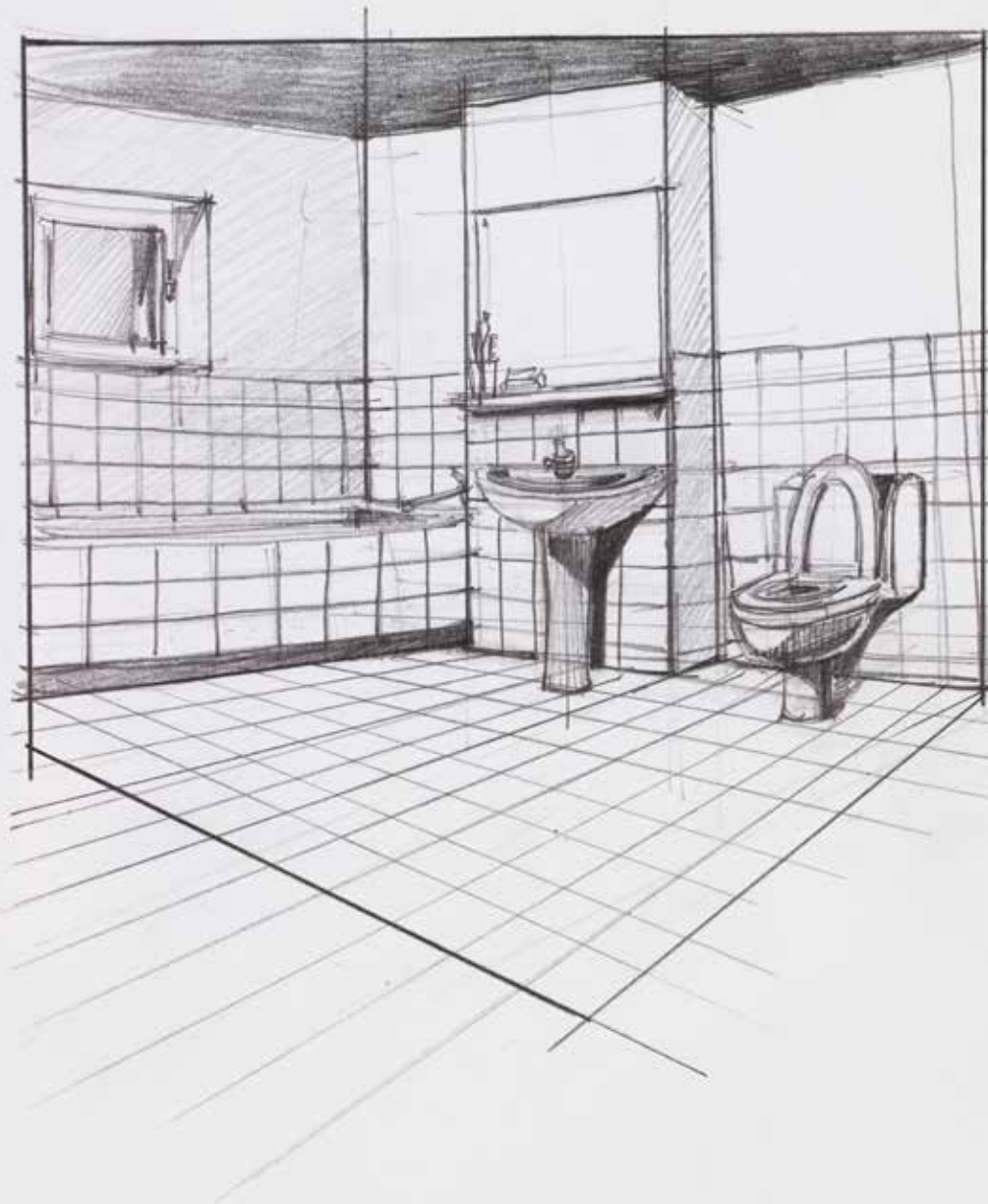


When measuring the space there are specific pieces of information that need to be recorded. Elements that may seem innocuous are important for both the renovator and the associate in the stores to help you pick out the right pieces that will fit in your space to ensure the bathroom is measured accurately; a 3 step process is used for each element to be measured:

1. Measure the space
2. Record what's needed
3. Make accurate notes

# Six **Easy** Steps

- 1.** Sketch the layout
- 2.** Label the doors and windows
- 3.** Label the walls
- 4.** Identify immovable obstructions
- 5.** Create a window and door schedule
- 6.** Measure the room



## Step # 1:

## SKETCH THE LAYOUT

The first step in the process is to sketch the outline of the room. Make the sketch large enough so notes can be added to the plan.

