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HOME BUILDERS ASSOCIATION INC.



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A well-organized mudroom can reduce clutter near the entryway of your home. For some home owners, a mudroom is an actual built out space to store everything from gloves to sports gear. If you do not have a separate "room" in your home there are still plenty of ways to maximize the storage space near your entryway. A well-designed entryway is also attractive to future home buyers. Keep the area near your home entrance organized and clutter-free with these tips.

Focus on functionality and space. Before building out shelves or picking out wall art, think about how you plan to use the space. If you have an entire room, you may opt for more shelving to store household gadgets or hobby supplies. A closet without the door near your entryway can be easily decorated and outfitted with hooks. A wall, not a room, will require an organized system with some items displayed or hidden, based on your preferences.

Think about your floor before the décor. This area of your home gets the most foot traffic (and mud!) so you'll need a durable, moisture resistant flooring option. Heavy duty flooring material is your best bet, such as tile or stone. You'll want something that is easy to clean since this space will be dirty often. If upgrading your flooring isn't an option, consider adding a bound area rug that can be switched out quarterly to match your seasonal decor.

Size up your seating options. Adding a built-in seating area or bench can be helpful for taking off your shoes. You can also place items or shoes in a tray or cubby underneath a seat. A flip seat can hide items away while making them accessible. Footstools can also serve as a seating option for smaller spaces.

**Get organized.** Storage options are infinite, from hooks to bins to adjustable shelves and lockers. Before adding unique organizing options to your space, take an assessment of what you have. Do you have more hats or sports gear? Maybe you'll opt for more hooks than shelves or vice versa. Smaller items can be easily tucked away in bins and baskets. Once you've taken inventory you'll want to keep the most used items near your door.

**Create a color palate.** Since the mudroom will be the first area you see as you enter your home, you'll want to find a color or pattern that speaks the most to you. If you're adding new wall color, select a paint that is stain resistant or easy to clean.

For more information about the latest designs or to find a home builder in your area to help you create an inviting entryway, visit www.midshoreshomebuilders.com.

Five Tips for a Modern Mudroom Makeover







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5 Steps for Designing the Perfect Laundry Room

Laundry is a chore but designing a functional space to clean your clothes doesn't have to be. Kitchens and bathrooms are popular areas for improvement, but the laundry room shouldn't be overlooked. No matter how big or small the space you have for a laundry room, with careful planning you can create the perfect laundry room for your home. Consider the following tips to help design a space that works for you.

**Prioritize Your Needs.** When designing any type of specialty room in your home, start by making a list of must-haves for your new space. Aside from appliances, do you need counter space for sorting or folding clothes? Will the room also serve as a mudroom or an extra storage spot in your home? A well-thought-out list of priorities can help you plan and budget accordingly.

Selecting the Right Location in Your Home. If you don't have an existing space to renovate, finding the perfect spot to locate your laundry room is key. There are many considerations, such as redirecting your home's utilities, airflow or drainage. A professional builder is familiar with the intricacies of creating a laundry room and has a firm grasp of the local regulations and permits for renovations. To find a local expert, visit www.midshoreshomebuilders.com

Plan for Appliances. The size and type of washer and dryer units are a major factor in determining the layout of your new laundry room. You'll need to make sure you have some space around your units so they can be easily moved if the units need to be repaired. A stackable washer and dryer might be an option if you need more space for a utility sink or storage.

Determine Storage Solutions. The type of shelves or cabinets for your laundry room depends on the level of activity in your space. Start with the essentials, such as allocating space to store cleaning supplies or small appliances such as an iron or steamer. If you have small children or pets, you might want to factor in space that isn't easily within reach of household cleaners. Will you need an area for air drying clothes? If so, you'll need a storage solution for drying racks or hangers.

Personalize Your Space. After you've determined your location, storage and appliance needs, you can start thinking about ways to make the area a space you can enjoy. When selecting materials for floors and counters, make sure they are durable and water-resistant to avoid mold or warping due to the amount of moisture or humidity exposure in the room. A few simple ways to add stylish elements to your laundry room are to incorporate new lighting fixtures, select attractive hardware for the cabinets or purchase appliances in bold colors.

