



Bathroom Remodel Timeline in Monmouth County, NJ

How Long Each Phase Takes - 2026 Homeowner's Guide

Design and selections - permits and inspections - week-by-week construction - what adds time - FAQs

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The Short Answer

A bathroom remodel in Monmouth County typically takes **2 to 3 weeks** of construction for a guest or hall bathroom, **4 to 6 weeks** for a full renovation, and **8 weeks or more** for a luxury primary bathroom with structural changes. That is the on-site portion. Counting design, material lead times, and municipal permitting, the full process from first consultation to final inspection usually runs **8 to 16 weeks**.

Most homeowners hear "four weeks" and picture four weeks from the day they sign. The gap between that expectation and reality is where frustration comes from, and it is almost always the planning and permitting phases that create it, not the construction.

This guide lays out every phase, how long each one takes in this market, what stretches the calendar, and what you can do to keep it tight. PNE Construction has been remodeling and restoring homes in Monmouth County since 2008, and the timelines below reflect what we see across Rumson, Little Silver, Red Bank, Middletown, Colts Neck, Ocean Township, and the surrounding towns. They are planning ranges. Your written schedule should come from a contractor who has stood in your bathroom.

Quick Reference: Timelines by Tier

Project Tier	Planning and Selections	Permits	Construction	Total Start to Finish
Powder room refresh	1 to 3 weeks	0 to 2 weeks	1 to 2 weeks	3 to 6 weeks
Guest or hall bathroom update	2 to 4 weeks	1 to 3 weeks	2 to 3 weeks	6 to 10 weeks
Full bathroom renovation	3 to 6 weeks	1 to 3 weeks	4 to 6 weeks	8 to 14 weeks
Luxury primary bathroom	6 to 10 weeks	2 to 4 weeks	8+ weeks	14 to 20+ weeks

Planning and permitting overlap in practice. Permit applications go in once drawings and scope are final, and material lead times run in parallel with permit review. The totals above assume that overlap.

Why Is the Calendar So Much Longer Than the Construction?

Three separate clocks run on a bathroom remodel, and only the last one is visible from your hallway.

The decision clock. Layout, tile, vanity, fixtures, lighting, glass, paint, hardware. A full bathroom involves somewhere between 40 and 60 individual product decisions, and every one of them has to be made before demolition starts. Homeowners who make decisions quickly move through this in two weeks. Homeowners who are still choosing between two tiles in week six are the most common reason a project starts late.

The supply clock. Once decisions are made, materials have to arrive. Some are in stock. Many are not.

The municipal clock. Permits are reviewed by your town's construction office on its schedule, and inspections happen when an inspector is available, not when your tile setter is ready.

Construction cannot start until the first two clocks have run out, and it cannot finish until the third one cooperates. Understanding this is the single most useful thing you can do to set expectations.

Phase 1: Design, Selections, and Lead Times

Typical duration: 2 to 6 weeks for most projects, 6 to 10 weeks for luxury work

The design phase begins at the on-site consultation and ends when every material is either on site or has a confirmed delivery date. For a guest bathroom keeping its layout, this is mostly selections. For a full renovation with plumbing relocation, it also includes drawings that will be submitted with the permit application. The part that catches people off guard is lead time.

Material	In-Stock Lead Time	Special Order Lead Time
Standard porcelain tile	3 to 10 days	3 to 6 weeks
Large-format or imported tile	Rarely stocked	4 to 8 weeks
Stock vanity	1 to 2 weeks	Not applicable
Semi-custom vanity	Not applicable	4 to 8 weeks
Custom cabinetry	Not applicable	8 to 12 weeks
Quartz or stone vanity top	Templated after cabinet is set	1 to 2 weeks from template
Faucets, valves, and trim	1 to 2 weeks	3 to 6 weeks for designer lines
Frameless glass shower enclosure	Not applicable	1 to 3 weeks from measurement
Freestanding tub	1 to 3 weeks	4 to 8 weeks
Steam shower generator	Not applicable	3 to 6 weeks

Two things in that table drive scheduling more than any other.

First, stone tops and shower glass cannot be ordered until the room is built. Tops are templated after the vanity is installed. Glass is measured after tile is set and grouted, because the enclosure has to match the finished opening within a sixteenth of an inch. Both of those items add a week or two at the end of construction, and there is no way to pull them forward.

Second, custom cabinetry alone can take longer than the entire construction phase. A luxury primary bathroom with custom millwork should have that order placed before anything else is finalized.

