

Willbond bathroom centre director **Lisa Jepson** looks at an emerging trend to create stylish and sleek open-plan bathrooms within bedrooms.



Open-plan bathroom/bedrooms are gaining in popularity. Bathrooms shown above and below available from Willbond, 600 City Gate, London Road, Derby, DE24 8WY. Call 01332 388 600, email derbybathrooms@willbond.co.uk or visit willbond.co.uk.

Open-plan bathroom haven

Open plan living has now reached the bedroom. Today bathroom furniture is so sleek and stylish why would you want to hide it behind walls?

The open plan 'bedroom-bathroom' concept first seen in fashionable trendy boutique hotels brings together the two most personal rooms in the home into one modern space – but they are not for the self-conscious!

Combining living rooms with cooking and dining facilities has become common, and in studio apartments the sleeping area is often part of this one space modern living.

Usually, though, the bathroom is in a separate room – but not any longer.

Over the last few years we have seen the open plan 'bed-bath combination' increase in popularity, progressing from bedrooms having a separate en-suite with a door, to an en-suite without a door and now, daringly, an en-suite without walls!

Modern homes incorporate an en-suite bathroom but sometimes these can be tiny, windowless rooms. So why not think about removing the partition wall or replacing it with glass as this will give more light and create the illusion of space.



PRIVACY ISSUES

You will need to make sure you are comfortable with the environment you create. The bath, shower and basin installed in the bedroom are one thing but most people would want to keep the WC separate.

One option is to create a half-height wall between the toilet and the bedroom area which would separate the bathroom and give a greater level of privacy. Of course, to stop your children or

guests accidentally walking in, a lock should be put on the bedroom door.

BE PRACTICAL

Before you waste valuable time thinking about getting the look just right, there are practicalities to think about, such as plumbing considerations and building regulations.

You will also need to eliminate condensation by making sure you have good ventilation, so install an extractor with a humidistat.

There's nothing more glamorous than a free-standing roll top bath at the foot of the bed and stepping out onto a shag pile carpet might sound luxurious but in reality the carpet will go soggy and eventually start to rot.

You could create a raised platform for the bathing area that would also form a subtle division between the two spaces.

Wooden flooring is popular for the bedroom but again is not suitable for a bathroom as condensation and water will inevitably damage it. Tiles may seem cold for a UK bedroom but with under tile heating you'll feel like you are on the continent.