Typically a letter size sheet of paper is enough. For larger areas, consider using paper measuring 11 inches by 17 inches.

**NOTE:** Graph paper with 1/4 inch squares is recommended.

Items included on the sketch are:

- Windows
- Doors (direction of swing or travel)
- Plumbing fixtures
- Cabinets
- Bulkheads
- Sloped ceilings

**NOTE:** For ceilings, indicate if the ceiling is insulated or insulated.



# Step # 2: LABEL THE DOORS AND WINDOWS



When organizing information for doors and windows it's recommended to use a schedule. Specific information is collected for each window or door, and using a key value, references this information to the drawing.

When labeling the windows use letters and start with the letter A. If there are three windows, each gets a letter the letters A, B, and C are placed near each window on the sketch, even if they are the same style and size.

For the doors, use numbers and start with 1. For double doors, such as closet bi-fold or sliding doors, use a single number to label the door set.

# Step # 3: LABEL THE WALLS

Clearly identify which is being referenced by labeling them. It's recommended to use labels such as front, left, right, and back.

**NOTE:** Indicate if the walls are insulated exterior walls or uninsulated interior partition walls.

The labels correspond to the overall layout of the house so the wall located parallel to the front of the house is given the label "front". From there it's easy to figure out which walls to label left, right, and back.

**NOTE:** If one of the walls is a fire separation, party wall, or exterior wall, add a note to the drawing indicating this.



## Step # 4:

# IDENTIFY IMMOVABLE OBSTRUCTIONS



Immovable obstructions are building components remaining in place. These are posts, columns, floor openings for warm air registers, wall mounted cold air returns, hot water radiators, baseboard heaters, etc..

Record the location of switches, outlets, and light fixtures. Be sure to show what switch controls what fixture (by drawing a curved dashed line from the switch to the fixture) so there is an accurate representation of how the room works electrically. If the outlet is specialized, a GFCI for example, note this.



**CAN'T MOVE THIS**

# STEP # 5:

## CREATE A DOOR AND WINDOW SCHEDULE

Use the door and window schedule to accurately record information for each door and window. A formal layout organizes the information reducing the chances for you to miss something and record information accurately.

### Information to record for the windows:

- Width (inside of frame to inside of frame)
- Height (inside of frame to inside of frame)
- Height of window sill (from the floor to the top of the window sill)
- Indicate if the window remains or will be replaced
- Window type
- Frame material

See the example below:

