

Wickes



PLANNING AND INSTALLING A NEW BATHROOM

A bathroom is an important room used by family and visitors alike. It should be appealing, pleasant to use, easy to keep clean and a distinct asset when you want to sell your house. Planning a new bathroom is not difficult and the information in this leaflet will guide you through the steps you need to take.

The installation of a new bathroom is a relatively straightforward task. The majority of the work is basic plumbing with user friendly fittings and modern components. You will be replacing old water supply pipes – especially lead ones – or re-using existing, relatively modern, copper which is clear of scale build-up.

You will also be replacing old metal waste piping with easy-to-use pushfit plastic piping. With careful planning you will be able to remove almost everything from an old bathroom and replace it with new items in a matter of days.



Nobody likes a bathroom that has become dated or the idea of an old bathroom with a chipped and stained ancient cast iron bath, exposed plumbing pipework, a cracked handbasin, and possibly a WC, with a rusty and noisy cistern. Yet there are many bathrooms which would fit into this general description and remain unchanged because it is assumed that modernisation will cost a fortune and be extremely difficult.

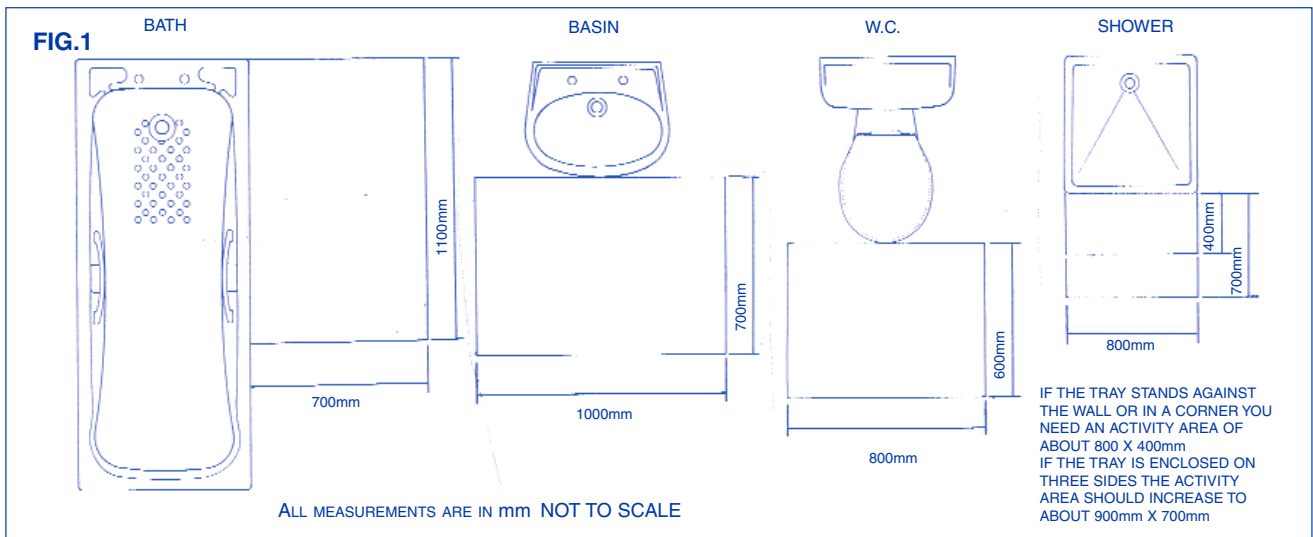
The fact is that bathroom refurbishment need not be expensive and certainly is not difficult. Expenditure can be as low as £200 for a modern bathroom suite and the work is little more than basic plumbing using modern easy to handle fittings. No special skills are required and indeed very little is needed in the way of special tools or equipment. The chances are that you already have virtually everything you require.

If you're into DIY, you'll appreciate simple solid construction and being able to find everything you need in one place. Buying is easy as you can just pick a one-price suite pack, or if you want to personalise it you can choose your own taps for the bath and basin. Plus, with our Good Ideas Leaflets, you'll never get stuck as they're full of practical tips and advice.

Our In-Store Design Consultants can help you plan the layout of your bathroom.

KEEP INFORMED

- Look for other Good Idea Leaflets that could help you with your current project.
- Check that your Good Idea Leaflets are kept up to date. Leaflets are regularly changed to reflect product changes so keep an eye on issue dates.
- If you would like to be put on our mailing list for the Wickes booklet, call our Freephone number which is:
0500 300 328
- Visit our website at www.wickes.co.uk



PLANNING

The following planning information is relevant to both Wickes Home Delivered and In-Store bathroom ranges.