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Heat Output (12 hr) - 66,894 Btu/h EPA Certified for residential use Firebox Volume - 10 cubic ft Firebox Dimensions - 28"L x 29"H x 21"W or - 16"W x 16"H Ash Cleanout Door - 18"W x 9"H Water Capacity - 150 gal Weight - 1,365 lbs One set of 1-1/4" Supply and Return Ports\*\*

Furnace Options and Accessories LED Light Kits
 Pump Panel Extension Kit



Overall Efficiency (LHV) - 90.2%\* Overall Efficiency (HHV) - 83.8%\* Mfr's Rated Heat Output Capacity

Heat Output (12 hr) - 92,417 Btu/hr EPA Certified for residential use

Firebox Volume - 14 cubic ft Firebox Dimensions - 33"L x 32"H x 23"W Door - 18"W x 18"H Ash Cleanout Door - 18"W x 9"H Water Capacity - 205 gal. Weight - 1,668 lbs One set of 1-1/4" Supply and Return Ports\*\* Bypass Door and Alarm Furnace Options and Acce • LED Light Kits Pump Panel Extension Kit

CLASSIC EDGE 760

Overall Efficiency (LHV) - 89.8%\* Overall Efficiency (HHV) - 83.4%\* Mfr's Rated Heat Output Capacity -

Heat Output (12 hr) - 146.686 Btu/hr **EPA Certified for residential use** Firebox Volume - 23 cubic ft Firebox Dimensions - 37"L x ons - 37"L x 44"H x 26"W Door - 21"W x 25"H Ash Cleanout Door - 19"W x 11"H Water Capacity - 330 gal. Weight - 2,036 lbs One set of 1-1/4" Supply and Return Ports Two sets of 3/4" Supply and Return Ports Bypass Door and Alar Furnace Options and Accessorie • LED Light Kits

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Heat Transfer Area - 52 sq ft Door - 20"W x 20"H Firebox - 40"L x 30"H x 26"W Water Capacity - 140 gal Weight - 1,140 lbs

Heat Transfer Area - 74 sq ft Door - 23"W x 23"H Firebox - 50"L x 36"H x 30"W Water Capacity - 196 gal. Weight - 1,492 lbs

Firebox - 60"L x 48"H x 36"W Water Capacity - 393 gal. Weight - 2,140 lbs

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#### **CLASSIC EDGE 960** Overall Efficiency (LHV) - 92.1%\* Overall Efficiency (HHV) - 85.6%\* Mfr's Rated Heat Output Capacity 400,000 Btu/hr Heat Output (12 hr) - 212,957 Btu/hr EPA Certified for residential use

Furnace Options and Accessories







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When you think about the spaces in your home where you most enjoy spending your time, the garage is probably not at the top of the list. Here are some ways to make it a more functional dare we say — attractive space.

### Wall, Freestanding and Overhead Storage

There are several types of sturdy, free-standing shelving units and hanging fixtures available. But pay close attention to the weight limit for each shelf and measure your space carefully to make an informed decision before you buy. Whenever possible, affix the shelves to the studs within the walls so that they do not tip and cause injury.

Then, look up. Do you have space above where you or a professional can install shelving overhead? That might be a great place for larger items, especially if those items are used infrequently.

### **Tabletop and Cabinet Work Space**

Consider installing cabinetry and countertops that you'd normally see in a kitchen or craft room. You'll first want to ensure the durability and features meet the demands of your tools or hobby projects. Also, bear in mind that the moisture and temperature conditions of your garage likely differ from those of your kitchen or other rooms inside the home. Those variables could have an impact on the types of materials best suited to meet your needs.

#### A Splash of Sealant, Paint and Creativity

Don't forget about style and appeal. You don't need to leave the drab, grey cement floor and standard-issue rough walls or open studs of your garage untouched. Consult with a remodeler or builder in your area to finish your walls, allowing you to then paint your garage walls an appealing color to brighten it up.

As for the floor, one of the most bang-for-buck upgrades is properly sealing and finishing the floor. When doing so, you choose from a variety of colors, instead of a bland grey. You can also install a durable, non-slip material to portions of the floor that is both appealing to the eye, and safer and softer to walk on. These often come in the form of interlocking squares for easy installation.

Reach out to a professional remodeler or home builder at www.midshoreshomebuilders.com to find out what products may be a great fit for your garage and your lifestyle. Maybe you'll find the garage becomes your new favorite space in your home.

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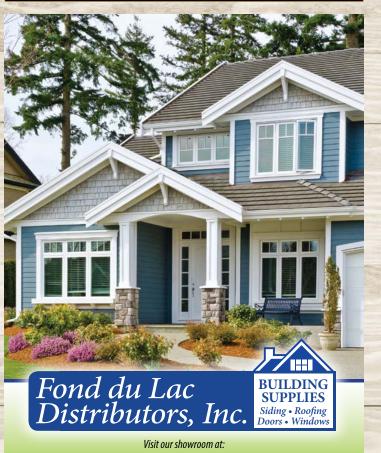




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