

**Lowri Turner's**  
**Home**  
**Improvements**



# Perfect for soaps... a TV in your bathroom

**O**f all the little luxuries you can fit in your home, having a TV in the bathroom is fantastically indulgent. And yet, as flat-screen TV prices come down, so it is becoming increasingly affordable.

Scott Cobden set up Waterproof TV ([www.waterprooftv.co.uk](http://www.waterprooftv.co.uk), 0116 270 5777) 18 months ago. 'When we started I thought it would be very high-end customers, but everybody from 18-year-olds with starter homes to old folk are buying them,' he says. 'Plus, they're a great way of getting kids to go in the bath.'

James Sanders of Steel Cube in Hampstead ([www.steelcube.com](http://www.steelcube.com), 0870 460 2500) agrees: 'If you're going to spend three or four grand on a bathroom, then an extra £1,500 on a TV is not that outrageous.'

The biggest technological challenge for a bathroom TV is how to keep water out. The solution is to seal the screen behind waterproof glass. By law, all bathroom TVs have to be fitted into a wall cavity and the area round the screen siliconed to prevent water getting in.

You will need a depth of 75mm to 85mm so that the screen sits flush with the wall, and most walls are 100mm. And to prevent the screen steaming up, the glass is heated.

But how do you change channels? Some bathroom TVs have wall-mounted key pads, but most have floating, waterproof remotes that you can literally drop into your bath, fish out and they will still work.

STEVE NICHOLSON



**CLEAN IMAGE:** Lisa Black can soak up her favourite TV programmes in the huge double spa bath

Now why can't they make mobiles like that?

If you only want to watch terrestrial channels, then it's pretty much plug-in and go. Things get more complicated if you want Sky, cable, DVDs or CDs. Sky boxes are not waterproof so they can't go in the bathroom, and CD/DVD players, because of loading, won't do well in a wet environment either.

All bathroom TVs need speakers. Some, such as the Video Spa by

Videotree (£1,517 from Electronic Zone) are part of the fascia of the TV. The Video Spa has a really neat 12in screen with a stainless steel surround including speakers that would look really good in a small bathroom. The fascia is also available in black.

Waterproof TV recommends Aquavision. The company's 17in bathroom TV is a bestseller at £1,550, with the 23in costing £2,200. You can choose between an 'ice-white' glass fascia, which translates as greenish glass,

black or mirrored, when the TV then doubles as an extra mirror.

This was an idea invented by Mirror Media, whose TV screens look like mirrors when switched off, have just launched a bathroom version, but it comes at a price. A 20in TV is £2,999 (from Steel Cube) and the mega 46in version is £9,999.

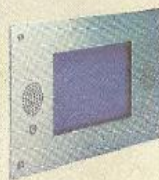
Tony Whaymand and Lisa Black, both 38, bought their six-bedroom home (for sale for £1.1 million through Fine & Country, 0845 603

2825) in Eaton Ford, Cambridgeshire, three years ago. They paid particular attention to the master bathroom, installing a huge 2,000mm by 1,400mm spa bath and spending £2,000 on a 17in TV, complete with his and hers controls.

But there was one potential problem. The bath easily fits two, but one person has their back to the screen. Tony has cleverly installed a mirror on the wall opposite the TV so it can be watched from either end.

## TECHNO TUBS

**Aquavision T1 towel rail-television, £1,980**  
Fully-heated, chrome towel rail with 17in waterproof screen, which is full mirror glass when not in use. Central heating or dual fuel options. 5-video input, 199 programme assignable memory, FM radio. Made in the UK and free UK delivery.  
[www.waterprooftv.co.uk](http://www.waterprooftv.co.uk), 0116 2705777.



**Video Spa bathroom television, £1,791**  
Suitable for use within all wet areas. A 12in LCD screen, integrated water-resistant speakers and hand-held infrared control. In-built heater to prevent misting. Flush fitting, in brushed or polished steel, white or black. [www.bathroomexpress.co.uk](http://www.bathroomexpress.co.uk), 0845 130 2000.