The first step is to visit your local Wickes store and have a good look at the displays of bathrooms to see what is available. You'll find both contemporary and traditional bathroom suites, stylish bath options, wash stands, showers and more. Not everything will be on display in every store so ask for any literature on bathrooms and accessories that may be of help to you.

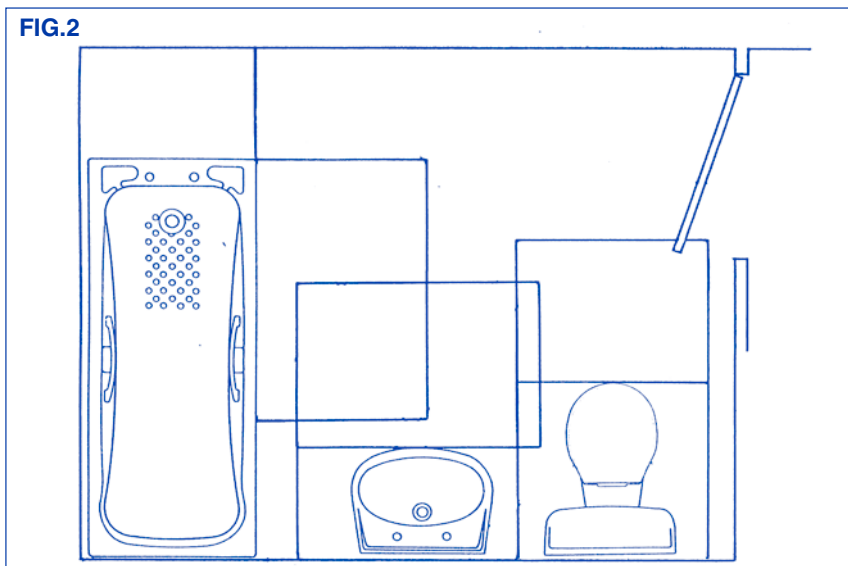
NOTE: All dimensions can be found in either the Wickes Home Delivered Bathrooms Price List or the Wickes Takeaway Bathrooms Brochure, available from store or on our websites: www.wickes.co.uk www.wickesbathrooms.co.uk

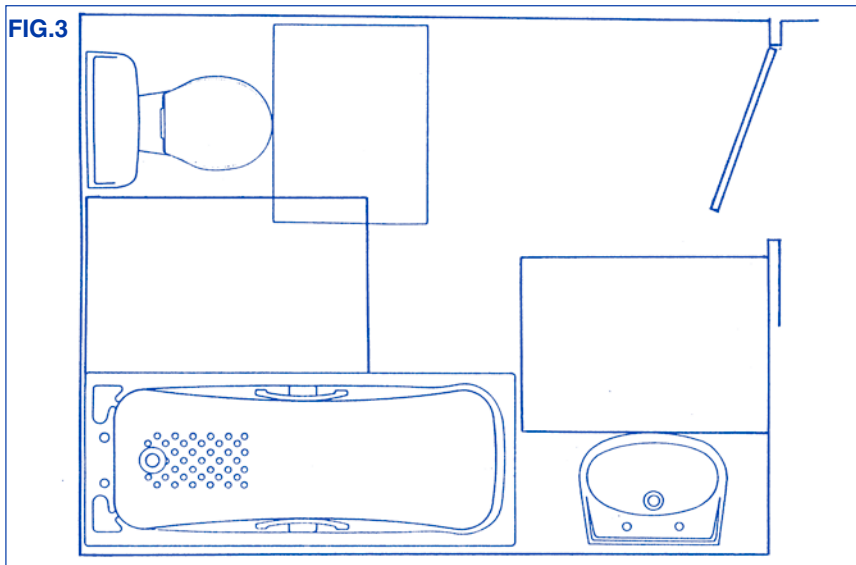
The next step is to decide precisely what you want in your own bathroom and how to fit your selection into the available space in the most convenient way. You do not have to position everything in exactly the same place as the old fittings but you must bear in mind that major changes will lead to extra plumbing, particularly where waste pipes are concerned.

