Toilets

When you place a toilet, give a nod to privacy. If you have the room, design a partition wall to create a toilet alcove. At least try to avoid having the toilet visible from an open door. You need 21 in. of open space in front of the toilet. Allow a total area of at least 30 in. across and 48 in. deep for a standard toilet. Don't forget to make sure a toilet paper holder is in easy reach.

Low-profile toilets are one-piece models only 19 to 26 in. high. They flush quietly and have a sleek, compact design, but they're expensive.

European-style bidets are catching on for personal hygiene. Like toilets, they are made of vitreous china and take up about 30 in. of wall space. Place the bidet next to your toilet. Bidets need both hot and cold water hookups.

Pull-chain toilets are an old-fashioned style, especially for Victorian homes.