

'The possibility of using existing plumbing lines and centralizing two focal home work areas is a way to save dollars as well as time. A laundry near the kitchen allows the storage and countertop space to do double duty.'

— Designer Ellen Cheever

One creative solution to laundry room design makes the laundry do double duty, as in this laundry/exercise/sewing room.

Laundry centers changing

Continued from Page 12

The one caveat Cheever offers those planning a kitchen laundry is to shield the laundry function from direct contact with the food preparation area with a partition or a peninsula counter. If desired, folding or bi-fold doors can be used to close the area off when not in use.

If space is at a premium, the new full-size stacked laundry units now make it possible to convert a small pantry or closet into a laundry center without compromising on washer capacity. These models take up approximately 27 inches of floor space instead of the 54 to 60 inches needed for side-by-side models, freeing space for creative uses. In a kitchen, that extra 27 to 33 inches can become a desk for the household executive, as well as a counter for folding.

ANOTHER IDEA is to use the space gained from stacked units for an ironing and mending center. The ironing board can be built in, maybe attached to the closet door. A sewing machine can be placed on a built-in countertop with drawers installed underneath. That's certainly more convenient than hauling everything out of a hall closet and placing it on the dining room table when it's time to mend a seam.

A laundry room can actually help the family heating bill. Put a filter on

your clothes dryer with a vent coming back into the house. It will add heat and humidity to the house when the dryer is operating.

There's a final bonus for locating the laundry near the kitchen . . . the family is usually around, so there's more opportunity to enlist help with the wash-day chores.

If the kitchen is out of the question in terms of space, there are other alternatives.

- The bedroom/bathroom area of the house is convenient for a laundry center because that's where the bulk of the laundry collects and clean laundry is stored. By utilizing existing plumbing connections, cost of appliance installation can be reduced.

- In warmer climates, carports, garages, patios or breezeways are good laundry locations, especially if they're located near the bathroom/bedroom or kitchen areas.

- The basement should be a last resort, since carrying heavy loads of laundry up and down stairs adds more work. (A new 20-page color-illustrated consumer reference booklet, "Contemporary Laundry Planning," provides additional information and advice on creating efficient home laundry centers. Copies are available for \$1 from Magtag, Consumer Education Department, Dept. 38YG, One Dependability Square, Newton, IA 50208.)

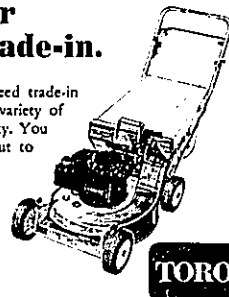


Showy backsplash

Ceramic tile is often used in kitchens as a backsplash, as shown here. Most homeowners can install it themselves for under \$100. For more details, see story on Page 18.

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