

| ROOM RECIPE |

Utility room

THESE SIMPLE DESIGN INGREDIENTS ARE ALL YOU NEED TO MAKE SURE YOUR UTILITY ROOM IS BOTH PRACTICAL AND STYLISH. TICK OFF OUR ESSENTIALS TO CREATE THE IDEAL LAUNDRY SET-UP

1. LIGHTING

As one of the most practical rooms in your home, this isn't the place for mood lighting. During the planning stage, be sure to consider your options, as poor lighting can lead to stains not being spotted and care labels being misread. Under-cabinet or shelf lighting is great for small spaces and wall lights are aesthetically pleasing, but think about backing these up with bright ceiling lights for dark winter days when natural light levels are at their lowest.

IH LOVES...

- Dunelm has some great pendants
- Lighting Direct for a vast range
- Original BTC for statement pieces

2. A RUG

Utility rooms can often feel chilly due to the lack of soft furnishings. Add a rug and not only will it keep your feet warm, it will also help absorb noise. Try choosing a design with some pattern to help elevate the room, and use an anti-slip mat

underneath to ensure the rug stays in place.

IH LOVES...

- La Redoute for everyday designs
- French Connection has some wonderful options
- Rug Artisan has lots to choose from

3. SHELVING

Open shelving is a great way to utilise wall space, as well as make a display of your prettier cleaning paraphernalia. Try decanting washing tablets into glass jars or keeping washing powder in galvanised pots. Room sprays and linen water can also look pretty displayed on shelves.

IH LOVES...

- Garden Trading for new scaffold shelves
- B&M for inexpensive storage jars
- Willton London for stylish cleaning products

4. THE FINISHES

It's worth planning out all the details of your utility room, even down to the

colours and finishes. 'Choose cabinets mainly in a painted finish as this gives the flexibility of a complete makeover if you decide to change your colour scheme later,' says Alex Main, Director at The Main Company. 'It also means even if you want a subtle change, it's much easier to do.'

IH LOVES...

- Dulux for budget-friendly makeovers
- Fenwick & Tilbrook for paint with depth
- Farrow & Ball for rich colours

5. CUSTOM-BUILT CUBBIES

Before building your utility space, think about what will be going into it and where. 'One common mistake that people make is not measuring their appliances before designing their laundry room,' says Vicky Silverthorn, professional organiser at You Need A Vicky. 'Think about what you want to store, be it an ironing board, mop or laundry baskets, and measure their dimensions

before designing your space. It's no use going for an off-the-peg design and expecting your items to fit – they won't, and you'll be gutted if your smart utility space is ruined by a washing machine that doesn't fit in its designated spot.'

IH LOVES...

- IKEA for customisable storage solutions
- Store for clever overdoor options
- B&Q offer a great design service

6. SURFACE SPACE

For a successful utility, it's important to have surface space to sort laundry before and after washing. 'This is one aspect that's often overlooked but one we find so important in our design,' says William Durrant, owner of Herringbone Kitchens.

IH LOVES...

- John Lewis & Partners for lovely laundry baskets
- Lakeland for a whole host of clothes driers
- TK Maxx for cleaning caddies

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“Adding a plant or two will make your utility space feel more like an extension of your home and bring some life to it”

GINEVRA BENEDETTI, DEPUTY EDITOR

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Raw scaffold shelf, from £50; Hornton wire stacking storage box, £32; Edgeworth storage caddy, £24; Hatherop small fabric storage basket, £15; Edgeworth lidded storage boxes, from £20 each; Hatherop under-bed storage bag, £30, all Garden Trading