

Kelco Cabinets Owner Explains How Larger-Shower Trend Reshapes Bathroom Vanity Sizing in the Ozarks

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SPRINGFIELD, MO - November 20, 2026 -
National bathroom design data for 2026 points to two shifts that are changing how Springfield-area homeowners plan their renovations. The 2026 Houzz Bathroom Trends Study found that homeowners are planning renovations around future needs and making room for larger showers. The NKBA 2026 Bath Trends Report found that 32 percent of respondents agree aging-in-place has become a mainstream trend, while another 48 percent agree it is on its way to becoming one.

Those national patterns create a local measuring problem. When a larger shower claims more floor and wall space, the vanity has less room to work with. Many smaller and older Ozarks bathrooms already sit near the code minimums, which leaves little margin once a shower footprint grows.

Preston Kelsch, owner of Kelco Cabinets, works with these constraints daily and points to the figures that decide whether a plan passes inspection. Springfield follows the 2018 International Residential Code, which requires a 21-inch clear floor space in front of a fixture. Toilet clearance adds another limit: the code minimum

is 15 inches from the toilet centerline to the nearest obstruction, while the NKBA recommends 18 inches for comfort.

Depth is where the trend often collides with the rules. Kelsch offers a common example from area homes.

"Take a wall that gives you 40 inches to work with," Kelsch said. "Drop in a standard 21-inch-deep vanity and the clear floor space in front of it fails code. Switch to an 18-inch-deep cabinet and the same layout passes. Homeowners buy a stock unit based on width and never check the depth against the floor space the inspector measures."

Kelsch said the most frequent error he sees is measuring enthusiasm rather than the room. He recommends a simple sequence before buying anything.

"Start with wall length, subtract your toilet clearance, and only then look at vanity widths," Kelsch said. "After that, open every door and pull every drawer in your head. Bathroom doors, shower doors, and vanity drawers all need to swing clear. If a drawer hits the toilet when it opens, the measurement on paper does not matter."

The aging-in-place data also points to height. Standard vanity height runs 30 to 32 inches, while comfort height ranges from 34 to 36 inches, a difference that matters for households planning around future needs.

Code editions vary by jurisdiction. Nearby towns across Southwest Missouri may follow different code editions than Springfield, so Kelsch advises homeowners to confirm requirements with their local building department before finalizing a layout. Full measurement guidance, including wall length, toilet clearance, depth, and height figures, is available in the custom bathroom vanity Springfield MO guide published by the company.

Kelco Cabinets is a custom cabinetry and remodeling company based in Springfield, Missouri. The company builds custom bathroom cabinets along with kitchen, laundry room, and office cabinetry, and provides countertops, flooring, and backsplash installation. Kelco Cabinets serves communities across Southwest Missouri, including Springfield, Nixa, Ozark, Republic, Battlefield, Branson, Bolivar, Willard, Pleasant Hope, and Rogersville.

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Kelco Cabinets LLC

Locally owned cabinet company in Springfield, MO offering custom-fit kitchen and bathroom cabinetry, in-home design support, quality materials, and professional installation for homeowners.

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