

MIRROR, MIRROR ON THE WALL

Finish your next bathroom remodel with a mirror frame.

Written by Lee Rhodes

Whether the bathroom is a new construction or even recently updated, chances are the wall-mounted mirror is bare—unframed and unfinished. Enter MirrorMate Frames, a Charlotte-based manufacturer and online retailer of made-to-order mirror-framing kits designed to dress any wall-mounted mirror, whether it has clips holding it to the wall or sits on a backsplash.

The key to this innovation is that the frame applies right onto the mirror itself, so no room around its perimeter is needed. This treatment looks like a regular framed mirror but is much less expensive than conventional framing. The customer provides simple mirror height and width measurements and indicates whether the mirror sits on a backsplash or runs into a wall. In a matter of days, the company fabricates a frame that fits the customer's mirror and presses right to the glass.

“The transformation is truly stunning,” says interior designer Lorraine Mulligan, owner of LAM Studios, Inc. in Matthews. “The before and after really demonstrates the difference a frame makes in the bath and inspires us to ensure mirrors are never left unframed again.”

The MirrorMate frame kit was invented by Lisa Hunting in 1994 after moving into





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her South Charlotte home and framing out the mirrors herself with store-bought trim. Hunting wanted to provide an easier method for others to frame their mirrors and to offer a wider selection of trim styles and colors. As a result, MirrorMate was born. It has since grown to cut and ship hundreds of frames daily nationwide.

“A mirror frame is the jewelry of the bath,” Hunting explains. “It’s the perfect finishing touch to complete the look of glued-on or wall-mounted mirrors, and to cover over those unattractive plastic or metal clips.”

Mulligan recently completed design work in Hunting’s Eastover townhome following a top-to-bottom renovation. The four bathrooms were high priority, as they were original to the 1980s home. Tucked beneath the stairs, the powder room on the main floor was a particular challenge, with its mirror running nearly five-feet high from the vanity top to the ceiling and covering the whole wall.

“We enveloped the space from the walls to the ceiling with a wall covering that saturated the room with color, making it feel like a jewel box,” Mulligan says.

The existing vanity was painted turquoise, new marble top was added, and because the old vanity was shorter than today’s models, Mulligan suggested a vessel sink to add height. The crowning touch was the Solana Gold frame, which accented not only the classic chrome fixtures in the bath but echoed the gold in the wallpaper. With the existing mirror framed, it provided the finishing element to the bathroom refresh while covering the ugly clips and blackened edges of the old mirror as well.

Other bathrooms in the home retained their original mirrors and got the MirrorMate frame treatment, too. The ornate Bellemeade Vintage Silver frame was used to dress up the plain medicine cabinet mirrors and add elegance to the master bath. Now, after just two years, Hunting is thinking of trying the newly introduced gold-tone frames on the Robern cabinets—good thing the frames can be removed. ♦

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