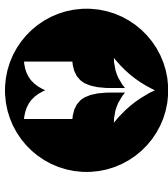




COTTAGE BATHS

STYLE NOTES FOR A ROOM THAT'S COMFORTABLE WHEN IT'S TRADITIONAL



The powder room in the Stewarts' Vermont cottage (above) is pleasantly old-fashioned. Its wall-hung sink is original, as is the bead-board wainscot that protects lower walls. Evoking farmhouses and cottages across the country, this simple room is familiar. Despite all the hype for spa-size bathrooms filled with gizmos, such a bathroom is still the standard—especially in older houses. Besides being relatively inexpensive to create and easier to clean, smaller bathrooms can be very charming. Add a wainscot (high or low), a wooden medicine cabinet, antique or reproduction fixtures, traditional wallpaper, or a row of brass hooks. Unless you have an Art Deco cottage, plumbing fixtures should be white. **By Patricia Poore**



VICTORIAN CHARM

A clawfoot tub with a shower faucet sets the tone for a country bathroom in an early Connecticut house; the look is sweetened with small-pattern wallpaper. Turn-of-the-century style is a good approach, as that's when plumbing went inside.



PAINTED WAINSCOT

As evidenced at Maine's Skolfield-Whittier House, the basics remain the same: beadboard, porcelain sink, and mirror. The house dates to the 1850s; the English-style bathroom with separate chambers for toilet and bathing to the late 1880s.



STYLISH REMAKE

This Victorian Revival bathroom is well-furnished with art glass, large moldings, and wicker. Blue-painted Lincrusta is hung over the traditional wainscot.



PAINTED DECORATION

Even the simplest cottage bathroom can be hand-decorated with a stencil pattern or freehand motif for a timeless look.



SEASIDE SIMPLICITY

Pastel walls and white wainscot are a classic combination in this upstairs bathroom for a new old house, where a wainscoted skirt encloses the tub.



RURAL PRAGMATISM

In an 1890s house, the pantry was converted into a bathroom in 1935. A surviving cupboard was copied to bookend the chimney, providing storage space.



SWEDISH COTTAGE

A tiny bathroom for a Swedish-influenced cottage in Maine features board walls, scallop-cut edges, colorful folk painting, and a carved window cornice.



NOSTALGIC NOTES

An antique washbowl and pitcher add a historical or country air to a cottage bathroom, as would an old sink or a vintage light fixture.