

THE LAUNDRY

THE ROOM FORGOTTEN

While no one can guarantee a new laundry room will make you look forward to doing your wash, a re-organized, multi-purpose, or better-located laundry room will make it seem less of a chore!



by **Nicole R. Martin**
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Since 1945, what we have learned and perfected as a premier appliance store and HVAC, electrical, and plumbing contractor, we have incorporated into the remodeling extension of our company. Brubaker Inc. is proud to offer single-source responsibility for each kitchen, bathroom or laundry remodeling project that we undertake. That means everything you need for your home remodel project is under one roof: from personalized design, to supplying name-brand materials and appliances, to installation by qualified, licensed in-house professionals. There is full accountability and assured quality control. A customer ranking of 97% "Total Satisfaction" and client testimonials bear witness to our tradition of excellence...70 years and counting.

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One of the most overlooked yet hardest used areas in the home is the laundry room. Just because something is functional doesn't mean it can't also be beautiful and efficient. There are many ways to take your laundry area to the next level by making it more convenient, attractive, and useful.

Laundry rooms can be remodeled to add both usability and aesthetic appeal. Often homeowners and their guests pass through or near the laundry room when entering from the side or back door. You can make your laundry duties easier

and the room pleasing to visitors. Built-in benches, storage cubbies, and wall hooks will create a mudroom area in the laundry room, making it a great place for coats, bags, shoes, and sports equipment you need to drop as you come in, or pick up as you head out, the door. Consider replacing builder-grade basic cabinets with glazed or painted cabinets. The laundry room is a great place to experiment with color as it's not a room in which you spend extended periods of time. You can also select a color or finish from an adjacent room for a flowing look between different areas. How about covering a portion of one wall with chalk-

board or whiteboard paint for a go-to message center? Upgraded counters and new laundry sink such as a farm sink will add style to the room while providing convenience and plenty of room for folding and ironing. Beadboard around the room, glass in the cabinet fronts, and decorative floor finish will complete the room.

Another way to make better use of





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your laundry room is to consider it a multi-purpose room. If the room is large enough, consider adding additional cabinetry, counters and storage so it can act as a craft room, homework center or extra, organized storage for kitchen overflow. Adding a sink if there isn't one already will not only make doing your laundry easier but when combined with counter space will give extra prep area for cooking. Even if the laundry space is small, wall cabinets can be added above the washer and dryer in just about any room for additional storage and better organization of detergents, irons, cleaning supplies and anything else that needs a home!

If your laundry area is in a closet consider a stacked washer and dryer. This option frees up space for shelves or cabinetry to provide that always needed extra storage space.

Any fully-operational area needs to be organized and highly functional. Accessories such as wall-hung drying racks, hidden fold-down ironing boards, and rods for hanging freshly ironed clothes in you laundry area will maximize space while bringing convenience to your work. A tray or drawer stocked with stain removal items, lint rollers, extra buttons, and thread and needles make touch-ups and repairs a breeze. Simple accents like glass jars to hold powdered detergent and matching, name labeled baskets for completed laundry (everyone can pick up his own clothes!) will bring a new level of sophistication and joy to an everyday chore.

For those who have a lower level laundry center and are looking for age-in-place options, consider relocating your laundry center to the first floor of your home. This can be done in most homes by simply annexing space from an adjacent room or by rearranging a closet. No more stairs to struggle



up and down with your laundry, allowing you to stay in your home, and stay independent, longer.

On the other hand, the family with second floor bedrooms may want to consider a second floor laundry room. Again, why go multiple steps with laundry when you can wash, dry and iron it mere steps from where you need to put it away? The same adjustments that are made to accommodate a first floor laundry can be made for a second floor laundry.

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