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Statesman Content Marketing at
jgonzalez@statesman.com

Shining a light on better master baths

BY JODI N. GONZALEZ
Statesman Content Marketing

With master baths getting bigger and bolder, it's important to be sure the room has proper lighting. No one wants to get ready for their day in the shadows!

Here are some illuminating tips from Tyson Neal, Associated Vice President of Legend Lighting in Austin:

- The most important lighting in a master bathroom is at the vanity, where it is essential to have even light distribution at face height. Consider wall sconces on either side of the vanity, which not only is a very stylish look but also casts light on the face without shadows. Avoid using recessed cans directly over the vanity, as this causes shadows on the face when leaning toward the mirror to apply makeup or shave.

- A trendy alternative to wall sconces is to hang mini-pendants on either side of the vanity. Again, you want the light source to be at face height to avoid shadows and distribute light evenly on the face.

- One of the hottest design trends for master bathrooms is to hang chandeliers over the tub. But be careful when planning this look! Any lighting installed over or near the bathtub is required by code to be completely inaccessible to anyone standing in the tub or on the side of it. So you'll need to plan ahead and make sure



the bottom of the fixture hangs tall enough to be completely out of reach.

- As with virtually all other rooms in the home, incorporating LED lighting into the master bathroom is an ongoing trend. But not all LED products are of the same quality, and you should be aware of certain options that are best for bathrooms. Choose LED light sources that have the highest Color Rendering Index, or CRI, resulting more realistic appearance of color and skin tones. This is especially important at the vanity, where makeup is applied.

- One of our favorite products to incorporate into a master bathroom is LED tape lighting installed along toe kicks and connected to a motion sensor. The result is a soft, pleasant night-light that comes on automatically when you enter the bathroom in the middle of the night. But be sure to



choose LED tape lighting with a warm color temperature (2700k to 3000k is best), which is less disruptive to your sleep and makes for an easier transition from dark to light.

- If your master bathroom is large enough, consider a chandelier in the center of the room to provide general lighting. Chandeliers are not just for dining room tables anymore!