
Craftsman Bathroom “Flip-Signal” Checklist

Quick screen before you buy tile, swap lighting, or order fixtures.
Print this, save it, or keep it open while you shop. *Enjoy!*



Step 1: Context check (30 seconds). Before you judge any single finish, answer these:

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| ☐ Is your home's style Craftsman / bungalow / early 1900s–1930s (or has Craftsman trim/details)? | ☐ Is the bathroom mostly seen with the door open (so it needs to “match” adjacent spaces)? |
| ☐ Do you have warm wood, painted trim, or built-ins nearby that influence the bathroom's tone? | ☐ Are you keeping original elements (trim, door, window, tile, tub) that set the style baseline? |

If you checked 2+ boxes: *prioritize scale + warmth + quiet details over trends.*

Step 2: The 5 flip signals (quick pass/fail)

If you spot 2+ of these in your plan, it's worth reworking before you spend.

1) Gray LVP “spa vibe” in a Craftsman context

- ☐ Flooring is cool/gray and the rest of the house reads warm (wood + cream).
- ☐ The “wood grain” looks printed or too uniform.
- ☐ The look feels generic rather than tied to the home's era.

Course-correct: *shift to warmer tones, smaller-scale tile, or materials that age better visually.*

2) Ultra-modern matte-black everything

- ☐ Faucet + shower + lighting + hardware are all matte black.
- ☐ Fixtures are sharp/boxy/ultra-minimal (modern silhouettes).
- ☐ Contrast feels like the “main event” instead of the room's architecture.

Course-correct: *pick one dark accent or choose warmer metals that blend with Craftsman lines.*

3) Cold 5000K lighting

- ☐ Your bulbs are labeled 4000K–5000K (or the light looks icy/blue at night).
- ☐ Skin tones look tired or gray in the mirror.
- ☐ Paint looks harsher at night than it does in daylight.

Course-correct: *aim for warm, flattering light (the bulb choice matters as much as the fixture).*

4) Oversized frameless mirror + LED strip

- ☐ Mirror is wall-spanning or oversized relative to the vanity.
- ☐ Built-in LED halo/strip becomes the focal point.
- ☐ The mirror reads “hotel” more than “home with history.”

Course-correct: *choose a simple framed mirror that feels like furniture, not a video screen.*

5) “Subway tile but make it huge” (scale mismatch)

- ☐ Tile is oversized, super glossy, or looks plastic-perfect.
- ☐ Grout lines disappear (so it reads like a sheet).
- ☐ The tile feels louder than the trim and proportions.

Course-correct: *go smaller scale or classic proportions so the bathroom feels period-friendly.*

Step 3: Comfort upgrades that don't erase character

These are “quiet wins” — upgrades you'll feel every day without changing the soul.

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- | | |
|--|--|
| ☐ Add/upgrade ventilation (quiet fan + discreet grille) | ☐ Fix drafts/moisture at window/trim before cosmetic work |
| ☐ Improve lighting quality (warm, even, glare-free) | ☐ Choose surfaces that clean easily without looking synthetic |
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Step 4: The “it will look right” gut-check

If you're unsure, ask these before you buy:

- ☐ Would this look normal next to wood trim and period doors?
- ☐ If you removed the trendy parts, would the room still feel finished?
- ☐ Does the scale match the room (tile size, mirror size, fixture heft)?
- ☐ Will it still look good under evening light?

If you hesitate on scale or lighting: pause and revise. Those two are the usual culprits.



Step 4 continued...

Use this as a simple guardrail while browsing:

Lighting:

- ☐ Warm, soft light (not icy)
- ☐ Simple globes or period-leaning shapes
- ☐ Not overly industrial or overly modern



Tile:

- ☐ Scale fits the room
- ☐ Classic proportions
- ☐ Grout/finish doesn't look like plastic



Finishes:

- ☐ One main finish + controlled accents
- ☐ Warm metals play well with Craftsman wood tones
- ☐ Shapes aren't aggressively modern

