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# Take a load off

Make your laundry a room where you're happy to be, writes CATHERINE NIKAS-BOULOS

Along with cleaning the bathroom, doing the laundry tops many people's list of worst jobs on the weekly to-do list.

Other than the joyless task of sorting through dirty clothing, it's often done in a space that has not seen much design love.

The laundry is usually the last room in the house to get a makeover, with a waterproof floor, stainless-steel tub, a washing machine and dryer, deemed adequate.

But having to spend regular periods of time in such a joyless space can only add to the aversion of doing laundry, says interior architecture designer and Electrolux ambassador Anna-Carin McNamara.

"We tend to spend money in places like the kitchen, which we can show off to people, but then we don't bother setting up the laundry properly, even though we spend so much time in there," she says.

Organiser Jo Carmichael, founder of All Sorted Out, says

the laundry often becomes a dumping station, and should be cleaned out routinely.

"This is one of the main areas of the home that a lot of us seem to forget or figure that no one else will see," she says.

**High and dry**

Given our abundant sunshine a drying room is not something Australians have been accustomed to but it is a popular European solution to the wet-weather washing juggle, and the concept is gaining popularity locally.

Not only does a drying room provide a dedicated space for airing clothes indoors, it is a practical alternative to high-energy clothes dryers.

For small loads, a simple hanging rack works. "It also dries things more delicately and cares for the clothing better," McNamara says.

## Feel the heat

A cold, tiled room does nothing to entice you into the laundry. Creating some warmth in the room will ramp up the user's comfort factor. "Hydronic heating systems can be installed in both new and existing homes," suggests DPP Hydronic spokesman Matt Witherder.

Another option is electric floor heating which can be laid over the slab, before tiling.

## On display

The laundry doesn't have to be hidden behind closed doors.

In fact, having it built into the kitchen, bathroom or hallway ensures it doesn't become a

space where mess can be dumped and forgotten about, according to McNamara.

"If it's a visible space and you have to walk past it, it's a gentle reminder to pick it up," she says.

"If it's in an enclosed space, develop a habit of cleaning that room daily. And, get the kids involved by showing them how to do their laundry, so they don't think clothes just magically reappear in their room."



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