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STORE IT!

Keep frequently used products on shelves within easy reach and make sure everything else has a designated home behind closed doors; plan space for bulky items such as laundry baskets, so they don't have to sit out. A pull-out or fold-down ironing board is an amazing space saver, but make sure you've got a place to plug in the iron!



"Given how much we use our washers and dryers, you will get a huge amount of value by purchasing a well-known, quality brand"

~ Jordan Rogers, senior category expert, Winning Appliances

4 STAY ORGANISED

To improve the flow of getting laundry in and out of the room, stylist Nadia Yelland of Edited Interiors suggests installing a laundry chute from the upstairs bathrooms directly into the dirty washing hamper downstairs. At the other end of the process, include a linen press in the same room, so sheets and towels can be stored away quickly. Another clever idea is to allocate each family member their own basket into which their clean clothes are placed, so they can put them away in their own rooms.

5 KEEP UP APPEARANCES

"Many homes now have laundries in full view of the living areas, so choose finishes that tie in with the rest of the house," says stylist Caroline Owler of Edited Interiors. A budget-friendly solution is to choose laminate surfaces; these are hardwearing and can be matched to timber or stone surfaces in the public spaces. Similarly, vinyl flooring comes in an array of effects and finishes, and is cost-effective and low maintenance - check out the range at Polyflor. >



3 MAKE IT MULTI-FUNCTIONAL

The laundry often has to fulfil more than just one purpose; it could be a laundry/mudroom or a laundry/shower room for rinsing off after swims. At the very least, it's likely to wind up as a storage space. "Think how you may incorporate these multiple functions into the space," says Michael. "I achieve this through the use of large cupboards with adjustable internal shelves, hooks for easy access to coats and school bags, deep drawers and shoe storage." Add in a bench seat for putting on shoes and you've created an enviable mudroom.

3 of the best WASHING MACHINES

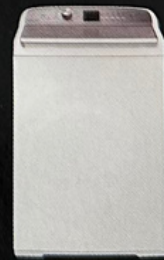
Picking the right washing machine is key to keeping energy costs low and creating efficient workflows.



Siemens iQ800 9kg Washing Machine with sensoFresh, \$1999, Winning Appliances.



Samsung FlexWash 16kg washing machine in Stainless Black, \$2799, Harvey Norman.



Fisher & Paykel 'Fabric Smart' WA1068P1' 8.5kg washing machine, \$1499, David Jones.