

Hello, Friends!

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October 2019 - Redoing Your Laundry Room

So, you finally have the time — and funds — to remodel your laundry room. Pinterest is full of style possibilities, plus it's helpful to give your pictures / ideas to your builder. Nothing works better than pictures, right?

Here is a checklist that you might want to think about as you are starting this project:

✓ Start by interview builders / remodelers and the do some homework. Ask for referrals and then go one step further and call their references. It's important to choose someone you feel comfortable with and can trust in your gut.

✓ Ask the builder how his typical work day runs. Does he like to arrive at 7 am and leave by 4 pm or arrive at 9 am and leave by 7 pm? Then, find out if he has other projects on the go or is he able to just concentrating on yours? This gives you an idea of his timeline. If your project isn't as big as the others, yours likely will be placed lower on his work totem pole.

✓ Get quotes and ask where he purchases his supplies. Is Home Depot okay with you or would you prefer products from upper end sources? Will the contractor work with other sources?

✓ Who is in charge of getting what? Some builders give you an allowance. One of my friends ordered her lights from an interior decorator, then hardware from a store in Ann Arbor, and the glass for cabinets from Chicago, etc. and so on...

What do you want in your dream laundry room? Here are some helpful possibilities:

✓ Cabinets to store laundry items and cleaning supplies. I like things stored behind closed doors so there is less clutter on display.

✓ Are you getting new appliances? Shop around and see who is having a sale. Sometimes when you buy all your appliances from one vendor, you can negotiate a better price. Keep in mind if your new appliances are going to be bigger than your current ones.

✓ Consider your lifestyle now versus 3 to 5 years in the future. If your youngest is in high school, do you want smaller units for the future? If you are going to sell in 3 years, consider what makes economic sense versus what appeals to buyers.

✓ Think of baskets and shelves. These make the room more cozy and pleasing to the eye.

✓ Ask yourself if you want a place to hang dry some of your items? I know by taking items out of the dryer sooner than later, they are less wrinkled and require less ironing. You don't always need to have the typical hanging rod above the sink, washer or dryer. Valet rods might work, depending on how much hanging space you need.

✓ Do you want a drying rack? There are some super custom options now. Some have a rack that pulls out like a drawer with rods, or there are wall accordion racks that pull out. Or do you just need a place to hang your portable drying rack?

✓ Do you want your ironing board stored in the laundry room? Do you plan to iron in this space? Make a list of what you do in this room and what you want to store. You may not get to store everything in there — so you'll need to prioritize.

✓ Do you want your dirty laundry in separate baskets? Can your space accommodate that? You don't need the traditional size large baskets for everything. My friend used a small plastic bin that she purchased at Target for her hand washable cycle, which is a very small load weekly.

✓ Do you need to put your appliances on stands so that there is less bending over taking place? Plus, those stands can also house extra supplies — double duty! You can also have your stands custom built.

✓ Many people will even store their lightbulbs and batteries in the laundry room. I have a shelf dedicated to items that I have to bring back to my parents — like the empty cookie jar that magically fills up the next time I visit them!

✓ Communicate with the builder on a daily basis. You think you are done with decisions when you hand over the project but that is only the beginning. The quicker you make decisions, the quicker they can keep working on the project. Sometimes it is even a good idea to write things down so there is a clear agreement. I suggest a list of what was discussed, for example: 1. Farmhouse style sink 30" wide Style xxxx American Standard. 2. Biscuit subway tile behind the sink brand, style, color. Give your builder a copy of this list, plus keep one for yourself.

✓ Check out the Container Store, big box stores plus visit kitchen and bath stores for ideas — and take pictures of ideas you like.

Doing the laundry is a regular chore. Take the time to plan your space to make it work the best for you. Good luck on this project. It might get a little overwhelming at first, but just keep thinking how much nicer your room will be and how much more you'll enjoy doing laundry (we can always dream about this, right?)

Your local professional organizer,

Betty Huotari

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