Our rule: demolition does not start until every long-lead item has a confirmed ship date that lands before it is needed. A bathroom torn out while waiting on a backordered vanity is a bathroom nobody can use, and that is a situation we will not put a family in.

Phase 2: Permits and Inspections in Monmouth County

Typical duration: 1 to 3 weeks for approval, plus inspection scheduling during construction

Under the New Jersey Uniform Construction Code, most bathroom remodels that touch plumbing, electrical, structural, or mechanical systems require permits from the municipal construction office. Purely cosmetic work such as paint, a vanity swap in place, or new hardware generally does not. Requirements vary by town, so confirm specifics with your local construction official.

Monmouth County has more than 50 municipalities, and each one runs its own construction department with its own staffing and workload. The state code gives construction officials up to 20 business days to review a complete application. In practice, across the towns we work in, approval takes anywhere from a few days to three weeks. Spring and early summer, when permit volume peaks, produce the longest waits. Winter applications tend to move faster.

The factor most within a contractor's control is submitting a complete, correctly prepared application the first time. An application kicked back for missing information restarts the clock.

Inspection Points

Inspections happen at defined points during construction, and each one has to pass before the next phase can cover the work.

Inspection	When It Happens	What Is Checked
Rough plumbing	After supply and drain lines are run, before walls close	Pipe routing, venting, pressure test
Rough electrical	After wiring is run, before walls close	Circuits, GFCI protection, fan wiring, box placement

Inspection	When It Happens	What Is Checked
Framing (if applicable)	After structural or layout changes, before walls close	Load paths, blocking, framing to code
Insulation (if applicable)	After insulation, before drywall	Coverage and vapor control on exterior walls
Final plumbing, electrical, and building	After all work is complete	Fixtures, fan performance, overall compliance

Inspectors typically schedule within one to three business days of a request. The work behind the walls sits open until they arrive, and that gap is built into every realistic schedule. A contractor who tells you a full bathroom will take three weeks with permits is either skipping inspections or not counting them.

Phase 3: Construction, Week by Week

Typical duration: 4 to 6 weeks for a full bathroom renovation

Here is what a down-to-the-studs renovation of a standard full bathroom looks like on the calendar. Guest bathroom updates compress this sequence because there is no relocation and fewer inspections. Luxury projects stretch it because of structural work, steam systems, and heavier tile scope.

Week	Work Performed	Notes
Week 1	Site protection, demolition, disposal, framing changes, rough plumbing and electrical	Demolition takes 1 to 2 days. Hidden conditions are discovered here. Rough inspections requested at end of week.
Week 2	Rough inspections, corrections if needed, insulation, cement board and moisture-resistant drywall, subfloor preparation	Nothing gets covered until inspections pass.
Week 3	Waterproofing membrane on all wet areas, membrane cure, shower pan and slope, floor tile, wall tile begins	Membrane cure time is manufacturer specified, typically 24 to 48 hours. This is never compressed.
Week 4	Wall tile completed, grout, grout cure, glass and stone top measured, vanity set, toilet and fixtures installed	Grout needs 48 to 72 hours before heavy use. Glass and top fabrication begin now.
Week 5	Painting, trim, lighting, exhaust fan, accessories, stone top installed, punch list	Room is functional except for shower glass in most cases.
Week 6	Glass enclosure installed, final inspections, walkthrough	Final inspection closes the permit.

Two points about this sequence.

The bathroom is usually usable before it is finished. In a typical full renovation, the toilet and sink are back in service by the end of week four, and the shower is usable by the end of week five even if glass is still a week out. The "no bathroom" window for most full renovations is two to three weeks, not the full construction period.

Cure times are not padding. Waterproofing membranes, thinset, grout, and silicone all have manufacturer-specified cure windows. Tile set over a membrane that has not cured, or a shower used before grout has fully hardened, produces the exact failures that lead to the water damage we get called to repair in ten-year-old bathrooms. When a schedule looks aggressive, cure times are usually what got cut.

What Separates a 4-Week Renovation From a 6-Week One?

Same room, same tier, two weeks apart. Here is where the time goes.

Variable	Shorter Schedule	Longer Schedule	Time Added
Plumbing	Fixtures stay in place	Toilet or shower relocated, drain rerouted through floor system	3 to 5 days plus inspection
Shower	Tub with tiled surround	Curbless tiled shower with linear drain and sloped substrate	3 to 5 days
Tile	Standard format, straightforward layout	Large format, patterned layout, niches, benches, mitered edges	3 to 7 days
Glass	Framed or semi-frameless door	Custom frameless enclosure	5 to 10 days of lead time at the end
Extras	None	Heated floor, steam system, integrated lighting	2 to 5 days plus electrical inspection
Hidden conditions	None found	Subfloor replacement, drain line replacement, wiring upgrade	2 to 7 days

The same six variables that separate one renovation budget from another also separate a four-week job from a six-week job. Scope drives both.

