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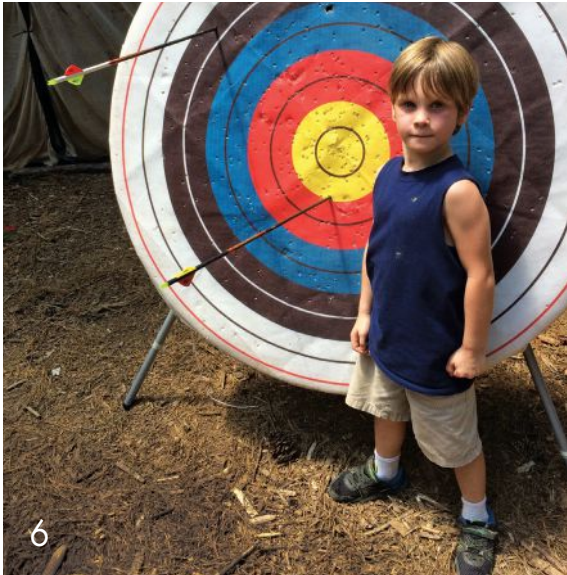
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THE *Casual* FLING

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MAKING THE MOST OF ANY SIZED

Photo by Wade Works

My grandmother tells me stories of the weekly laundry day when she used large pots of water to boil the clothes with homemade lye soap and beat the dirt out of denim overalls on a wooden battling-block for her father and eight brothers. After she married, she had seven babies and hand washed and hung every one of their cloth diapers out on a clothesline, summer and winter. Sometimes the diapers froze on the line before they dried. The day she got a dryer was one of the happiest days of her life.

Thankfully, modern conveniences save us from such harrowing laundry stories, but, this never-ending task can

Laundry Room

Organization and location is the key.

By Chip Wade



Photo by Josh Thomas

still make the laundry room a dreadful dungeon. Fortunately, there are lots of ways to turn this around. I'm not saying that anything will make laundry your favorite activity, but a few thoughtful improvements to the laundry room can make it feel fresh, calm and efficient.

The most impactful laundry decision is its location in your home. I advise my clients to think honestly about who does the laundry and how to make access to it most convenient for the primary user(s). We fantasize that our young children will become teenagers who take over the laundry, making some parents want the laundry room in a central location in the house. The reality is that most of the time, one or two people do the majority of it. One of the renovation successes in my own home was moving the washer and dryer into the master suite, actually adjacent to my closet. So, my dirty laundry never leaves the privacy of my room and putting it away only takes two steps.

Most laundry rooms are tight on space, so adding a countertop above front-loading machines generates a perfect place for folding laundry. If space per-mits, a lower, table height surface that is deeper than a standard countertop is a great addition. Surfaces need to be easy to clean and resistant to bleach and detergents. Stainless steel is a favorite of mine as opposed to porous stone, for those exact reasons.

If there is no room for a counter top, adding a shallow shelf against the wall over the washer and dryer gives useful space for



Overcoming a Lifetime of Allergies

Throughout my entire life I have struggled with seasonal allergies and sensitivity to family pets. After having kids, I decided to take the plunge, finally do something for myself, and move forward with allergy shots. I'm so glad I did! During my initial allergy testing, it was confirmed that I was indeed allergic to "everything" like my husband has always joked. The testing was not nearly as painful as I thought and it was comforting to know that a vaccine was being created specifically for my triggers. I began having weekly injections with Angela and have noticed a huge improvement already! I no longer take any allergy medication and am actually looking forward to being outside with my kids this Spring and truly enjoying baseball season! Angela and the helpful staff at Russell Medical worked alongside my insurance company and I was never burdened with a bill. It is truly a pleasure to see the staff each week and they genuinely care about my health and well being. I am so pleased with my results



that I would highly recommend anyone that has struggled with allergy attacks and are fed up with taking antihistamines to call and schedule their initial testing. Please do me a favor and don't tell my son that we are able to get a puppy now... :)

- Tara S.

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The most impactful laundry decision is its location in your home. I advise my clients to think honestly about who does the laundry and how to make access to it most convenient for the primary user(s).

Photo by Wade Works

If there is no room for a counter top, adding a shallow shelf against the wall over the washer and dryer gives useful space for all the washing essentials.



Photo by Josh Thomas

all the washing essentials.

Organization is the only antidote to the laundry nightmares. Establishing a system for each family member to presort clothes into darks, lights, delicates and linens can be simplified using a partitioned recycle bin. Rolling carts are also useful for sorting the dirty and putting away the clean.

Matching canisters for detergent and other supplies allow you to buy in bulk and keep a tidy, uniform appearance. You can't always hide the necessary tools and supplies for laundry, but you can organize them to make the room look calm and contained as a part of your home, not just a utilitarian catch all space.

Laundry pods are quick and convenient, but if you have young children or pets, these candy-colored nuggets can be an enticing hazard. Be sure to keep them in an opaque container so they are out of sight and out of reach, keeping your kids out of danger.

Now that laundry washing has become an indoor activity, make sure the lighting in the room is bright enough for the task at hand. Adding task lighting might be the difference in seeing a stain before you throw it in the dryer to be set in forever.

Finally, and I love this idea, have you considered building a pedestal under your washer and dryer? It makes loading and unloading so much easier when you're not doubled-over. Many manufacturers sell pedestals, but they can be expensive. If you're like me, DIY-it! You can make a simple pedestal that also includes storage space underneath.

While doing the laundry will never be high on your list of leisure activities, you can make it less of a chore...and maybe you won't wait until you have 13 loads to do it. Happy laundry day!

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