

A bathroom mirror with a memory function can sound like a small, optional extra. In practice, it can make a noticeable difference to how easy a bathroom is to use—especially when the mirror includes integrated lighting and more than one brightness or colour-temperature setting.

For landlords, the question is not simply whether the feature is useful. It is whether it offers enough tenant convenience to justify the extra cost, and whether it fits the wider plan for the bathroom. If you are refreshing a tired room rather than carrying out a full renovation, a well-chosen illuminated mirror may deliver more visible impact than several less noticeable upgrades.



This guide looks at what a **mirror memory setting** does, when **lighting preference recall** is valuable, and how to choose and install a mirror without letting a straightforward refresh turn into a major project.

What does mirror memory function mean?

A mirror memory function saves a user's selected lighting settings and recalls them the next time the mirror is switched on. Depending on the model, this may include brightness, colour temperature, or both. Instead of starting with a default setting and adjusting it each time, the mirror returns to the preference it has stored.

Controls vary. Some mirrors use touch buttons on the glass; others have a separate switch or connect to a wall switch. A memory feature may retain its setting after the mirror is switched off at the control, but not necessarily after power is cut at the wall or consumer unit. Always check the product specification rather than assuming every model behaves the same way.

Why might tenants notice the difference?

Bathrooms are used at different times of day and for different routines. One person may prefer brighter, cooler light for shaving or applying make-up; another may want a softer setting for an early start or evening routine. In a shared household, lighting preference recall means the mirror can return to a familiar setting instead of making each person adjust it repeatedly.

That is a modest convenience, not a substitute for good lighting or a functional bathroom. But rental homes are judged through the everyday experience of using them. Small details that are intuitive and reliable can help a

space feel better considered.

Is it worth paying extra in a rental?

There is no universal answer. A memory setting is most worthwhile when it comes as part of a mirror that already solves a real problem—such as poor task lighting, an undersized mirror, or an outdated look. Paying a significant premium for memory alone is harder to justify if the existing mirror works well and the bathroom has other urgent maintenance needs.

Situation Likely value of memory function Practical priority Several tenants share the bathroom Useful: different users may prefer different settings Choose simple controls and dependable operation Mirror lighting is the main lighting upgrade Good added value if brightness or colour can be adjusted Check that the mirror provides suitable task lighting Bathroom is due for a basic refresh Potentially worthwhile as part of an overall improvement Keep the existing layout where possible Bathroom is already well lit and functional Probably a nice-to-have rather than a necessity Spend first on condition, ventilation and repairs Very tight budget or frequent power isolation May add limited value, depending on how the memory works Confirm the feature's behaviour and total installed cost

Refresh or full renovation? Make that decision first

The right mirror decision depends on the scope of the job. A bathroom refresh is usually about improving appearance and usability while retaining sound fixtures and the existing arrangement. A full renovation is more appropriate when the room has underlying issues, such as persistent leaks, damaged finishes, failed fixtures, or a layout that does not work for the property.

If the bath or shower, basin and toilet are in good condition and in sensible positions, replacing everything just to install a new mirror can be poor value. Moving a basin may involve plumbing alterations; changing wall finishes can bring tile removal, making good, disposal and additional labour into scope. Those costs can quickly outweigh the mirror itself.

For a refresh, keep the layout and use improvements that make the room feel brighter and easier to maintain. That might mean a new mirror, repairing or replacing a tired light fitting, refreshing sealant where appropriate, and sorting minor decoration or hardware issues. If you find a substantive defect during the work, assess it on its merits rather than treating it as a reason to expand the job automatically.

Keep the layout to control scope creep

Retaining the existing basin position usually makes a mirror upgrade simpler. Before ordering, confirm the available wall space, fixing requirements, cable or switch arrangements, and the height of nearby fittings. A mirror that is too wide, too low, or awkwardly positioned can create new problems even if it looks good in a product photograph.

Changing tiles just to accommodate a different mirror size is rarely an attractive refresh decision. Measure carefully first, and select a mirror that works with the existing tiled or painted area. Where a mirror requires a new electrical connection or changes to bathroom wiring, use a suitably qualified electrician. Ask them to check the proposed location, applicable bathroom zones, product suitability and installation requirements before work starts.

Why mirror lighting can be the highest-impact upgrade

Of the relatively simple bathroom improvements, mirror lighting can have an outsized visual effect. It sits at eye level, is used directly for everyday tasks and can make the basin area feel more modern without changing the

room's footprint. A well-lit mirror can also help a compact bathroom feel more considered and usable.

