



JIM DAVIS / ARIZONA DAILY STAR

Jenny Abril and her son Carson, 3. Abril deposits her purse, change, keys and cell phone in the laundry room on her way inside from the garage.

LAUNDRY

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Other helpful items include a shelf near an electrical outlet to hold the cell phone and charger, a trash can for quick sorting and throwing out unwanted mail and a small basket to collect small items that you can later put away in the garage or house.

For top-loading washers, Rector says, put a basket on top to temporarily drop off things. It's easier to move it out of the way for washing.

Whatever you do, don't toss anything onto the counter or table. You'll want that space for what the room is intended: doing the laundry.

To that end, here are more organizational and designer tips:

- ▶ Harn suggests using a hamper on wheels, preferably with dividers to separate dirty clothes as they're tossed in. Then folded, clean clothes go into smaller bins or baskets that are taken to rooms.

- ▶ Rector prefers having a hamper in each room where dirty clothes are taken off and then one in the laundry room to handle clean clothes.

- ▶ Good lighting encourages you to work in the room, both say.

- ▶ Keep all clothing maintenance items in the room, including ironing equipment and supplies, sewing kit, lint brushes and garment bags.

- ▶ Use the space between the washer and the dryer for flat items such as folded drying racks.

- ▶ Match the color of laundry items such as hampers and detergent containers to that of your appliances, says Rector. It will look less cluttered. "The fewer colors in that room, the better," she says.

Every laundry room ought to have a retractable clothesline and a fold-down ironing board attached to the wall, Harn suggests.

Rector says clear storage containers add more usable space in the cabinets.

▶ Contact freelance writer Elena Acoba at acoba@dakotacom.net.

Cleaning up a laundry room

Is your space awash in clutter? Read on to get a fresh start

By Elena Acoba

SPECIAL TO THE ARIZONA DAILY STAR

If you walk through your laundry room to get to and from the garage, one professional organizer suggests you buy a front-loading washer and dryer.

"I highly recommend using washers and dryers that (people) could set things on because it is a very handy place," says Bea Rector, owner of Busy Bea Organizing.

Another professional organizer, Sharon Harn, agrees.

"If their habit is to throw the purse on the dryer, then I say, 'Yes,'" says Harn.

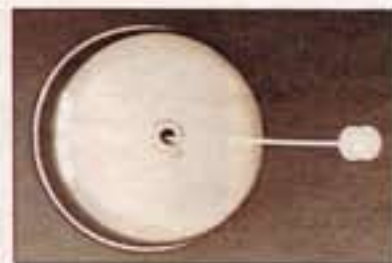
This doesn't mean, however, that the laundry room should act as a catch-all for clutter.

» RESOURCES

- Busy Bea Organizing, 818-3176
- Sharon Harn Organizing, 360-1450
- Space Savers, www.spacesavers.com

"Allow that surface to be a dump spot," says Rector, "but it's a temporary dump spot until (items) go where they belong."

If you want to use the laundry room as a staging area, install wall hooks to hang purses and backpacks.



COURTESY OF SPACE SAVERS

A Retractable Clothesline is \$9.99.



COURTESY OF SPACE SAVERS

The EZ Folder Collapsible Laundry Basket costs \$9.99.



COURTESY OF SPACE SAVERS

This Three Bin Laundry Sorter costs \$29.99.