Completely re-siting the WC, for example, will require work either linking up to the old soil pipe or even fitting a completely new soil pipe. This type of change should be avoided if possible, but see later notes on the use of a Wickes Macerator. If you are fortunate, your WC will not be sited in the bathroom but will be in a separate room and this will allow far more scope for re-arrangement.

When planning any new layout you should also take into consideration the space around each item which is needed as 'standing room', i.e., the area needed chiefly for drying off after a bath or shower, or washing at the basin, or using the WC. If everything is packed tightly together the room will be difficult to use. **FIG.1** shows suggested space that should be left clear around units.

Using a pencil and graph paper, draw the floor plan of your bathroom to scale. Excluding the existing fittings draw the position of waste outlets, plumbing and fixed items such as a door, window and radiator. The scale to work on is 1:15 meaning that each 10mm on the paper is equal to 150 millimetres on the floor. Then, on a separate piece of graph paper, and using the same scale, draw the items that you wish to have in the room. The sizes of items in Wickes bathroom ranges are shown in the Wickes Bathroom Price List. **NOTE:** Optional baths can be specially ordered at a nominal 1500mm long.





Create the layout you want. Remember each component will need 'standing room'. Some overlapping of 'standing room' is quite acceptable.

FIG.2 shows a typical layout in a small and almost square space and **FIG.3** shows an alternative in the same room.

If you have plenty of space plan to locate a separate shower enclosure in the room. If space is limited the shower can very easily be incorporated into the bath saving a great deal of space. If you need a shower enclosure to cope with family requirements, one could be installed elsewhere in the house. For example a shower enclosure could be part of en-suite facilities in a bedroom. The Wickes Macerator can be useful here enabling the waste from WC, shower and a basin to be pumped to the soil stack.

It should not take long to plan your layout which may well be just the same as the existing one, if the original designer did his job well in the first place. It is worth remembering that small changes, such as re-hanging a door so that it hinges on the opposite edge can make access to the usable space in the bathroom considerably better, but take care not to make it open against somebody who may be using the basin or WC

CHOOSING THE FITMENTS

Once you have planned the layout and confirmed that what you want will fit in, go back to the store, order the components that you want and select tiles and other accessories to suit your tastes.

All Wickes baths (except rolltop and contemporary free standing) are made from 5mm thick acrylic. This makes them than better than steel or cast iron varieties in so many ways.

- They are light in weight, making them much easier to handle.
- They are strong with the bases being reinforced with chipboard and fibreglass.
- Unlike Enamel baths they don't chip
- If surface damage does occur, there is generally no discolouration because the colour goes right through the acrylic sheet from which the bath is moulded.
- Any surface scratching is easily removed with a liquid metal polish.
- Additionally, an important feature for those who dislike getting into a cold steel bath, acrylic baths have a natural warm feel.

Wickes pottery items such as basins, pedestals, toilet pans and cisterns are top quality products with smooth surface glazing. They are strong, durable and above all, attractive.

Some baths can be supplied with matching side and end panels. Wood effect panels are also available. A variety of taps are available and again, personal choice comes into the selection of these.

If you are planning to incorporate a shower above your bath there are two ways of doing this. One is to simply use bath / shower mixer taps with a flexible hose leading to the shower spray head, either with chrome or gold effect shower fittings. The alternative is to use an electric shower heater, our Good Idea leaflet No. 45 tells you all about these. A power shower or mixer shower could also be installed. Shower pumps can be used on mixer showers or bath showers to increase flow and pressure.

EXTRACTOR FANS

Most bathrooms are prone to condensation and an extractor fan fitted to a window or an outside wall will considerably reduce any damage which can be caused by condensation.

ELECTRICITY

Remember that no plug and socket fittings (apart from special razor sockets) are allowed in bathrooms and you will need double pole isolating switches for other electrical appliances such as an electric shower heater or shower booster pump.

No switch apart from ceiling pull cord types may be installed anywhere within reach of anyone using a bath or shower.

All your wiring work must conform to BS 7671, the current I.E.E. wiring regulations and part of Part P of Building Regulations. You are advised to check with your local authority's Building Control Department, or an Authorised Competent Person, before starting. If in any doubt about electrical work, contact a qualified electrician.

INSTALLATION

The following part of this Good Idea leaflet covers installation of new bathroom fixtures and fittings. As mentioned above it includes advice on pre-planning the actual work to avoid total disruption to the household.

