

BC Home

MAY/JUNE 2011

DRESS WHITES

kid-proof decor

SOFT FOCUS

nature & art at home

ONE
BOUQUET
4 ways

Serene
STYLE

+ 4 FRESH
SOPHISTICATED
PALETTES



STACK IT SMART Open shelving systems let you eyeball items you need on a regular basis, so you're not riffling through cupboards and drawers. Lightweight objects, like spare pillows, tuck away on the top shelves, and daily-use items are within reach at mid-level (keep detergents in a secure spot if you have pets or children at home). Use containers and decorative boxes to keep items organized and out of sight.

KEEP IT CONTAINED Clear glass canisters shouldn't be saved for the kitchen or bathroom. Press them into service for storing clothes pegs, powdered detergent and other items.

HANDY FAUCET Pair a deep undermount sink with a commercial-style pullout faucet, perfect for blasting water on those grass-stained uniforms!

FOR MORE LAUNDRY ESSENTIALS SEE PAGE 44 >>

The Practical Laundry Room

Washing and ironing clothes may never make it to the top of anyone's list of likes, but creating an optimal space in your home can make the weekly task a little more welcoming

TEXT **COREY VAN'T HAAFF**

Laundry is the bane of many people's existence, and it's no wonder. Laundry rooms are typically in the worst spot in the house, and are often drab, cluttered and busy. It doesn't have to be this way. There are three main objectives to make any laundry room workable: everything you use should be easily accessible; every appliance should serve the purpose you want; and the room should be an attractive and comfortable place to be in.

A well-organized laundry room starts right at its door. It shouldn't block access to the area where you sort and fold laundry. If you are renovating or thinking about making a change, don't forget your door. And add a garbage can, so you can empty pockets and lint traps right away.

A counter or table is mandatory for sorting, folding and stacking laundry. Make sure it's the right height for you when standing. Consider adding folding or swing-away rods you can install on the wall to hold clothing as it hangs to dry or awaits ironing. Look at every nook and cranny as potential storage space.

Laundry rooms tend to be awkward spaces, lacking storage systems conducive to what you actually do in there. They also usually have a lot of wall space, and this can work in your favour. Install shelves to keep laundry soap and fabric softener in easy reach. Build high for more rarely used supplies, and get yourself a sturdy stepladder. You can find attractive economical shelves anywhere, from IKEA to hardware or specialty stores. Cubbyhole storage will keep spare toilet tissue, soap and extra towels neat and accessible. Add some lovely baskets to keep like-items together.

Think vertical. Store the ironing board on the back of the door, or better yet, find one that comes with a wall hook.

No laundry room is complete without a hamper and a few bins, and choices abound here. If you like the chromed look of commercial laundry carts, you can get one that comes complete with a hanging rod and smooth gliding wheels so you can push your freshly folded laundry to where it belongs. Or, if you prefer a more industrial look, canvas wheeled bins come in small, medium and large sizes to accommodate the needs of most families. Laundry hampers for dirty clothes can be wheeled or stationary, and some are segmented, allowing you to separate whites from colours and delicates, even before you're ready to load the washer.

The workhorse of the laundry room remains the washer and dryer team. You can still choose side-by-side or stackables, but added pedestal bases means less stooping to transfer heavy wet laundry to the dryer. Front-loading machines hold more laundry because there's no centre agitator. They have the added convenience of a resting place for laundry on top and typically use up to a third less water.

Remember to choose environmentally friendly detergents. Buy high-efficiency (HE) soap for front loads, or the suds will become a problem. Make sure you measure, because new super-concentrated formulas allow you to use a lot less. Look for biodegradable ingredients (some detergents are plant- rather than petroleum-based) and watch for chlorine and needless dyes.

Finally, don't forget to paint and accessorize your laundry room. Add a throw rug and some creature comforts like hand sanitizers and lotions. If your laundry room isn't welcoming, you won't enjoy a single moment spent in there. □

PHOTO Marcos Armstrong STYLING Heather Cameron See SOURCES on page 59



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THE ESSENTIAL LAUNDRY LIST



HANG + HIDE The indoor-outdoor **Wall Fix dryer** by Brabantia folds away flush in its protective cover when not in use. Made from galvanized steel, this dryer boasts 25 metres of line – enough to accommodate a load of laundry. \$189.99, *Canadian Tire*

TASTEFUL TRASH CAN You can keep the laundry room clutter to a soothing hum thanks to the soft close of Brabantia's **Touch Bin**, which has a removable plastic liner that makes washing the 45-litre bin a breeze. And forget humble. Go haute and custom-order one of 200 colours available. \$644, *Home Outfitters*

ÜBER EFFICIENT Two words: automotive styling. That's right, Whirlpool's high-efficient **Vantage laundry pair**, shown in a Cosmetallic high-gloss finish, is the race car of appliances. Full-colour LCD screens let you scroll through a menu of myriad cycles and settings. Eco monitors and sensors help improve efficiency, and cycle updates can be uploaded via the USB port. From \$4,000, *Trail Appliances*



UTILITY UPGRADE Trust the Italians to give the ironing board a stylish upgrade. Design Group Italia created the **Amleto ironing board** for Magis, revitalizing the typical tired equipment with blue-lilac fabric, a lightweight matte aluminum frame, and a silicone rubber iron-holder. Hang Amleto on the wall (hook sold separately), but don't dare hide it away. Pressing wrinkles might just become a pleasant task. \$725, *Luminaire* ■



—Janet Gyenes