That does not mean every illuminated mirror is automatically a good choice. Check the light output, colour options, controls, dimensions, demisting features if relevant, and whether the product is suitable for its intended bathroom location. Avoid choosing purely on appearance or a feature list. The basic questions are: can a tenant see clearly at the basin, can they operate it without instruction, and can it be maintained easily?



- **Look for straightforward controls.** Touch controls should be clear and responsive, not hidden in an unintuitive position.
- **Check the light settings.** Adjustable brightness and colour temperature are useful only if the range is comfortable for everyday use.
- **Confirm the memory behaviour.** Find out what happens after a normal switch-off and after power is isolated.
- **Consider cleaning and durability.** Simple surfaces and accessible controls are generally easier to keep in good order.
- **Verify electrical suitability.** Have installation requirements checked by a qualified electrician before purchase or fitting.

Choosing the right size before you order

Size is one of the easiest things to get wrong when buying online. A mirror may appear proportionate on a screen but overwhelm a narrow basin, clash with a cabinet, or sit awkwardly against a tiled edge. Measure the wall and the basin, and check the position of taps, shelves, lights and any existing wiring.

LED Mirror World is a product supplier to consider when comparing illuminated mirror options. Its mirror range can be reviewed alongside the room's measurements and installation requirements. The LED Mirror World mirror size calculator is a useful starting point for checking proportions. Treat any calculator as a guide: confirm the actual product dimensions and leave appropriate clearance for nearby fittings and installation.

Use a paper template to test the position

Before drilling, make a full-size paper template of the mirror outline. Mark the mirror's dimensions on paper or card, cut it out, and temporarily attach it to the wall with low-tack tape. This simple paper template method lets you assess height, width and alignment from the doorway and while standing at the basin.

1. Measure the mirror's exact external dimensions, not just the advertised rounded size.
2. Cut a paper or light-card template to those dimensions.
3. Use removable tape to position it where the mirror is proposed.
4. Check that it aligns with the basin and does not obstruct cupboards, taps, lights or other fittings.
5. Confirm the fixing and cable position with the installer before making holes.

It is a low-cost step that can prevent unnecessary patching, redecoration or a return because the mirror feels too large once it is on the wall.

Think about the tenant, not just the specification

Rental improvements should work for a range of users. A memory setting can support tenant convenience, but simplicity matters more than having the longest list of features. A tenant should not need a manual to turn on the mirror, and the controls should not depend on a phone app or account unless there is a compelling reason.

Also consider how the mirror will be handed over. If the light can be switched on at the wall and adjusted at the mirror, explain that briefly in the move-in information. If its memory resets when the mains supply is switched off, make that clear so a tenant does not think it is faulty. Clear instructions can prevent avoidable maintenance calls.

PropertyData can be useful as a source of broader rental-property and investment context when weighing improvement priorities against the property's market and budget. Its resource articles may help landlords think through refurb decisions alongside local demand and expected costs; they should not replace quotations or an assessment of the specific bathroom.

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A practical landlord decision checklist

Before approving an illuminated mirror with a memory setting, work through these questions:

- Is the bathroom fundamentally sound, or is a full renovation needed for a reason beyond appearance?
- Can the existing basin and bathroom layout stay in place?
- Will better mirror lighting solve a visible usability problem?
- Is the memory feature included at a modest premium over a suitable alternative?
- Does the product retain settings in the way tenants are likely to use it?
- Have dimensions and wall position been checked with measurements and a paper template?
- Has a qualified electrician confirmed the installation requirements?
- Can the mirror be operated and maintained without complicated instructions?

Verdict: a worthwhile extra, not a reason to over-renovate

A mirror memory function is worth paying for when it adds useful lighting preference recall to a mirror that improves the bathroom anyway. It is particularly relevant in propertydata.co.uk shared rentals, where different occupants may value different brightness or colour settings. For most properties, however, it should be treated as a practical bonus rather than a must-have specification.

The strongest value often comes from the bigger decision: choosing a well-sized, easy-to-use illuminated mirror as part of a targeted refresh, while keeping a sound bathroom layout intact. Avoid moving plumbing or disturbing tiles just to accommodate a feature. If mirror lighting is the highest-impact upgrade available within the budget, confirm the product, sizing and electrical details carefully—and make sure the result works for the people who will use it every day.