Before starting any work you should have all new products on site and should spend time studying the specific installation instructions supplied with the component parts. You will also find that most, if not all, of your new bathroom components are supplied with installation instructions.

Make a list of all the early jobs you know you will have to do.

For example:

- Remove old bath, basin and pedestal
- Remove lead / old piping
- Fit stopcocks to pipes from cold water storage & hot cylinder
- Plan new supply pipe routes
- Plan new waste pipe routes
- Remove existing wallcoverings
- Temporarily remove radiator
- Remove existing mirrors
- Check condition and location of electrical wiring

Other Good Idea Leaflets which will be of help.

- 8** Water Softeners
- 33** Natural Stone Flooring
- 37** How to Fix Ceramic Wall and Floor Tiling
- 45** Electric Shower Heaters
- 46** Installing Shower Booster Pumps
- 48** Guide to Plumbing Skills
- 54** Wickes Aquapanel
- 73** Above Ground Soil and Waste
- 101** The Wickes Macerator

These are available In-Store or at: www.wickes.co.uk

PREPARATORY WORK

Most of the above, and there will always be more, is removal work in order to permit the new fittings to be installed. Ensure that during your preparation work, your new fittings are stored safely. In an ideal situation you should be able to completely gut the old bathroom to leave yourself a clear working space. In reality, this is difficult because it may mean that the family is without washing facilities for a few days. If you can make other arrangements such as installing the additional en-suite basin and shower you always wanted in the spare bedroom, then this will be easier. However, if this is not possible then you must aim to work progressively, replacing just one unit at a time so that the water is never cut off for too long. Installing a bath or basin in a day is perfectly possible. You only have to have the water supply pipes and waste connected for the bath or basin to be usable.

Once you have a list prepared you can work out priorities and a time schedule. Then get ready to start work. It is worth stressing at this point that you must not strip any old bath, basin, shower or WC out until you have the replacement fittings on the premises and have checked that they are the correct size, complete and in perfect condition. Store new items where they cannot be damaged and check all products before installation.

Ensure that you have all the tools you need for both the removal of old fittings and installation of new, before you start. The only tools you may not have are wrenches, water pump pliers and a pipe cutter. These are not expensive items and you may well find that they are useful additions to your toolkit.

The biggest disruption to the household will occur if you are replacing old lead or iron piping with new copper, and you should always

take the opportunity to make such a change. In this situation you could be a day or two without water in the bathroom. The water supply has to be cut off and the cold water storage tank drained so that the old pipe can be disconnected and removed. The chances are that the kitchen tap, fed from the rising main, will be the only tap still usable.

If you are fortunate enough to have modern copper pipework, disruption will be far less as new fittings can be plumbed in quite rapidly, even if they are in a new position. Additionally, if the outlets from the cold water storage tank are fitted with their own stopcocks, the drainage of the tank will not be needed.

In many cases where plumbing supply and waste pipes are to be renewed and / or re-routed, the new pipework can be put in place at an early stage, to ensure a rapid changeover when the water has to be cut off.

REMOVAL OF FITMENTS

It would be wise to have some cloths handy to mop up any water which escapes from the system as the work progresses. With the water cut off and with taps opened to drain off as much residual water as possible, you can disconnect the fittings and cap the pipes temporarily. This can be done with service valves and checkvalves which can later be part of the system to isolate fittings - ideal for tap washer changing for example. The main water supply could then be restored to other parts of the house, enabling the kitchen sink cold water tap and any second WC to be operated normally.

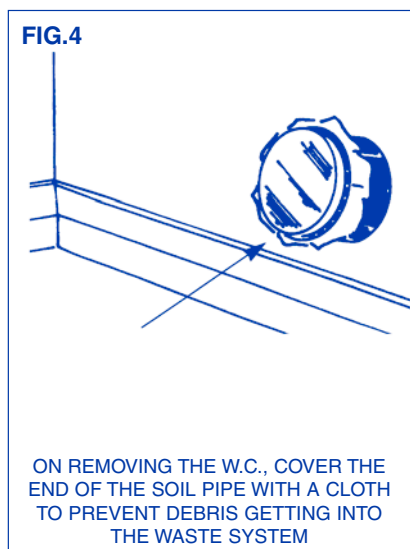
The next step is to remove the first item to be replaced. This may be the old bath, basin and WC, or all of them, but we do recommend that the WC is dealt with first.

