



Choosing cabinets can be an overwhelming undertaking. What kind of wood? What style door? What color finish? And once style is determined, there is still more to figure out, including construction, length of warranty desired, and accessories. With all this in mind, we've compiled some tips to make the decision-making process as easy as possible.

Work with a professional.

"First, look for a professional design consultant with experience," says Faith Allen, Senior Product Manager at Meril-lat. "A professional designer can answer many of your questions upfront, offer ideas you may not have thought of, and help you find economical solutions."

Look for a balance of design and functionality.

Allen suggests asking yourself if your bathroom functions well with the way you live. Cabinets with your most frequently used items should be located and arranged most conveniently, with items you don't use everyday stored out of the way. The design and style of your cabinetry should also fit your own personal taste.

Know your style.

Identification of your own personal decorative style is key to selecting the right look for your cabinets. By doing a little bit of style research ahead of time, you insure a final design that fits with your personal tastes and preferences.

Consider the surrounding area.

"Look for a type of wood and finish that will complement your other furnishings," Allen advises. For example, if your bath opens directly into a bedroom, choose cabinetry that enhances the furniture in that room. Ask about cabinet warranty. "Find out how many years the warranty covers and which parts of the cabinetry the warranty applies to," Allen says. Reputable manufacturers will back their products with a solid warranty.

Examine cabinet construction.

Compare the different types of cabinetry offered – stock, semi-custom and custom – and what kind of joints, hardware and support structures they are built with. Look at cabinets inside and out and consider how much wear-and-tear they'll receive in your home.

Add Style Upgrades.

"Finishing touches can make a big difference in the look of the entire room" Allen notes. Rope moldings, glass doors and decorative hardware are just a few examples of upgrades that can add dramatic depth and character to your design.

Educate yourself before choosing a manufacturer.

"Make sure you choose a manufacturer that offers the accessories and details you need and want," Allen says. "Ask about everything down to the smallest details, like self-closing doors and drawers. After all, it's not just about cabinets. It's about creating a more convenient, comfortable home for the way you live."