



# All Hands On

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## PROPERTY GROUP

### **Laundry Renovation: Tips To Help You Save**

#### **Plumbing**

The first, and perhaps most important, rule of budget laundry renovations is to leave the plumbing alone whenever you can. Changing plumbing, even slightly, can balloon out costs and timeframes.

When you're in the initial planning phase, don't get too excited about moving the washer and dryer to the other side of the room. Instead, try to make the most of your current situation - more on that later.

If you have your heart set on moving the washer and dryer, involve a plumber early in the planning process. Asking the experts can often lead to creative renovation solutions that can save you time and money.

#### **Storage**

When it comes to laundry renovations, functionality is the name of the game. The space should look good, but most of all, it should make your life easier.

One of the most important considerations for any cheap laundry renovation is storage. Your average laundry is stocked with all manner of chemical products - none of which are particularly sightly when out in the open.

To hide detergents and the like from view, but still keep them close at hand, have a look at installing some cabinets, floating shelves and baskets.

You can buy flat-pack cabinets from major retailers, and these are often the most cost-effective option. Floating shelves are an easy alternative to having full cupboards installed, and fabric or woven baskets can be an aesthetically pleasing way to keep all your laundry essentials organised.

#### **Built around the machines**

Obviously, your washer and dryer will take up a good amount of room in your laundry however, that doesn't mean you need to compromise on ergonomics. Building cupboards, benches or tabletops around your machines is the easiest

way to maximise your use of the space. Because your major appliances are square, it should only take a little bit of planning to Tetris your storage needs around them.

If you have top-loading machines, you can even install a hinged benchtop for maximum convenience, which leads us nicely to the next tip.

## **Folding is your friend**

In most Aussie laundries, space is at an absolute premium. To declutter the space and free up a bit of extra real estate, investigate fittings that can fold away when not in use. These can include wall or door-mounted ironing boards, retractable clotheslines and even a fold-up folding table!

## **Decorate!**

It sounds simple, but more often than not, people forget to decorate their laundry. Remember, if you're bored when you're renovating, you'll be bored with the end result. So have some fun with it!

Don't underestimate what you can achieve with a fresh coat of paint and a few decorative pieces here and there. What's stopping you from hanging a nice painting in the laundry or investing in a decorative light fitting?

## **Save energy, save money**

As part of your renovations, you may find it's worth your while to upgrade your washer and dryer. Technology has advanced in leaps and bounds, and a new washer and dryer could end up paying for themselves with the money you'll save on electricity and water usage.

You may also consider LED lights or a water tank to help save you money over the long term.

## **Don't get too confident**

Every renovator on a budget starts testing their own limits sooner or later. "I wonder if I can take out this wall myself?" "I can probably handle all of this tiling..." "Glass cutting! How hard can it be?"

While it's often cost-effective to complete tasks yourself, there's nothing wrong with admitting when you're out of your depth and consulting a pro for help. In fact, recognising when you need an expert can save you plenty of time and money that would otherwise be spent on failed attempts.

Contact us on 9829 8877 or email [info@allhandson.com.au](mailto:info@allhandson.com.au) for more design ideas and the perfect plan for your laundry renovation!

