

CREATING A FUNCTIONAL *laundry room*

by **AMANDA SWANLUND**



the “catch all” of the home with piles of cleaning products, dirty clothing, tools, etc. By incorporating closed storage into this space, this will ensure that all of those items are stored away out of sight. And because the laundry room commonly doubles as a mud room, this will also provide storage for sporting goods, outdoor toys, shoes and coats.

OPEN SHELVING In addition to the closed storage space, it's always nice to have at least one open shelf for easily accessible items like dryer sheets, which can be located above or next to the washer and dryer.

A DEEP SINK A large deep sink and a tall faucet will make it easy to hand wash those delicate items. It will also serve as double duty for washing large household items.

ATTENTION TO DETAIL The style of the home should be carried through to the laundry room. Consider using the same countertops and cabinetry as your kitchen. Keep it simple, but don't be afraid to add special touches like pretty cabinet hardware or a tile backsplash. This will add character to the room. The attention to detail will make the space feel warm and inviting and make you forget that laundry is a chore!

ENERGY EFFICIENT APPLIANCES If you're in the market for a new washer and dryer consider energy efficient models. Dual connection front loaders are considered best for the environment as they use less water and detergent than top loaders.

LAYOUT Keep in mind that the doors of the washer and dryer need to open away from each other to make loading and unloading an easy task. Also ensure that there is enough space in front of the washer and dryer for accessibility.

Although the laundry room may not be the most fun room of the house, it doesn't mean it has to lack design details. Have fun with paint colours, art, accessories and even a small wall-mounted TV. It may make you want to do your laundry more often!

A FUNCTIONAL AND STYLISH LAUNDRY ROOM IS definitely on my wish list for my next home. Laundry rooms are typically small and can lack sufficient storage. When completing a laundry room renovation, pay special attention to how you use the room and what can make this space more efficient. Incorporating these tips into a laundry room makeover may have you actually wanting to do laundry!

When doing a laundry room makeover, consider these following tips:

A LARGE FOLDING SURFACE Having a spot to sort through fresh laundry and do all of the folding is key. By installing under counter appliances, this will allow the space required to do the folding.

HANGING SPACE A rod will maximize air drying space and allow those delicate items a place to dry. Hooks are a great alternative if there isn't enough space for a rod.

LOTS OF CLOSED STORAGE SPACE This one is important if you have the square footage. Laundry rooms tend to become



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Principal designer and head of Twenty One Two Designs Inc., Amanda develops each project by taking a multi-sensory approach to the space, and creates environments that are classic with a modern twist, inviting, inspiring and most of all, personal. Her ability to bring freshness and vibrancy while paying close attention to detail ensures that she achieves exceptional spaces tailored to the client's lifestyle. www.twentyonetwo.ca