

Hoss

THE HOME RENOVATION RESOURCE

JAN/FEB 2014

THE LOW DOWN
ON BASEMENT RENOS

HITTING
THE WALL
WITH
LAURA STEIN

TOOLBOX
TAKE
OVER
WITH
STEPHEN
FANUKA

HOLIDAY
THEY'LL
ACTUALLY
USE
GIFTS

www.hossmagazine.com



\$5.99 JAN/FEB 2014

TRUE GRIT
HOW BRYAN
BAEUMLER
BECAME A
HOUSEHOLD
NAME

PUT
SOME
"ahh"
INTO
YOUR
HOME
SPA



FROM THE OUTDOORS TO THE INSIDE...

How To Design A Functional Mud Room And Laundry Area

By David Arduini
Albert David Design inc
albertdaviddesign.com



The time has come to face Mother Nature. The cooler weather is before us and with that comes heavier outerwear—jackets, scarves, hats, gloves, and boots, not to mention the thought of kids running inside the house with a handful of arts and crafts they've created from their day at school.

Many homeowners are faced with a dilemma of how to design a functional space that will allow their family to enter the home and remove their heavy layers of clothing, while still having a separate area where daily duties of laundry and washing are conducted. With these two spaces combined into one in most homes, it can be tough to maintain a sense of order and tidiness when 150 square feet is all you're left to work with.

WHAT TO LOOK FOR Take a walk through your space and determine what pros and cons you have based on your floor plan. An open area is ideal. It allows for function, efficiency and an organized workflow. Don't always consider the use of walls as a form of separation between various spaces—this is not always the most effective formula. In fact, walls tend to close in a space and make it tougher to work with. Most laundry/mud rooms are situated just off to the side of your home, typically with an entrance right from the garage. In order to maximize the effectiveness of this space. You want to make a clear distinction of the storage area. Storage is one of the most important elements in a mud room—whether it be vertical, horizontal, floating or with the use of bins—you want to ensure that every inch of space is accounted for and nothing is left to wilt on the floor. Closed storage solutions are always my number one source when designing a space such as this, simply because it hides your belongings and helps to keep the room looking neat and tidy. Open shelving is great to house your shoes and bags, perhaps at a height that is accessible to children. Many custom solutions can be designed based on your needs and storage requirements, which give you the opportunity to incorporate all elements and a more distinctive look and feel.

WITHSTAND THE TEST OF TIME The next aspect you should consider is what material to place on the floor. With a range of products to choose from, you want to ensure that it is durable and especially easy to clean. Honed porcelain, slate or even stone flooring are an excellent solutions and can withstand the heavy traffic that will flow through this area—both during the wet and dry seasons. One of the questions I get asked quite often as a designer is, "How can I achieve the look of hardwood, without using actual hardwood?" Well, the answer is simple — use porcelain that looks like hardwood. It's actually quite spectacular to see the collections of porcelain tiles, in various sizes that mimic the look and feel of hardwood flooring, without actually being wood. The colour selections and distinction of the grains are what truly make this product stand out without compromising durability. You may also want to consider a clean wall tile—either three-quarters or half way up the wall, or if you're feeling a little brave, take the tile right up the entire wall. Imagine this: your little one just walks in from a day spent in the yard, boots all full of mud, and hands dirty from the soil. He suddenly grasps hold of the wall for balance and, before you know it, you've got a large soil stain right on the wall. Now what better way to wipe it clean and it's gone within seconds? As a design professional, it's crucial for me to consider all aspects of a household—how the family functions, their lifestyle and what their daily routines consist of. This allows me to determine the best solution to fit their needs.

FROM MESS TO FRESH Going back to the functionality of your mud/laundry room brings us to the area defined by cleanliness, fresh laundry and the smell of dryer sheets caressing the air. This area within the overall space should be fit for a washing machine and dryer as well as ample counter surface for folding and organizing laundry. In a space that allows for it, your washing machine and dryer are best side-by-side. Given that most new machines are front loading, a great design tip is to build in a granite or marble work surface that stretches the width of both machines allowing you to remove your laundry and fold it within arms' reach. —H

BUYERS GUIDE: PURCHASING A WASHER AND DRYER

Modern day washers and dryers have become not only a staple appliance, but an element that seems to fit into the overall décor and style in your home. Although many traditional units have always got the job done, it may have been at the cost of using less efficient units and more water, thus leading to monthly hydro bills. Today, there are a few components to consider when shopping for a new washer and dryer for your home:

EFFICIENCY

Most new washing machines, like this Whirlpool front-loading washer (below), are labeled as being Energy-Star Qualified units. This is a product that uses less water, will save you money and in turn help the environment. When washing, you may want to consider using cold water, as this will help to lower costs as well. Consider purchasing a unit that is highly energy efficient—it will save you on those monthly bills.

FEATURES

Washers tend to feature a wide variety of cycles that make the unit extremely user friendly. Additional features that make the Whirlpool Steam front-loading washer unique is their Active-Spray Technology, which evenly disperses the detergent to completely cover the fabric. The Quiet Spin 360 Technology controls vibrations and lessens the amount of noise emitted from the machine during its usage. Another great feature is the Steam-Enhanced Cycles, which infuses steam into a cycle that helps to eliminate stains in fabrics.

Dryers such as the Whirlpool Steam Electric Dryer feature a Wrinkle Shield Plus Option, which tumbles the dryer every five minutes following a cycle to help prevent wrinkles from forming into dry fabrics. This unit also delivers a Static Reduce option that combines a misty spray with tumbling action after a load is dry. Lastly, if space is of the essence, the unit also offers the flexibility of setting the dryers door to open to the left or right.

PRICE

Today's market price for a well-known brand of a washers and dryers will typically run you between \$1000 to \$1600 depending on the size, features and sometimes the colour and style. Often times, top-loading and front-loading machines will also set the stage for a price difference, given that front-loading machines tend to be more efficient for water usage.

STYLE

The laundry room isn't complete without that pop of colour, the sleekness of the appliances and, of course, the LED displays that make using these Whirlpool units a breeze. Most washers and dryers can be purchased in a variety of colour choices, along with a stand that increases the height of both units. Front-loading machines tend to be most popular today, since they allow the configuration of the laundry room to accommodate a folding service as well as ample counter space if the units are built in and, covered with a counter surface. —H

