

a clean getaway

Inspired by English country houses, BH&G editor **Monika Evers** turned her New Jersey laundry room into a cleaning retreat packed with storage and style.



CABINETS
COLOR
SIMILAR TO
WHEAT BREAD
720C-3
BEHR

I store vases in these cabinets and arrange flowers on the counter between loads.



Jagged cabinet edges, peeling laminate, cracked tile, a broken light fixture, too little storage, and a defunct sink. The list of laundry room woes was substantial when I moved into a 1979 fixer-upper. I dreamed of a space pretty enough to keep the door open because, let's face it, laundry is less of a chore when you enjoy being in the room. Looking back to my years living in London for inspiration, I made a mood board to capture the collected-over-time style of old country houses there. This process helped me visualize which elements looked best together. I landed on Serena & Lily's Priano wallpaper to set the bucolic tone I was after. Read on to see how the room came together.

■ **AN AGED LOOK** unites the elements. **1 CABINETS** I quadrupled my storage with Paces custom cabinetry in a soothing, faded Cool Grey from Home Depot's Cabinet Makeover program. **2 LIGHTING** Circa Lighting's antiqued brass lantern adds old-world appeal. **3 SIDEBOARD** My vintage unit looks built-in thanks to a flush-mount Silestone countertop from Home Depot. **4 TILE** Country Floors' tumbled stone pavers have a reclaimed feel. **5 WINDOW** The Shade Store's linen Roman shade adds softness.

STYLING: MATTHEW GLEASON

■ **IRONING BOARD**

A recessed cabinet saves floor space. I upgraded the ironing board cover with a custom ticking stripe from Etsy.

■ **STORAGE**

Giving things a set spot curtails clutter. I used a label maker to designate inexpensive plastic bins for specific supplies.

■ **ALCOVE**

I slide tall brooms and mops into the gap between the wall and dryer-side cabinets.

■ **UTILITY SINK**

An extra-deep stainless-steel sink from Kohler contains any splashes.



Consider power. I had an outlet wired inside the ironing board cabinet.



MONIKA'S TIPS

Thinking ahead keeps things moving. Tick these boxes pre-reno:

1

MEASURING

Before ordering cabinets, triple-check their dimensions with a tape measure. I even built a poster board template to visualize the counter and realized changes I wanted by doing this.

2

SCHEDULING

Don't demo until everything you've ordered has arrived and been checked, and you've got the permit in hand and the inspector on the schedule.

3

PLANNING

Natural stone has a lot of variation, so flag your least favorite tiles for under the laundry machines.



[SMART BUYS]

HANDY HELPERS

You don't have to sacrifice style for storage. These buys look good and get the job done.



RHINO II STOOL

I can fold it up when I am done. \$15; kikkerland.com



MAKATI BASKET

For stray socks until their match reappears. \$35; containerstore.com

METAL LAUNDRY CADDY

A toting essential. BH&G Collection®, \$12; walmart.com/BHG



HOW TO VIDEO: FOLDING TOWELS

Simply hover your smartphone camera over this code to learn our tricks for a perfectly folded towel.