The old bath, if cast iron, will be extremely heavy and you will need the assistance of at least two other strong

people to get it out of the bathroom and out of the house in one piece! Should this prove impossible (and this is very likely) it can be broken up in situ with a sledge hammer. You must wear protective glasses for your eyes and take steps to protect any windows in the room from flying metal. You can cover the bath with an old blanket to restrain any splinters. You will probably find a local scrap metal dealer interested in acquiring the cast iron and any lead piping you may have removed.

NOTE: The basin will be easier to deal with since this will probably be supported purely on brackets and maybe a pedestal.

When removing the WC, start with the cistern, disconnecting the downpipe to the pan at the coupling nut directly under the base of the cistern, then disconnect at the pan end. Again, a cast iron cistern will be heavy so help will be needed. When the pan is removed, try not to damage the waste pipe leading to the stack. Cover the end of the pipe with cloths or polythene to prevent debris getting into the waste system, as seen in **FIG.4**.



With everything removed, the next step is to correct any defects which have been uncovered, such as rotten floorboards or damaged plasterwork. Spend a bit of time to complete any dirty work and prepare the room for the

new fittings and decorations. This preparation work should include channelling the walls for electrical wiring conduit for items such as a shower heater, extractor fan or combined light and razor socket.

Remember that no plugs and socket fittings (apart from special razor sockets) are allowed in a bathroom and you will need double pole isolating switches for other electrical appliances.

FITTING YOUR NEW SUITE

Where applicable, fitting instructions should be read and understood before any installation commences.

The worst part of the job is now over and you should have an empty, clean room into which to fit your new pieces of equipment. Starting with the WC pan, use a special plastic and rubber pan trap connector to link the pan outlet to the old soil pipe, see **FIG.5**.

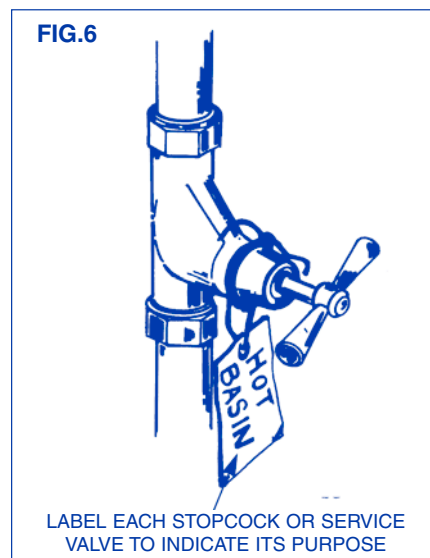


Only when the pan outlet is linked in accordance with the instructions included with the connector should you secure the pan to the floor with screws, ensuring the correct level positioning. Then fit the cistern and connect the overflow pipe valve and water supply pipe. The water supply to the WC is made using 15mm pipe. You should always fit an isolating valve in the supply pipe for simple future maintenance.

The bath and basin can be fitted next. You will find it easier to fit the combined waste outlet, overflows and taps, before actually putting the bath and basin in place. The water supply to the basin is in 15mm pipe, and to the bath in 22mm pipe. If you want to have a cold water supply to the basin for drinking purposes, this supply should come directly from the rising main, not from the cold water storage tank.

Similarly the water supply to any electrically powered shower heater must come directly from the rising main in 15mm pipe. Wastewater from the basin will be run away in 32mm push fit pipework from either a U-trap or bottle trap. Wastewater from the bath will run away in 40mm pushfit pipework, again with a trap.

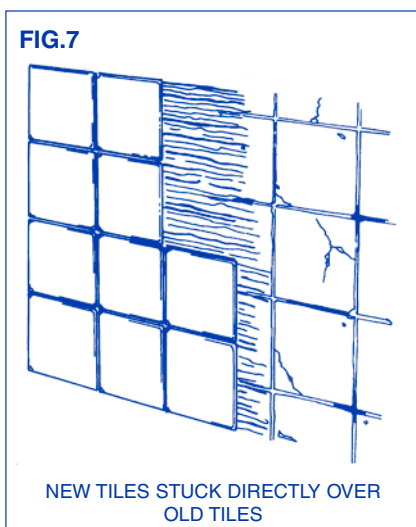
As suggested earlier, it is well worth making good use of service / isolating and check valves in your supply pipes to each and every outlet, so that at any time in the future that outlet can be isolated very easily. In a new bathroom this would mean 22mm valves on both of the bath tap water supply pipes, 15mm valves on the basin hot and cold supply pipes, the WC supply pipe and any supply pipe to a shower heater. Valves and existing stopcocks must be accessible and labelled to indicate their purpose as seen in **FIG.6**.



