

## THE LAUNDRY & CLOSET

**Are you loving your laundry room and the location of it? If your answer was no, I've come up with some questions to ask yourself to think about in order to fix that:**

- Where and how do you want to do laundry? In other words, do you just need a washer and dryer, but you like to fold, iron etc. in your family room in front of the TV or in the dining room where you have a large surface, ie: table?
- Do you want your kids to bring their dirty clothes into a laundry room or leave them in their bath or bedroom?
- Are there other items you want to do in the laundry, ie: bathe the dog?
- What do you want to store in the laundry?
- Do you have enough light in your laundry room?
- Do you hate being in the laundry room, or does the aesthetic make you happy?

**When we design or remodel a house, we like to do a closet inventory with our clients, Some of the questions we like to ask are as follows:**

- If you are sharing this space, do you want separate or blended areas?
- Do you want electrical in your space? (closets don't have to have electrical by code), but some people have electrical needs, for example, I have a shoe polisher, a TV (yes I like to spend time in my closet), a steamer, and my ironing center)- I needed electrical!
- What is the quantity of items you have, belts, scarves, purses, hats, long hang, short hang etc.
- Do you need laundry bins in your closet and do you want them to be removable?
- Do you have a lot of jewelry and how do you want to store it?
- Do you like to fold and shelve clothes or hang them?
- Do you want everything covered or exposed?
- Do you have storage in another room or do you need drawers?
- Do you want an area to sit?

I have a lot more questions, but you get the point, just letting someone finish the closet and being surprised is absurd- if you're paying for the space, it should work for you. Our job is to design for the way you live.

## Guidelines

- Remember that shelves for folded items should be placed about 12” apart
- The minimum depth for a hang space is about 24”. This accounts for the amount of space for hangers AND personal depth and reach
- The standard for a double hanging closet stack is about 84”. You want to give yourself least 42” for longer jackets, blouses etc.
- Shelves for women’s shoes should often be placed around 6 to 7 inches apart
- Make sure to have corner solutions. The last thing you want is your clothes perpendicular to each other and you lose 2 feet of useable space!
- Make accessories accessible! Whether it is a rack, a jewelry tray, or even a designated drawer, an easy access option for valuables is a must.

## Need some space saving ideas? I’ve got you covered!

- Make sure you have the right hangers! Although they aren’t fancy, I live by the black, velvet thin hangers. These allow me to double my hang space, and have PLENTY of room for my shopping habits. Plus, making all of the hangers match helps with the clutter too.
- Add some acrylic shelf dividers. These are a great way to allocate space not only with clothing, but also items such as purses or boots.
- Install pull-out valet hooks, belt holders or scarf holders etc. On the Sunday’s I am feeling organized, I love to do a weekly line up of outfits. Not only is it my own fashion show, but it’s one less thing I have to worry about in the morning. Putting everything together on the valet rod can make for a quick getaway. Plus, you have some backups just in case you aren’t feeling an outfit, it’s easy to go onto the next.
- And finally, Doug’s rule, for every new item you need to take one away- that’s a stupid rule huh?

Are you loving your closet? If your answer was no, I’ve come up with some questions to ask yourself to think about in order to fix that:

- Do you like being in your closet or does it stress you out?
- Do you feel it is organized?
- Is the space big enough but not utilized well?
- Can you see everything you own or is it stacked on top of each other?
- Is your lighting right?
- Do you just need to add some personality to the space?