How Do Timelines Vary Across Monmouth County?

The trades work at the same pace countywide. What varies is what the walls are hiding and what homeowners typically choose to build.

Rumson, Colts Neck, and Little Silver

Projects here skew toward the luxury tier. Larger primary bathrooms, custom cabinetry, stone materials, and steam systems all carry the longest lead times in the business. Plan on 14 to 20 weeks start to finish and put cabinetry and stone orders in first. Older estate homes also tend to have more structural surprises behind the walls.

Red Bank, Fair Haven, and Atlantic Highlands

A large share of pre-1960 housing stock. Galvanized supply lines, cast iron drains, undersized wiring, and no waterproofing at all behind original tile are routine findings. Budget two to seven extra days in the construction phase for bringing plumbing and electrical to code, and treat that as expected rather than exceptional.

Middletown, Ocean Township, Marlboro, and Manalapan

Ranches, split-levels, and colonials from the 1960s through 1990s. Hall bathrooms in the 5-by-8 footprint dominate, and these are the fastest projects in the county when the layout stays put: two to three weeks of construction is typical. Tub-to-shower conversions are the most common upgrade and add roughly a week for the new pan and waterproofing.

Monmouth Beach, Highlands, and Long Branch

Coastal exposure changes the specification more than the schedule. Marine-grade hardware and humidity-sensing exhaust fans are sometimes special order, so confirm lead times early. The construction sequence itself is the same.

What Slows a Bathroom Remodel Down?

In rough order of how often we see them:

- 1 Selections not finalized before demolition.** The most common cause of delay, and the one entirely within the homeowner's control.
- 2 Backordered materials.** Tile discontinued mid-order, a vanity pushed six weeks by the manufacturer, a faucet finish on national backorder. Confirmed ship dates before demolition protect against this.
- 3 Permit review during peak season.** Spring applications in busy municipalities can sit for the full 20 business days.
- 4 Hidden conditions found during demolition.** Covered in the next section.
- 5 Failed inspections.** Rare with an experienced crew, but a failed rough inspection means a correction and a re-inspection, which can cost a week.
- 6 Mid-project change orders.** Deciding to add a niche, change the tile, or relocate a light after rough-in means undoing finished work.

- 7 Glass and stone lead times.** Not a delay exactly, but a fixed one to two weeks at the end that cannot be shortened.

What Happens if the Remodel Uncovers Water Damage?

A meaningful share of bathroom demolitions in Monmouth County turn up water damage that no one could see. A slow leak at a toilet flange, a failed shower pan, or condensation inside an exterior wall can sit behind tile for years, quietly rotting subfloor and feeding mold in the wall cavity.

For a remodeling-only contractor, this stops the job. Water damage and mold require proper mitigation: affected material removed, the area dried and verified with moisture readings, mold remediated, and the cavity confirmed clean before new waterproofing and tile go in. A contractor who does not perform that work has to halt, and you have to locate and schedule a separate restoration company. That handoff routinely adds two to four weeks, and your bathroom sits open the entire time.

There is also a cost question that needs to be answered honestly. Insurance does not cover elective remodeling. Whether it covers damage discovered during a remodel depends entirely on the cause. Sudden and accidental events such as a burst pipe are generally covered under a standard policy. Damage from a slow leak that has been developing for months or years is usually classified as gradual, and gradual damage is most often denied. The safer plan is a contingency of 10 to 15 percent for a standard remodel and 15 to 20 percent for a home built before 1970, rather than assuming a claim will absorb the cost. When a claim does apply, documentation from the moment of discovery is what makes it viable.

PNE Construction performs both remodeling and IICRC-certified water damage restoration in-house. When hidden damage turns up in one of our projects, the same licensed team documents it, performs the mitigation and any remediation, coordinates with your carrier when a claim applies, and continues the remodel. On the schedule, that typically means three to five additional days for drying and verification rather than weeks lost to a second contractor.

When you interview any contractor, ask this directly: if you open the wall and find water damage or mold, what happens to my schedule? The answer tells you a great deal.

How Do You Live Through a Bathroom Remodel?