DECORATIVE WORK

Once all the new main bathroom items are in place and fully operational you can proceed at leisure with the decorative work. If you are tiling the walls or floor make sure you use the correct type of adhesive. See Good Idea Leaflets 33 & 37 for tiling and Good Idea Leaflet 54 for Aquapanel.

In a shower area which is frequently wet, use waterproof wall tile adhesive with matching waterproof grout. On walls that generally stay dry you can use a standard ceramic wall tile adhesive and grout. If tiling the floor you must use our ceramic floor tile adhesive. Do not use wall tiles on floors. It is worth mentioning here that when modernising a bathroom it is not necessary to remove old wall tiles. So long as they are still well bonded to the wall, they can be tiled over very successfully. This can save a great deal of messy and laborious work during the preparatory stages. See **FIG.7**.

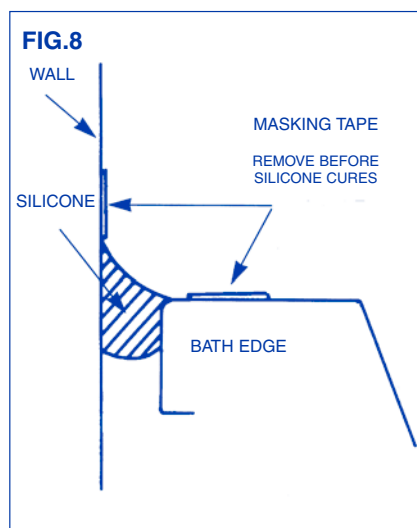


For untiled areas you may choose to use our Ready Pasted Vinyl Wallcoverings and / or our Master Kitchen and Bathroom paint which is especially suitable for use in rooms prone to condensation. If an extractor fan is not currently fitted, now is a good time to incorporate one.

For the floor you can use ceramic floor tiles, or you can opt for cork tiles. All are available at Wickes. Don't select any type of flooring which will

suffer if it becomes wet as is often the case in a bathroom, and don't choose a floorcovering which becomes very slippery when wet. Decoratively speaking, the choice is very much yours but do plan ahead a little and try to have a good look at all the various possibilities. It can take a little time to sort out a colour scheme, which will harmonise well with your choice of suite.

One extremely important job, which must be done when the bathroom is virtually complete, is to seal the gaps between the rim of your new bath and basin and the adjacent walls to prevent water dripping down behind. A great deal of damage can be done by water seeping into unventilated areas, particularly behind the bath. Use Wickes Silicone Bath Sealant in a colour to match the bathroom suite and walls. Apply to a finish as in **FIG.8**.



Ensure sealant surface is formed to a concave shape above bath rim level to ensure that water runs off easily into the bath and does not collect in hollows. Don't use any filler that sets hard. It will soon break away and cease to be effective.

CARE OF FITMENTS

Fitments and fittings will be supplied with instructions where applicable on how to care for them. Don't throw these away. Read them and follow the

instructions. Using abrasive cleaners can be very damaging. There are cleaners especially approved for use on acrylic materials.

