

# The Trend Towards Concealed Cisterns

in Bathroom Design



# Trends in bathroom design

The Australian residential landscape is changing.

ABS Statistics show that March 2015 saw the first time ever there were more approvals to build new apartments than that there were for free-standing houses. While total dwelling approvals increased 1.6 per cent year-on-year, approvals for flats, units and townhouses increased a massive 59 per cent over the same period<sup>1</sup>.

This trend towards multi-residential developments presents new opportunities as well as new challenges to Australian architects and designers, with increased focus on maximising space throughout the dwelling.

The use of clever space-saving features is a key element of maximising space in apartments, and is one of the key reasons for the increase in the specification of concealed cisterns in residential projects throughout Australia.

## Concealed cisterns

As its name suggests, a concealed cistern is a toilet cistern (tank) that is hidden in some way. The cistern is generally hidden inside the wall (in-wall), in a vanity, under counter, behind a wall (in-duct) or in the ceiling. These cisterns provide a range of benefits over traditional, front of wall toilet systems, including more space, a minimalist streamlined appearance, as well as better hygiene and easier maintenance.

Concealed cisterns have long been the preferred choice in commercial spaces such as hotels, bars and shopping centres for these reasons. These benefits are increasingly being realised in residential projects across the country.

## Space Saving

The bathroom is one of the most commonly used rooms in any home, and yet it is generally also the smallest. Making the most of every square inch in the bathroom is crucial, not only for improving access and usability, but also for allowing the maximum amount of space for regularly used amenities such as showers, baths and basins.

This is especially important in apartments, which have seen significant reductions in size in recent times. The average size of a one bedroom apartment in Australia is now just 44 square metres, while the average two



1 Access to the cistern internals is through the flush plate opening.

2 Under window installation.

3 Spacious bathroom with a concealed cistern and a Sigma50 flush plate.

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bedroom apartment is just 59 square metres. This is down from two years ago where the average was 55 square metres and 70 square metres respectively<sup>2</sup>.

For detached houses, where renovations are often a necessity due to growing families, more bathroom space is required. According to the HIA almost one in every five bathroom renovations involved enlarging the size of the bathroom, with one in twenty bathroom renovations centring around moving the location of the bathroom within the house<sup>3</sup>.

The addition of a concealed cistern in a bathroom renovation not only provides modern style, more space and durability, but is also a smart investment. Renovating a bathroom adds approximately 3% to the total value of a house, providing a higher return on investment than any other room.<sup>4</sup>

## Contemporary Design

While costs, comfort and functionality are all important, style is still top consideration for architects and clients alike, and without the right design aspects a product will not be specified.

With concealed cisterns, once completely installed, all you see is the flush plate, offering a cleaner, sleeker look, very much the essence of modern bathroom design. The

simplicity and versatility of concealed cistern design allows for a flush plate and toilet pan combination that can perfectly compliment any bathroom's particular style and design.

## Reliability, Hygiene and Easy Maintenance

Keeping good hygiene in the bathroom is important, and the use of concealed cisterns and flush plates can help make this job easier. After drains, the toilet flush is the most contaminated area of a bathroom<sup>5</sup>. The fact that the flush button is flat on the wall makes it far easier to clean and maintain on a regular basis. A concealed cistern also makes it much easier to clean around all sides of the pan, and with all plumbing also hidden it eliminates the need to clean around the drainage pipes.

The use of touchless flush plates with in-built sensor can increase hand hygiene even further.

A common misconception regarding concealed cisterns is that it can be difficult to gain access to for maintenance and repairs. Today, almost all concealed cisterns that are installed in Australian bathrooms have an access panel set in the wall. The access panel holds the flush buttons and can be removed easily to perform maintenance and repairs, and then just as easily replaced.

## Geberit

Since launching the first concealed cistern in 1964, Geberit has gone on to install over 60 million cisterns worldwide. Today, Geberit is a global leader in concealed cistern technology and drainage solutions, providing products for residential and commercial applications.

Geberit provides architects freedom of design, allowing for the creation of sleek, contemporary and elegant bathrooms. With more than 10 different button designs and 30 colour options there is a solution to suit any bathroom.

All Geberit cisterns have a 3 or 4 star WELS rating, and a dual flush system help considerably reduce water usage and can be paired with any approved wall hung or back to wall toilet pan of the same rating.

An extended 10 year warranty, 25 years spare part supply availability guarantees peace of mind. Geberit also provides technical support to architects for easing the specification process, as well as ongoing project support to ensure simple and successful installation.

→ For more information go to:  
[geberit.com.au/architectural-content](https://www.geberit.com.au/architectural-content).

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