



Laundry Day *- in style*

Let's face it — nobody loves doing laundry! But who says you can't make the space where it happens fabulous and fresh? Here's how!

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LEFT PAGE The entrance to the laundry space is defined by a step down from the main hallway, offering an opportunity to uniquely define the floor space. Soda chose a variegated black and white hexagonal floor tile for an added element of personality.

THIS PAGE Opposite the washer and dryer, this laundry room features custom-designed floor-to-ceiling gossamer blue cabinetry, which houses various laundry essentials and also provides a cozy nook for the furry family members.





ABOVE A laundry space in a house for resale can still exude personality, as Soda demonstrates with a feature wall of bevelled mirrored tile backsplash and on-trend chevron porcelain tiles. **RIGHT** It's all in the details with the added element of this classic laundry room decal sourced through Etsy. **OPPOSITE PAGE** An industrial bronze light fixture mixed with brass hardware and blue cabinetry complements each other and adds character and dimension to the space.

It's the weekly chore we all love to hate — the necessary evil that is laundry day. Some of us with larger families find ourselves doing this chore multiple times a week and even then, when we're about to do it all over again, the clean clothes are often still sitting there, waiting to be put away right next to a new pile of dirty laundry! It can be a daunting and never-ending task, so why shouldn't the space be as functional and fabulous as possible?

Perhaps second only to the kitchen, this room acts as the hardest working space in the home, so it's important for this area to have both form and function. In the laundry spaces we've designed, certain key considerations were made in order to ensure that our home owners were left with a space that facilitates all that needs to, and can, happen there. By making a list of everything that is required for basic laundry duties — detergent, softener, baskets, etc. — we can ensure there's a place for everything and everything is in its place. Secondary functions like hanging, folding, ironing, and even feeding and washing the dogs has made the wish list in some households, so you have to consider these as well. In our bright blue laundry space, our furry friends needed a place to sleep so our millwork was custom-designed to allow for this, as well as storage for a full-size ironing board, iron, dog food, shampoos, brushes and extra cleaning supplies. We made sure to install hanging rods mounted high enough for long dress shirts and even some mid-length dresses, yet still easily accessible to our clients. It's important to take stock of what it is you are trying to achieve in these spaces and ensure that you've thought up





Bright White

If you have your laundry room on the second floor but still no window, consider adding a sun-tunnel which can flood the room with light. If your laundry space is in the basement, consider adding a window or at least ensure that you have planned for enough overall ambient and task lighting to brighten your mood.

a solution for each of these activities. That's what working with a designer will do — create a space that truly works for your life and how you live it.

Once you've nailed down the functions and created a layout and design that works, it's time to focus on the personality. If you're afraid to try out the latest trend or maybe the latest Benjamin Moore colour of the year that you find yourself drawn to, the laundry space is a perfect place to express yourself. Chevrons are hot right now, as are hexagons and variegated patterns. Go a little wild with tile. Or go bold with colour. Try out that fabulous matte black or gold hardware you're seeing in design magazines everywhere. We did all of the above in our featured spaces and the results were fantastic in completely different ways. On the one hand, we were challenged with designing a home for resale (which had to appeal to the masses) but it was important to us to inject some personality. With black textured and patterned chevron floor tiles and pewter cabinets, we added a touch of elegance to our custom laundry space using 3" x 6" bevelled antique mirror tiles laid in a familiar brick stack pattern and matte black handles. In our other laundry space, our client's request for an "eclectic, retro, vintage, modern laundry room" enabled us to go big with black and white patterned hexagon floor tiles and gold Delta faucet and hardware for that modern edge, while gossamer blue pillow-style cabinets gave us a little retro-vintage vibe.

We opted for clean white walls to enable the rest of the space to take centre stage while playing with that shiplap wall trend we see gracing social media everywhere.

One of the final, but possibly most important, features of each of our laundry spaces is the abundance of light. It's no fun doing chores in a dark dungeon, so if you don't have the luxury of windows in your space, ensuring you have the right level and quality of light is key.

Perhaps I have inspired you to take another look at your laundry area! After all, until our appliances can start to sort and fold our clothes on their own, we may as well love the space where it all happens.



Cynthia Soda is owner and principal interior designer of Soda Pop Design Inc., a multi-disciplinary interior design firm providing complete custom renovation and design services for residential and commercial clients throughout the GTHA. Soda Pop Design Inc. focuses on merging the client's lifestyle, personality and architecture to create customized and liveable luxury. sodapopdesign.ca, Instagram: @csodapop, Twitter: @sodapopdesign