



Laundry Room Renovation

To former apartment dwellers or those who have never enjoyed the benefit of a dedicated laundry area, even the smallest washer and dryer space can seem like a luxury.

The benefits of dedicated laundry rooms abound. However, disorganized laundry rooms can nullify such benefits. Depending on the needs and preferences of each homeowner, laundry room designs can be customized for convenience.

VERTICAL SPACE

Floor space may be at a premium in a laundry room, especially for those who want to devote as much space as possible to bulk-size washer and dryer units. Therefore, utilizing wall space is key.

Use shelving, wire racks, hooks, and other organizational tools to store items on the wall. Shelves can be tucked into just about any space, and there are different op-

tions that can fit into corners or shallow areas. These are a great option for keeping detergent or other laundry essentials nearby.

REDUCE CLUTTER

Simple, clean designs can be an asset in a laundry room. If budget and space permits, cabinetry built into the design will help keep items out of sight in the laundry room.

Cabinets hung directly above the appliances can store detergent, bleach and fabric softener. Use cabinets elsewhere in the room as catch-alls for cleaning supplies used in various other rooms around the house.

INCLUDE A SINK IN THE DESIGN

Some older laundry room setups have a slop sink to drain discharged water from the washing machine.

However, newer homes may have plumbing installed directly through the floor or walls.

It is still a worthwhile idea to have a sink in the laundry room for rinsing out stains, handwashing items and having a go-to sink for messier cleanup.

UTILIZE A TENSION ROD

A rod installed between two cabinets or across a narrow width of space in the laundry room is a handy spot to hang shirts or pants to prevent wrinkling.

Repurposing a ladder and suspending it from the ceiling also creates a spot to hang clothes.

CONSIDER LAUNDRY ROOM FLOORING

It's important to select flooring materials that will not be damaged

by contact with moisture or spills. Vinyl, tile and some composite products often make good laundry room floor materials.

Resilient flooring that mimics the look of hardwood may add a classy touch, and give the appearance of wood without having to worry about damage.

To alleviate fatigue while spending long moments in the laundry room, invest in a memory foam mat that can be placed underfoot.

KEEP LIGHTING IN MIND

Lighting can be important in the laundry room. Rely on task lighting, under-cabinet strip lighting and overhead lights as needed for efficiency.

Laundry room design can maximize the space available and make it more convenient to launder and sort clothes.

These simple improvements can make the chore of doing the laundry a little better!