

design exposé

GUIDELINES. TIPS. INFORMATION.

THE PATH TO LAUNDRY ROOM NIRVANA

Gone are the days when the laundry room occupied the dark dank corner of the basement. Today's laundry rooms are command centers of the household and merit their own four walls. Done right, this is where your clients care for clothes, wash the dog, take rain gear and muddy shoes off to dry and store extra paper towels. Yes the laundry room has finally come into its own and is now considered an essential room, integral to good home design and a room to be proud of.

So what should be considered when designing the ultimate integrated laundry space? First, the layout needs to create an efficient process that makes the laundry job easier, with less impact on your clients' schedule as well as their lower backs.

LEVITATING WASHERS AND DRYERS

Think about elevating washers and dryers on pedestals now that these front-loading beauties are more prevalent than top-loading ones. Transferring heavy wet clothes from the washer to the dryer becomes a real workout involving bending, kneeling, crouching and lifting to complete the task. Pedestals with convenient drawers for storage of laundry detergent, stain remover and dryer sheets keep supplies handy and help preserve the clean efficient look of the room. They also

make it easier to drop clothes directly into a waiting basket.

For laundry rooms with washer and dryers on the floor, a counter extended across the top of the machines for laundry prep is a great convenience. For even more space, take the opportunity to incorporate your client's style, with a cool old farm table, a sleek aluminum table on casters or even a kitchen-style island. Just be sure to leave at least 21" to 25" clearance for opening the washer or dryer door. And make the island height slightly lower than the typical 36" countertop. Folding clothes is more comfortable on a surface that's 30" to 34" from the floor to the tabletop.

THE IRONY OF IRONING

Most of us dislike the task, but love the outcome. The new 93" Waypoint cabinets are perfect for storing the standard collapsible ironing board, and is much better than hanging the board from the back of a door. There's even room for stowing a broom and mop in there.

WASH AWAY ALL MUD AND CARES

A utility sink is a necessity in laundry room design. It's handy for filling buckets and watering cans, washing muddy shoes and paintbrushes or whatever else your client may not want in

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their kitchen sink. The ideal sink will be somewhat shallow and broad with a good faucet and strong spray nozzle. This saves your clients from lifting heavy, water soaked items from the sink, and becomes a suitable pet washing station.

AS MORE IS HIDDEN, MORE IS REVEALED

There is no reason for boxes and bottles to be on display. Everything can be stowed and the look of the room pulled together with wall cabinets. Waypoint® cabinets are versatile enough to complement your client's preferred style without

necessarily duplicating what's been done in the kitchen, bath or other living spaces.

THE PATH IS CLEAR

This is an opportunity to expand on the clients' personal style in practical and creative ways. As you work to add style and utilitarian function to the laundry room, other ideas will come to you. Be open to the possibility of IOPs for your client's well being.

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