

BUDGET BREAKDOWN

cabinetry	\$2050
marble	\$650
basin	\$380
toilet	\$350
tapware	\$640
shower screen	\$350
halogen downlights	\$240
mirror	\$700
windows	\$300
towel rails & handles	\$84
paint	\$64
TOTAL	\$5808

Hold the sledgehammers! Try
the rubber glove treatment first

saving face

AFTER



For the windows, Shane chose laminated glass. It gives a more even light than frosted glass, and it's cheaper, too: \$90/square metre versus \$150/square metre.



A skin-crawling combo of grime, rot and broken windows sent this bathroom soaring to pole position on new owner Shane McLucas' renovating hotlist. "It was appalling... the loo was like a public toilet," he recalls with a shudder. A case for the sledgehammers, surely?

Apparently not. Brave Shane tackled it armed only with rubber gloves. "I wanted to salvage what I could, and then work with that." Days of bicep-building scrubbing lifted the bath's ominous patina, and a thorough application of elbow grease and methylated spirits revealed immaculate floor and wall tiles in need only of new grout. The basin and, of course, the toilet were ripped out and replaced. Another cost-cutter?

Shane kept the layout, saving on pricey plumbing alterations.

Now for the glamorous stuff. Inspired by luxury hotel bathrooms, Shane selected a rich wenge for the marble-topped vanity unit and linen cupboard (which also houses the washer and dryer). Laminated glass windows wash the room with a milky, almost opalescent light. "It's made up of film sandwiched between two pieces of glass," Shane points out. "So the light's more even than that filtered through frosted glass, which is textured." Finally, the walls and ceiling were given a lick of anti-mildew paint tinted Watty! Orchid White, and halogen downlights installed to make that sexy new tapware sparkle. **hb**

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BEFORE

Shane had to splash out \$350 for a loo that connected with the existing plumbing. Not cheap, but cheaper than changing the pipes!