

The Sun Herald
Home
on Sunday
January 14, 2007

TALENT POOL
AUSTRALIA'S BEST
PRODUCT DESIGNS

**MY BEAUTIFUL
LAUNDRY**
TIPS FOR GETTING SORTED

AFR INVESTOR LIFTOUT INSIDE

trendalert



ELFA FRAME BASKETS AND SHELVING SYSTEM, SOLD SEPARATELY. BASKETS START AT \$89. SHELVING POA FROM SPACEAC.



MOBILE CLOTHES TOWER, \$69, FROM HILLS INDUSTRIES.



CUSTOMISED Tidy, \$219.50, FROM HOWARD'S STORAGE WORLD.



MOBILE LAUNDRY CENTRE, \$269, FROM SMARTER LIFE AND LEISURE.



FOLDAWAY IRONING BOARD, \$115.50, FROM FAREBURY.



RESENTHEL LAUNDRY BOX, \$59, FROM HOME CULTURE.



UTILITY TROLLEY WITH HAMPER AND THREE SHELF STORAGE, \$59.95, FROM HOWARD'S STORAGE WORLD.



STAINLESS STEEL LAUNDRY BASKET, \$84.90, FROM FAREBURY.



IRON ORGANISER, \$89.95, FROM HOWARD'S STORAGE WORLD.



LIFESTYLE IRONING CENTRE, \$249, FROM SMARTER LIFE AND LEISURE.



VERONA LAUNDRY BASKET, LARGE, \$160, MEDIUM, \$119, FROM ISLANDER IMPORTS.

Sort it out

Laundry chaos got you in a spin? Smart storage is the key.

EVEN well into the '70s, hulking coppers and ringers were spewing steam and malodorous fumes of borax from damp, dark rooms. Nowadays, washday is decidedly more genteel, what with water- and energy-efficient washers and dryers, permanent press fabrics and featherweight, non-stick irons.

The laundry room is a different story. Of all the rooms in the home, it's typically an afterthought – a small, poorly planned space that exists purely as a depository for soon-to-be single socks, musty towels, stained fashion items and assorted household ephemera, all conspiring to turn a relatively simple job into an ordeal.

Get organised

Sorting is at the heart of a great laundry room: separating whites from colours, organics from synthetics, nappies from lingerie, and then having the space to store clean items (folded and hanging), as

well as those in need of repair or special handling, and other laundry-related items. Baskets and bins are de rigueur. Because ventilation is an issue, choose traditional woven natural-fibre structures, updated mobile units in breathable fabrics, or wire baskets (fixed and wheeled).

Access all areas

Shelving makes a big difference in any laundry. New modular units, designed to fit over and around a variety of appliance configurations, offer ample depth and height for easy access to everything from clothes and linen to destaining products (mops/brooms/brushes), light bulbs, tools and ironing aids. "Ironing centres" are space-saving, multi-function units that can be affixed to a wall, installed or hidden in a closet, or rolled around as needed, with fold-out board and under-board storage bins for the iron and related sprays.

CYNTHIA YEBEL

DESIGNING WOMEN MICHELLE BURTON

Today's laundry is often seen as an extension of the kitchen, so it usually mirrors the style and decor of that room. Colour is now more common (the bland clinical look has come and gone) with lighting a key element – include natural light (where possible) and a mix of halogen and/or fluorescent lighting.

The key to a great laundry is optimum use of the space. A poorly designed laundry only results in more work. Consider the range of activities you perform there: it's not just about washing clothes, but also soaking and drip drying, sorting and folding, storing clean and dirty laundry, and ironing.

Use space efficiently. You can place a laundry behind cupboard doors, for example. If it's well designed, but a poky cupboard in a dark hallway will lead to frustration. If you decide on a separate room, you can include a toilet or shower and turn it into a multi-purpose space, somewhere to store and clean shoes, sporting equipment and pet care.

A laundry should have plenty of storage, hanging and bench space. Incorporate deep drawers that fully extend, hanging rails and accessories, storage systems inside cupboards, rubbish and recycling containers, and extendable drawers that fold out to provide extra benchtop space.

Space-saving stacking washing machines and dryers (and washing machines with bypass flow) are great, as are double sinks with extendable tap sprays for soaking and hand washing. For added luxury look to extendable/retractable ironing boards and laundry chutes.