



Bathroom Project Timeline Checklist

What to expect at every phase, and what to watch for

bathroombidders.com

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Why this checklist exists: A proper bathroom remodel has 5 mandatory cure periods that cannot be shortened by fans, heaters, or extra labor. Use this to track your project's progress and make sure no steps are skipped. Checking off each phase means your contractor is doing it right.



DAYS 1-2 Demolition & Inspection

Old tile/substrate removed to studs. Framing inspected for rot, mold, moisture. **What's behind the wall determines everything.**

\$6.49/sqft demo

Mold = EPA stop-work protocol

Pre-1980: lead paint test



DAYS 3-4 Substrate & Rough-In

Cement board screwed to walls/floor. Plumbing rough-in. Niche framed. **Floor deflection to TCNA L/360 standard.**

\$6.00/sqft cement board

TCNA: 1/2" min wall board

Screws 8" OC field, 6" edges



DAYS 5-6 CURE Waterproofing & Cure

Liquid membrane on every wet surface. Two coats min. **Each coat must fully cure (color change) before the next. ~1 hr per coat in good conditions.** This is where shortcuts create \$8K-\$15K failures.

\$4.30/sqft membrane

ANSI A118.10

Cure = color change, not a clock



DAYS 7-9 Tile Installation

Back-buttered with leveling clips. **ANSI A108.02: 95% mortar coverage required in wet areas.** 24-hr thinset cure before grouting.

\$14.99-\$20.99/sqft tile

Herringbone/mosaic +1-2 days

95% mortar coverage standard



DAYS 10-12 CURE Grout, Seal & Cure

24-72 hrs cure before sealing. Sealer applied. 24 hrs cure before water contact. Sealed too early = trapped moisture = mold in 6 months.

\$3.96/sqft grout + sealer

CUSTOM TB84: sealer specs

TCNA: reseal 1-3 years



DAYS 13-15 Fixtures, Paint & Walkthrough

Shower valve, glass, vanity, toilet installed. Touch-up paint. **Full walkthrough with homeowner before project closes.**

\$9K-\$15K total (Better tier)

Final inspection + warranty docs

50x

Rushing saves 2-3 days but the worst case, waterproofing failure, costs **\$8,000-\$15,000 for a full tearout.** That's up to 50 times the cost of waiting. Each risk is independent, not additive. Patience is the cheapest material on the job.

Questions to Ask Your Contractor

1
How many coats of waterproofing membrane do you apply, and how long between coats?

2
What's your thinset cure time before grouting? Do you test or just wait 24 hours?

3
How long after grouting before you apply sealer? What product do you use?

4
Do you do a final walkthrough with the homeowner before you consider the job done?

5
What happens if you find mold or water damage during demo? Is that included or extra?

6
What mortar coverage percentage do you target in wet areas? (ANSI says 95%.)

Red Flags to Watch For

"We can do it in 5 days"

A proper standard remodel takes 9-14 working days. Faster means cure times are being skipped.

"One coat of waterproofing is fine"

Two coats minimum per ANSI A118.10. One coat is the #1 shortcut from other providers.

"We grout the same day we tile"

Thinset needs a full 24 hours before grouting. Same-day grouting causes tile shift and lippage.

"No need for a walkthrough"

Every reputable contractor walks the job with the homeowner before they leave. No walkthrough = no accountability.

NOTES
