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Antonella Romano, The Tile Oracle

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NORTH JERSEY HOMES

Antonella Romano is the owner of the Stone and Tile Emporium in Wyckoff (www.stoneandtilenj.com). Send your stone and tile questions to her at emolo@northjersey.com.

QUESTION: My husband and I have just bought new a home and we're remodeling our bathroom. I want to tile it 4 feet up all the way around, and full-height and ceiling in the shower area. The contractor said he could do it in a week. He's given me the square footage of tile I need for my floors and walls and told me where to purchase it. Do you think that's a good look for a master bath?

ANSWER: I think it's a great look for a master bath. You just shouldn't try to do it in a week.

If you try to get this done in a week, buy tile based on square footage alone and hand it over to your contractor, all kinds of things can and will go haywire. These could include borders that run into your electrical switches, plumbing fixture diverters interrupting the designs on the shower wall or a vanity height disproportionate to the height of the border.

For a tile design and installation to go right, you have to plan it like you planned your wedding — which I know you didn't try to do in a week. In a wedding, you have to consider the space, the entertainment, the cake, the schedule, the guests, your dress, etcetera. A tile design and installation has to coordinate issues such as window heights, vanity heights, plumbing, outlets, mirrors, medicine cabinets, plus tile details in the shower walls or floors.

Find a tile designer who can look at the space and layout the new bathroom on paper. That will tell you the linear footage of the border (rather than the square footage), which will determine the amount of border tile or mosaics you need.

The visit and drawing also will give you the dimensions of the room required to ensure tile designs aren't interrupted by fixtures, switches and so forth. You may find you've got structural issues that make your design impossible, or discover features you want to accentuate. This may call for a redesign or solutions such as moving plumbing, putting up or knocking down a wall.

Think about all the planning that went into your wedding and put just as much into your bathroom remodel. After all, you're also going to be "married to" that bathroom for a long time.



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