

The perfect bathroom begins at Knowles Plumbing

The quest for a perfect bathroom is not just a question of finding the right fittings and fixtures. For more and more homeowners, it's a matter of creating a place of quiet refuge.

"People are moving toward a spa setting in their bathroom," said Janine Keeble, sales manager at Knowles Plumbing. "They are creating very beautiful spaces because they are spending a lot more time in those bathrooms."

Keeble helps customers navigate their way through the latest trends in plumbing fixtures, as they contemplate "performance showering" (which involves rain head showers and body spray systems), air tubs, soaker tubs, and other items that can help create an ideal bathing environment.

Many of these luxurious pieces are on display at Knowles Plumbing boutique at 279 Manitoba Street in Bracebridge.

The Knowles family has been in the plumbing business for more than 50 years, but Keeble said the boutique showroom still catches people by surprise. "I'm constantly having people say, 'I didn't know there was something like this in Muskoka.'"

The combination of a plumbing centre and a bathroom boutique is a useful one for customers. The showroom provides a place where people can contemplate various options for bathroom and kitchen fixtures, while the plumbing side of the business guarantees those fixtures will be installed properly. Having a crew of plumbers on staff allows Knowles to handle every aspect of the project, from pre-construction planning, to rough-in, to installation of fixtures and, of course, servicing. The staff at Knowles are well accustomed to working with



other professionals as well, co-ordinating their efforts with electricians, carpenters, tilers and various other tradespeople. That includes working with cabinet-makers to craft custom vanities for any setting. "We use local craftsmen as much as we can," Keeble said.

The goal, said Keeble, is to ensure the whole experience is as pleasant and easy for the customer as possible. "They don't need to worry about what size pipe is required or whether all the parts are going to be there," she said. "We look after that. They can concentrate on getting the finished look they want."

Working with a local firm can pay enormous dividends for cottagers and homeowners. If any problems arise — if extra parts are needed, if changes are made partway through a project or if additional on-site visits are required for any reason — it's much easier to find a solution when that company is just down the road. "We're local, and we can

resolve issues much faster than you can by going to the city," Keeble said. "Knowles provides excellent service. They've been around for years and they've sustained a superb reputation."

Long before installation begins, Keeble and the Knowles team can offer guidance and advice and help people stay within budget. "We offer a full range of products that cover all pricing ranges," she said. "We really have something for any budget."

Regardless of whether it's a big project or a small one, new construction or a renovation, the goal is the same: to ensure the customer winds up with a room that doesn't just enhance the value of the house, it enhances the lives of the owners. "People don't just want a bathroom," said Keeble, "they want a retreat to go to."

Knowles Plumbing is located at 279 Manitoba Street in Bracebridge. 705-645-2671 or 1-800-805-2656. ☞