

The background is a solid teal color with several realistic water droplets of various sizes scattered across it. The droplets have highlights and shadows, giving them a three-dimensional appearance. The text is centered in the middle of the page.

# MODULE 2 – BATHROOM PLANNING 1

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# My Bathroom



I am currently staying with my Grandparents in England so will be doing a photo survey of their bathroom for this assignment. My grandparents house was built back in 2002 and is coming up to being 17 years old! They have not had to replace any bathroom fittings or bathroom ware since they built their home in 2002 and it is exactly as I remember it from when I was younger. This just goes to show they have extremely good quality bathroom ware and have looked after this room extremely well.

# Entry Door



The NKBA recommendation for an entry door is that the clear opening of a door way should be at least 812mm, measured from Jamb to Jamb. However, the actual UK requirements are that an entry door must have a minimum clear opening of 750mm. (As per the table below). The door opening to my bathroom is 840mm.

The NKBA recommendations also state that an internal entry door should not interfere with another door, drawer or cabinets etc. When it comes to entry doors in the bathroom, there are no regulations around this, however, it is an important thing to bear in mind when it comes to bathroom safety. I can happily say that my Grandparents bathroom door does not intrude on any other Bathroomware and is at a safe distance from the basin and the shower or any serious 'slip zones'.

TABLE OF MINIMUM DOOR LEAF DIMENSIONS			
	Clear opening required	Minimum door width dimension (imperial)	Minimum door width dimension (metric)
Internal	750mm	2'9"	826mm
Internal	775mm	2'9"	826mm
Internal	800mm	3'0"	926mm
Entrance	775mm	2'9"	906mm

Note: Clear width will be affected by door thickness and stop thickness

Table 2 - Table of minimum door width dimensions

Image by NHBC

# Ceiling Height

NKBA recommend that the floor to ceiling height in a bathroom should be 2032mm minimum. There are no legal requirements for ceiling heights in UK homes, except for ceilings in staircases. Although there are no regulations or requirements around ceiling height there are 'standard' ceiling heights, which are common in normal houses. The average or normal height of a ceiling depends on how old the house is and the type of room in the house. My Grandparents bathroom ceiling height is 2440mm which is taller than the NKBA recommendation and relatively 'standard'.



Age House	Living room	Kitchen	Bedroom
Older than 100 years	2 meter	2 meter	1,90 meter
Between 50 and 100 years	2,20 meter	2,20 meter	2,20 meter
Between now and 50 years	2,40 meter	2,40 meter	2,20 meter
New home	2,60 meter	2,60 meter	2,40 meter

Image from 'On Average'

# Single Lavatory Placement & Lavatory Height



The building code requirement for the minimum distance from the centreline of the lavatory to a wall is 381mm. In my grandparents bathroom this is not a concern at all as their lavatory/basin is in the centre of the room well away from each end wall.

In terms of the lavatory height there are no regulations around this, however, NKBA recommends that the top varies from 812mm – 1092mm. This is a good range as it can then vary depending on a persons height. The lavatory/basin at my grandparents is 825mm high. It is at the lower end of the scale, however, this is great for me being rather short.

# Shower Size



The law/ building code regulations state that the minimum shower size is 762mm x 762mm. However, NKBA recommend using at least a 914mm x 914mm. My Grandparents shower tray is 600mm x 600mm. It does feel quite small when you are in there shower so I agree that the 914mm x 914mm standard that NKBA recommend is much more accurate than the actual regulation, however, the regulation is clearly accommodating for the fact that some bathrooms are quite small and do not have enough room for a shower tray larger than 762mm x 762mm. If I was to re-design my grandparents shower the shower would definitely be much bigger!

# Tub/Shower Controls & Water Temperature Safety

When it comes to water temperature safety my grandparents bathroom has thermostatic mixing/valves on both the shower and the bath controls. The water cannot and will not get hotter than 38 degrees. This prevents anyone using the shower or bath getting scolded by hot water. Now a days when re-doing or building a new bathroom thermostatic mixers are a legal requirement and all of the controls on the market are now thermostatic.



The shower controls in my grandparents bathroom are easily accessible from inside or outside of the shower and sit at 1060mm from the floor. This is a good height as children or adults can easily access the controls. There are no legal requirements around the height of shower controls, however, NKBA recommend they be located between 965mm & 1219mm from the floor.

The Bath controls in this bathroom are accessible from inside or outside the tub as per the NKBA recommendation and sit 620mm from the floor.



# Tub / Shower Surround Height



My grandparents chose tiling to waterproof their shower and around their bath tub. There are a few options for waterproofing around the shower and tub including but not limited to tiles, splashbacks and shower wall panelling. My grandparents have got 270mm of tiling above their shower head and 560mm of tiling above the bath tub. This is well and truly within the building code which states that the tub or shower must be covered with waterproof material of a height of no less than 72" above the finished floor and goes above and beyond the NKBA recommendations.

# Electrics in the Bathroom



Water and faulty electrics can be a lethal combination, which is why in the UK it is illegal to carry out electrical work in the bathroom unless you are a qualified electrician registered with an approved scheme or the National Inspection Council for Electrical Installation Contracting. Part P of the Electrical safety laws ensures that all UK household electrics are installed safely; rules for bathroom electrics specify the maximum voltage levels for different areas in the bathroom and state that light switches should be pull chord operated or located outside the bathroom. My bathroom here in the UK has a pull chord to turn on the lights so complies with the electrical safety laws.

# References

**Home Advice – Guide to Bathroom Regulations in the UK, n.d.**

Available at:

<http://www.homeadviceguide.com/guide-to-bathroom-building-regulations/>

Accessed on 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2019

**NHBC – Building Control, n.d.**

Available at:

<http://www.nhbc.co.uk/Builders/ProductsandServices/BuildingControl/documents/filedownload,52832,en.pdf>

Accessed on 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2019

**On Average, n.d.**

Available at:

<https://www.onaverage.co.uk/other-averages/average-height-ceiling>

Accessed on 1<sup>st</sup> of February 2019