

# Reimagine the Laundry Room

In many homes, the laundry room is one of the first areas guests enter. It also can be the messiest space in the house if clothes are left unkempt or your appliances are dated. Luckily, this can be one of the easiest rooms to declutter and make more attractive.

When sprucing up your laundry room, one factor you should consider is the integrity of your washing machine and dryer. If you notice water leaking on the floor or the machines are rusting or noisy, it might be time to make an upgrade.

While it can sometimes be an expensive purchase, choosing new ENERGY STAR-approved appliances can save you money on your electricity bill and enhance the flair of the entire room.

## FIXING WATER DAMAGE

Any room that is home to a machine using water likely has experienced some form of water damage. Sometimes correcting the source of the leak is as easy as changing a hose or leveling the washer. Fixing the issue quickly is key.

Start from the ground up when sprucing up your laundry room. A professional plumber can easily diagnose and solve the problem causing the water leak.

If the issue has been present for a long period of time, you



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should consider calling in a handyman to inspect the amount of damage to the sub-floor. It is in your best interest to replace the wood if it is recommended. The heavy weights of a washer and dryer should always be on a sturdy base.

## UPGRADE YOUR SPACE

Just like any other room in your house, a fresh coat of paint can make an instant difference in your laundry room's attractiveness. Don't forget to

include any available cabinets in your painting plans.

You also can enhance the appearance of plain shelves by highlighting them with painted-wood trim or a fabric drape.

If your appliances just don't fit into your plans during the upgrade but moving them is not an option, you can use a large cabinet to enclose them while not in use. Be sure to take advantage of the interior for extra storage for detergents

and hampers.

## CREATING A NEW LAUNDRY ROOM

If it is in your budget, it might be possible to totally redo the room by moving your appliances to a less intrusive area of your home.

You should hire a local professional to convert an area into a suitable laundry room by safely installing water, electricity or gas if it is unavailable in the new room.

## REAL ESTATE 101

### Laundry Reinvented

An innovation in laundry technology was among a list of ideas showcased at the National Association of Home Builders' International Builders' Show in 2017. Laundry Jet was a Best of IBS Awards finalist in the Best Home Technology Product category. The vacuum-driven "in-home laundry delivery system" is akin to a central vacuum system, used to move dirty laundry from one floor to another or simply from place to place on one floor at the touch of a button. Imagine instantly transporting your clothes and linens directly to the laundry room from a discrete port located in a closet or bathroom cabinet. Other home innovations featured at the show included a one-touch electric attic stairway, a 40-foot-wide motorized retractable screen, a WiFi smart dead-bolt lock with an integrated solar panel, and an app that provides 3-D and augmented reality rendering of home architecture to help homeowners visualize their new home before it's built.



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By JOE SZYNKOWSKI | Green Shoot Media

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## HOMEWISSE GLOSSARY

**Rent control:** a form of rent regulation that limits the amount of rent landlords can charge for apartments and restricts their ability to evict, based on continual residence by the occupant or other qualified occupants who have been in residence with the original tenant for a specified length of time.

SOURCE: Columbia University

# AD SPACE