If it is your only full bathroom. Ask your contractor for the specific window during which the toilet will be out of service, in writing. In a well-sequenced full renovation, that window can often be held to 10 to 14 days. Arrange access to a neighbor's, family member's, or gym's shower for that period. Some homeowners rent a portable restroom for the driveway, which sounds extreme until week two. Ask whether a temporary shower setup in a basement or utility area is possible in your home.

If you have a second bathroom. The disruption is dust, noise, and daily crew traffic rather than access. Demolition and tile cutting are the loudest phases. If you work from home, schedule calls around those days. Expect the crew to arrive early and to protect floors and stairways between the entry and the work area.

Either way. Clear the bathroom and the path to it completely before day one. Confirm working hours and which days the crew will be on site. Ask who your single point of contact is for schedule questions. A remodel with clear communication feels shorter than one without it, regardless of the actual calendar.

What Should a Written Schedule Include?

Cost ranges and timeline ranges are planning tools. A real schedule requires a contractor who has seen your bathroom, your home's age, and your material choices.

A useful written schedule states the target start date and what has to be true for that date to hold. It lists every long-lead material with its confirmed ship date. It identifies which permits are being pulled and by whom. It shows the construction sequence week by week with inspection points marked. It states the expected out-of-service window for your fixtures. And it says explicitly what happens to the schedule if hidden conditions are found.

Any contractor you are considering in New Jersey should hold current Home Improvement Contractor registration with the NJ Division of Consumer Affairs. PNE Construction's registration is 13VH12011500, and we encourage you to verify it along with every other contractor you speak with.

Frequently Asked Questions

How long does a small bathroom remodel take in Monmouth County?

A guest or hall bathroom in the 40 to 60 square foot range with the layout staying in place typically takes 2 to 3 weeks of construction. Counting selections and permitting, plan on 6 to 10 weeks from consultation to completion. A powder room refresh is faster, usually 1 to 2 weeks of construction.

How long does a full bathroom renovation take?

A down-to-the-studs renovation, often with some layout change, typically takes 4 to 6 weeks of construction and 8 to 14 weeks overall. Plumbing relocation, custom tile work, and frameless glass push toward the longer end.

How long will I be without a bathroom?

Shorter than the construction period. In most full renovations the toilet and sink are back in service by the end of week four and the shower by the end of week five. Ask your contractor to put the out-of-service window in writing. For a single-bathroom home it can often be held to 10 to 14 days.

How long does a bathroom permit take in Monmouth County?

Each municipality runs its own construction office. New Jersey code allows up to 20 business days for review of a complete application. In practice, approval across Monmouth County towns ranges from a few days to about three weeks, with spring and early summer running longest.

Can a bathroom remodel be done in one week?

A cosmetic refresh with no plumbing or electrical changes can sometimes be completed in a week. Any project involving tile, waterproofing, or permitted plumbing and electrical work cannot, because cure times and inspections alone take longer than that. Be cautious of any contractor promising a full renovation in a week.

What is the fastest way to keep a bathroom remodel on schedule?

Finalize every selection and confirm every material delivery date before demolition begins. This one step eliminates the two most common delays. After that, avoid mid-project changes and choose a contractor who builds permit review and inspections into the schedule rather than starting the clock at demolition.

Does finding water damage during a remodel add a lot of time?

It depends on who is doing the work. With a contractor who performs water damage restoration in-house, discovered damage typically adds three to five days for mitigation, drying, and verification. With a remodeling-only contractor, the job usually stops while a separate restoration company is located and scheduled, which commonly adds two to four weeks.

Get a Written Schedule With Your Estimate

Every PNE project starts with a free on-site consultation and a written, line-item estimate that includes a realistic schedule built around your home, your material choices, and your municipality. No vague start dates, and no clock that only starts at demolition.

Call (888) 827-6326

or request a free estimate at www.pneconstructionllc.com

PNE Construction LLC has served Monmouth County since 2008 from our home base in Little Silver. NJ HIC License 13VH12011500. BBB accredited. IICRC certified. 4.9 stars across 200+ Google reviews. We are one of the few firms in the area performing both high-end remodeling and water damage restoration in-house.

Serving Rumson, Little Silver, Fair Haven, Red Bank, Monmouth Beach, Colts Neck, Middletown, Highlands, Atlantic Highlands, Long Branch, Marlboro, Manalapan, Ocean Township, and surrounding communities.

Timelines reflect typical Monmouth County market conditions as of 2026 and represent planning ranges, not commitments. Permit and inspection requirements vary by municipality. Confirm specifics with your local construction official.