

## PRESS RELEASE

### Fixated on faucets

*Bathroom taps are an integral part of any bathroom design and functionality. We speak to Johnny Lamprecht about his top tips to consider when investing in new bathroom taps.*

28 August 2018, Johannesburg: Bathroom taps are a pivotal feature in any bathroom – both from a functional and an aesthetic point of view. Says Johnny Lamprecht from leading sanitaryware, tile and flooring supplier, Bathroom Bizarre: “Water is an essential ingredient in the functionality of the bathroom, and one of the main sources of water delivery is the bathroom tap. Today there is a wide variety of taps on the market, so in order to narrow the choice down, it is always a good idea to have an in-depth understanding of what you are looking for before you start.” He provides the following pointers on things that ought to be considered before you start the selection process:

### Installation types

There are different types of bathroom taps offering different mounting options. Says Johnny: “Selecting the correct mounting option is especially important if you are installing a new tap into an existing basin or countertop, which already has a set number of holes.” He offers an overview on the various installation types that are available:

- **Pillar-mount basin taps:** These taps boast the same dimensions as centreset taps, but they do not have a deck plate. Instead they are individually mounted like the widespread taps.
- **Single-lever basin mixers:** These taps are mounted on either side of the basin with one side only supplying hot water and the other cold. However, they only require only one hole for mounting – making them a great option for when space is limited.
- **Wall-mounted taps:** Originally only found in kitchens, wall-mounted taps are becoming increasingly popular in bathrooms as well. They can be used for basins that don't have pre-drilled holes on the basin, but they work especially well with vessel sinks. They almost always feature two independently mounted handles, and a spout.
- **Single-lever tall basin mixers:** These are single-handle taps that are tall enough to accommodate the unique installation requirements of vessel sinks.

### Handle options

When selecting what kind of tap handles you would like, be sure to take into consideration style and aesthetics, as well as comfort and ease of use. Johnny notes: “The functionality of any tap is as important as its looks. As such, it is recommended that you try the tap out before you make your purchase decision, and see how comfortable it is to operate. After all, it is the part of the tap that you

will come into most contact with.” He provides a breakdown of the most popular tap handle options:

- **Knob handles:** These were common on older faucets, but are no longer so popular as they can be difficult to operate, especially when wet, and for children or adults with reduced hand or wrist strength. They are generally still available on taps that are positioned on the lower side of the price point spectrum.
- **Cross handles:** These offer a more traditional aesthetic, which makes them great for classical or transitional styles. Another benefit is that they are very easy to operate, even when wet.
- **Lever handles:** These come in single- and double-lever styles, and are arguably the easiest to operate, making them a very practical option. However, they do boast a more modern look, so they often are not very complementary for more traditional-style bathrooms.
- **Motion-activated taps:** Formerly only found in commercial settings, motion-activated taps are comparatively new additions in residential bathrooms. They are however, a very practical, water-saving option, as they automatically switch on for a set amount of time when activated. It is important to bear in mind however, that these taps require a power source, either in the form of batteries or a nearby power outlet.

### **Finding a finish**

Chrome has been the go-to finish of choice for taps for decades, and Johnny says that it still remains the most popular choice of finish for tapware today: “Chrome tapware is easy to keep clean and maintain, as scratches and fingerprints don’t tend to show up as much. If there are any minor marks, they’re easy to wipe clean without damaging the material. When it comes to style, chrome is timeless. It’s a colour that will fit into any style of bathroom because it’s got a little bit of sparkle, but is equally subtle, blending perfectly within the broader bathroom palette. Chrome has a nice shine, it’s impervious to scratches and protects against corrosion, making it a very durable finish as well.”

However, Johnny notes that of late, tapware in other hues has been gaining popularity: “We have seen the demand for other finishes in recent months, including taps in brushed nickel, bronze, and brass. However, the most popular option aside from chrome is arguably taps with a matt black finish – black taps are becoming increasingly popular, and I believe that this trend will be around for some time to come.” He advises that when choosing a finish, it is important to note that polished finishes, are elegant and glamorous, but do require more upkeep than brushed finishes, which are great at hiding water spots and fingerprints.

### **Water efficiency**

Water is a precious and expensive resource and so selecting taps that offer best-in-market water efficiency should be on the top of your list of priorities. Johnny says that there are various water-saving technologies out there, but aerators

remain a great addition to any tap: “Aerators are small screens, usually located on the end of a faucet spout, which introduces air into the water stream. This softens the stream, thereby reducing splashes, and restricts the water flow, ensuring that less water is wasted down the drain.”

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