

The Classic English
scullery, from
£10,000, deVOL

Beautiful & USEFUL

MAKE LIGHT WORK OF HOUSEHOLD CHORES WITH A PICTURE-
PERFECT AND PURPOSE-DESIGNED LAUNDRY AND UTILITY ROOM

DISPLAY STANDARD

'Utility rooms really do have to work, so the trick is to combine function and longevity with decor that feels authentic rather than over-dressed,' says Helen Parker, creative director of deVOL. 'There's no need for decoration unless it's useful or relates to the room's function, so I'd advise against putting up pictures or displaying ornaments – just let the room dictate its decoration. If you are a gardener, nothing is prettier than packets of seeds, terracotta pots, jam jar vases and baskets for gathering flowers.'



FLOOR SHOW

Your space may double up as a boot room or dog-grooming zone, which means it should stand up to mud and wear and tear. Opting for vinyl flooring is not only an affordable option, but a practical one, too. Luxury vinyl tiling is also resistant to chemical stains and water, so can be cleaned easily. Choose from finishes that mimic wood and stone or playful patterns that add a splash of decoration while disguising pesky footprints. Look out for vinyl floor tiles, as opposed to rolls which are prone to warping.

Mardi Gras 576
Estrella vinyl,
£18sq m, Carpetright



Bespoke kitchen,
from £40,000
(excluding appliances),
Humphrey Munson

STEP IT UP

'Ease of use and accessible storage are key when designing a utility room,' says Peter Humphrey, founder and director of Humphrey Munson. 'This classic oak ladder allows safe access to upper cupboards, providing masses of storage and making full use of the available space.' While floor space in a utility room can be limited, use tall cabinetry to your advantage. This design includes two freezers, a drying cupboard and shelving. 'By raising the height of the washing machine and tumble dryer we've made the space more practical,' adds Peter.

THE BRIGHT SIDE

Transform a mundane space for household chores into an uplifting room to be in. This cabinetry by Guild Anderson has been painted a bright and cheery shade, and the room is further enhanced by the natural light flooding in. If you are unsure of experimenting with bolder colours in your main kitchen, then the utility room is a prime opportunity to get creative. While you don't need to add too many decorative elements, if you have young children it might be fun to include a chalk noticeboard to leave pictures and messages on.



A modern utility
designed by Guild
Anderson, painted
in Benjamin Moore
Sunrays, with CRL
Ultra White worktop
and graphic Ca' Pietra
starburst tiled floor.
From £15,000



Bespoke kitchen, from £30,000, Mark Wilkinson



True Handleless Cambridge Midnight Blue utility room, from £1,700 for eight units, Benchmarx Kitchens

GLOW UP

If your utility room sits in an area of the house where there is little or no natural light, think carefully about different ways to illuminate the space. As well as your standard overhead light, why not add under-cabinet strip lighting and task lighting to add a shine to your chores? With no windows, it is a good idea to consider installing additional ventilation too, as heat and moisture are likely. Vented tumble dryers will need to be installed next to an external wall. If this isn't possible, you will need to opt for a condenser tumble dryer instead.

MATERIAL MATTERS

More often than not, homeowners create a new utility room at the same time as redesigning their kitchen. While this can be a cost-effective plan, it's likely that the bulk of the budget will be weighted to the kitchen as this is used the most. 'Where worktops are concerned, if you've gone for a beautiful quartz, for example, in the main kitchen, consider choosing a similar look in a more cost-effective finish for the utility room,' suggests Julia Trendell, design expert at Benchmarx Kitchens. 'Laminate options can echo your kitchen choice perfectly.'

NEAT WORK

How you plan your utility room storage can make a difference, as Jessica Sims-Wilson, home designer at Neptune Cheltenham, explains. 'If you have the space, consider making it all about cleaning – put the dishwasher in there, an extra sink, all of your cleaning products.' Zone the space and give each cupboard a dedicated role. 'It will change the feel of your kitchen and make it a more lifestyle-focussed entertaining space,' says Jessica, 'because all chore-related activities happen in a spare room.'



Suffolk laundry cabinet, in Moss; Ashcroft basket, £88; Ashcroft rectangular box tray, small, £28; Belmont glass jar, small, £17; Belmont glass jar, medium, £39; Corinium tall jug, £11; Corinium jug with handle, £11, all Neptune



SMALL WONDER

When creating a new utility area, you often take room from a kitchen. This makes practical sense as you can use existing plumbing and electrics, but does sometimes leave an awkward and narrow space to work with. In this situation, stick to light colours to ensure the room feels fresh and airy, and consider a handleless design for a streamlined finish. Architecture studio De Rosee Sa gave this design a modern vibe with painted vertical panelling, which offers a sense of height.

Design by London-based architecture studio De Rosee Sa. A similar pantry would cost between £3,000 and £3,600sq m to achieve



HANG TIME

A Sheila maid airer is often top of people's utility room wishlists, particularly in traditional country homes, as it provides natural air drying for laundry while making a vintage style statement. While a utility room is often an 'out of sight' space, it's important that it works for your lifestyle. This design, for example, has cabinetry hand-painted a deep charcoal grey and an equally dramatic floor. There is space to hang laundry and ample work surface, as well as a sink, tumble dryer and washing machine.

Martin Moore's Architectural collection in Almost Black. Utility room from £15,000



Charles Yorke Edwardian bespoke **cabinetry**, from £10,000, Krantz Designs, in Toad intelligent eggshell, £66 for 2.5ltr, Little Greene



Shaker range, from £20,000, Harvey Jones

COUNTRY LIFE

A deep butler sink is practical for washing vegetables and cutting flowers; if possible, place it beneath a window so you can enjoy your garden while standing at it. Keep the sink close to the washing machine, too, as it will make plumbing - and transferring laundry - easier. And install a run of work surface on either side if you have the space. We love how this worktop complements the dark rich tones of the American walnut and burnished brass hardware. A pretty blind that adds a touch of colour and softness is the finishing touch.

MIX AND MATCH

'We find most homeowners replicating the look and feel of their kitchen in the utility room - same worktop and colour scheme, with perhaps a twist on the handles,' says Matt Baker, kitchen designer at Harvey Jones. When planning your cabinetry, incorporate rails, open shelving and baskets, to avoid the small space feeling cramped with too many wall cabinets. 'Box shelving is a great way to open up a wall and create storage, and can be painted to match the cabinets or highlight a favourite colour within the room,' suggests Matt.

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