

A baby blue mudroom with floral wallpaper, a blue dutch door, a striped bench, and a wicker basket.

This baby blue mudroom by Brooke Crew offers a warm welcome.

A DUTCH DOOR IS A MUDROOM MUST-HAVE: OPEN THE TOP HALF TO LET IN A BREEZE WHILE CORRALLING KIDS AND PETS.

Hard Working, Good Looking

A laundry or mudroom glow-up can literally change your life.

By Hadley Mendelsohn

IF THE KITCHEN IS THE HEART of the home, the laundry and mudroom might be considered its kidneys—not the sexiest analogy, sure, but totally crucial when it comes to keeping things clean. Instead of treating these hardworking spaces as an afterthought, give them the TLC they deserve. With the right mix of smart storage solutions, multifunctional features, and a few decorator-worthy details, you can transform any mudroom or laundry room—big or small—into your house’s under-the-radar MVP. Don’t be surprised if you start looking for reasons to iron everything you own!

A Thoughtful Laundry Room



INSTALL A COUNTERTOP ABOVE FRONT-LOADING MACHINES FOR EASIER FOLDING.



A hanging rod gives delicates a place to dry.

Pay Attention to Storage

Alternating between exposed and closed cabinetry, this light-filled laundry room by Studio McGee holds all the essentials. “We added an open shelf above the counter to help keep the space feeling open and visually interesting,” says designer Shea McGee.



Woven baskets hide supplies but keep them within reach.

Install Good Lighting

Overhead cabinets in this Urban Grace Interiors-designed room take care of storage needs, but they also cast a shadow over the worktop. The solution? An articulating sconce to brighten late-night folding sessions.

Think Style *and* Substance

A trio of retro hampers in this laundry room, designed by Emily Henderson, aren’t just charming—the wheels also make them easy to move around the house. Assign one to each family member to help them keep track of their own laundry.

A Maxed Out Mudroom



Roman shades add privacy but let in light.

A ROOMY SINK AND WORKTOP LET THIS SPACE DOUBLE AS A POTTING SHED.

Keep It Simple

Want shelf clutter out of sight without installing cabinet fronts? Take a page from Frances Merrill of Reath Design, who hung fabric panels from the counter beside this sink. Bonus: They add softness to an otherwise hard-edged space.

Ensure Visual Flow

When a mudroom is doorless, consistency is key. For a drop zone adjacent to a blue-and-white kitchen in Beverly Hills, Mark D. Sikes kept the theme going with preppy striped wallpaper.



Two rows of hooks equal twice the storage.



No nook is left unused: These fit blankets and a first aid kit.

Think Vertically

Ken Fulk used floor-to-ceiling storage to create a de facto mudroom from an empty hallway. A rolling library ladder provides access to odds and ends up top, while a built-in nook with a cushion becomes a spot for lacing shoes.

See how one designer snuck a mudroom into her stairs on [page 67!](#)

Small Space Solutions

You don't need an *actual* room to create a mudroom or laundry room.



Drawers are less annoying to keep neat.



A bench makes getting shoes on easier.

Make a Mudroom Out of Thin Air

For editorial director Joanna Saltz, shoes, coats, and bags on the entryway floor were a tripping hazard. Designer Jean Stoffer's solution: install black-wood built-ins, above, from California Closets in an unused hall, with a footwear drawer and cubbies to hold gear and backpacks. **Rug:** [Annie Selke](#).

Turn a Closet into a Laundry Room

"When you can't build out, you have to build up," says Cameron Ruppert, the interior designer behind this closet turned laundry room. A sunshine-colored pendant and floral wallpaper make an otherwise dingy space feel festive.



SWAP A SWING DOOR FOR A POCKET DOOR TO SAVE SPACE.

Which Machine Is Right for You?

Not all laundry appliances are created equal.



APARTMENT DWELLERS

A compact duo that can keep up with the big dogs is perfect for a tight spot. Stacking Washer, \$1,549, and Dryer, \$1,549. [bosch-home.com](#)



BIG FAMILIES

This modestly sized dryer can fit up to 18 towels. Condensing Dryer, \$1,079. [fisherpaykel.com](#)



BUSY PEOPLE

This voice-controlled, AI-equipped smarty alerts you when you're running low on detergent. TwinWash ThinQ, price upon request. [LG.com](#)