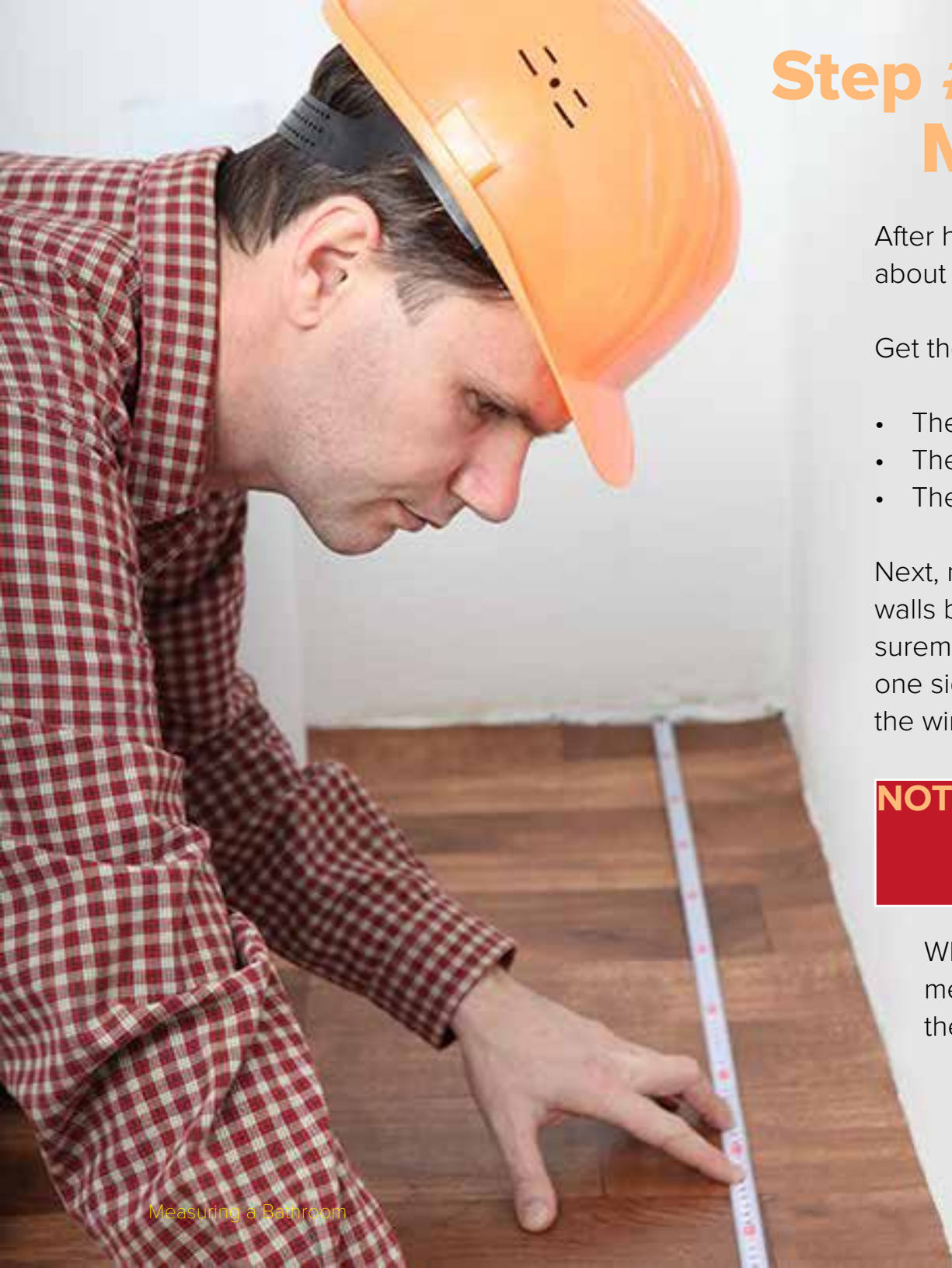
Window Label	Width	Height	Sill Height	Status	Type	Existing Frame Type
A	36"	42"	42"	Replace	Slider	Plastic
B	24"	36"	48"	Keep	Casemen	Wood

### Information recorded for the doors:

- Width of door (measure door)
- Height of door (measure door)
- Indicate if the door will be replaced or remains as-is
- Indicate the type of door (exterior, interior)
- Type of hardware (lockset, deadlock, passage set, privacy set)

See the example below:

Door Label	Width	Height	Status	Type	Hardware
1	36"	80"	Keep	Exterior, insulated	Lockset with deadbolt
2	24"	80"	Replace	Interior, Hollow core	Passage set



## Step # 6: Measure the Room

After having completed recording all the information about the room, it is now time to measure.

Get the big three measurements first:

- The longest width of the room
- The longest length of the room
- The tallest ceiling height from the finished floor

Next, measure the location of all the openings in the walls by start from an inside corner. Make the measurements incremental so the difference between one side and the other for a window is the size of the window in between.

**NOTE:** Moving the tape measure to make a separate measurements for every opening introduces the chance to make a mistake.

When measuring the bathroom it is critical to include measurements showing the location of the center of the bathtub, shower, toilet, and all the sinks.

## In This Series

- 1 10 Best Practices for Homeowners Doing a Renovation
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- 6 Floor System Checklist
- 7 Foundation Checklist
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- 9 Measuring a Bathroom

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