WATER SOFTENERS

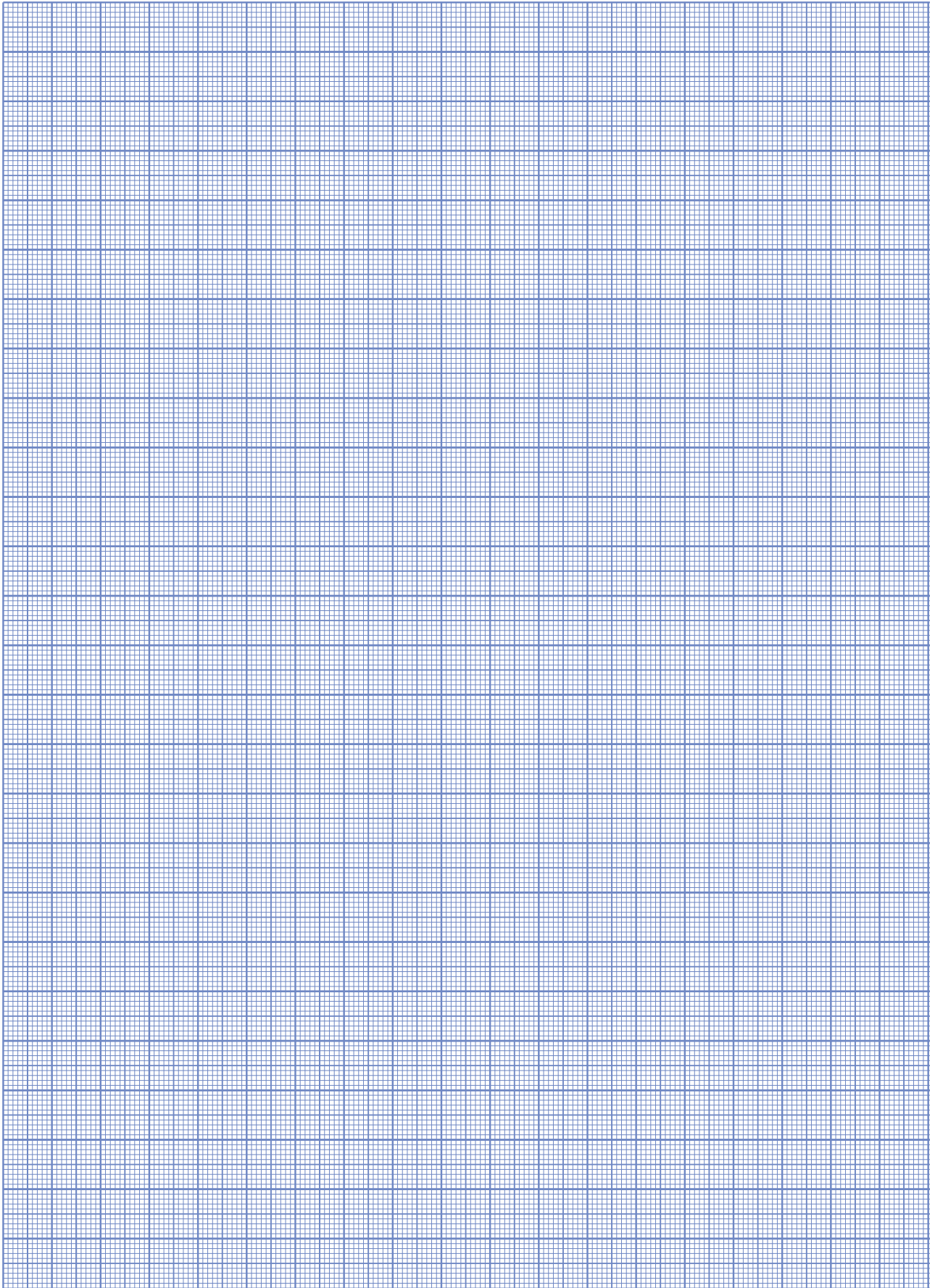
For hard water areas, why not consider installing a Wickes Water Softener?

Only about 40% of the country have a soft water supply. The rest of the country has varying degrees of hard water. Because of the problems this can cause, it is not surprising that homeowners in hard water areas want some method of changing their hard water to soft. This gives them the chance to save money, and permanently enjoy the luxury and advantages this gives. See **Good Idea Leaflet 8**.

The Wickes Water Softener (including basic installation kit and fitting instructions) is available to order from your local Wickes store or online at www.wickes.co.uk. Contact one of the In-Store Design Consultants (who can be found in the bathroom / kitchen area of the store). Delivery will take about seven working days.

The Wickes water softener is designed to provide more than adequate soft water for a home of one to five people, at very reasonable cost, both initially and in the future. The Wickes model is easy to install and operate. Sizewise, the softener measures 640mm high, 275mm wide by 450mm deep, so it will fit inside a kitchen cupboard (base unit) quite easily.

If you are considering the purchase of a new bathroom, this is an ideal time to install a new Water Softener. You could install it in a kitchen cupboard base unit, warm garage, laundry room, airing cupboard, cloakroom or even an insulated loft. All you need is access to the rising main, power and a drain. Ask one of our In-Store Design Consultants for some ideas.



Whilst every care has been taken to ensure that the product design, descriptions, specifications and techniques of constructing the products are accurate at the date of printing. Wickes products will inevitably change from time to time and the customer is advised to check that the design, descriptions, specifications and techniques of constructing any of the products described in this leaflet are still valid at the time of purchase or placing an order.

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