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THE MUD ROOM COMES CLEAN

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Trends in architectural and interior design are often a response to what is happening in the world around us. Given this correlation, it's no surprise that design ideas and solutions that promote organization, tidiness, and cleanliness are everywhere we look. Our increased desire to create spaces filled with order and comfort is very likely associated with our increasingly chaotic lifestyles and environments.

The most effective strategy to create an organized home from the moment you walk in the door is to create a well-thought-out mudroom. While mudrooms have been around for decades, they have become increasingly popular as homes have increased in size. The earlier version of a mudroom—a

simple entryway space, often a disaster area containing the washer and dryer—has transitioned into a spacious, highly-functional room complete with custom built-ins with beautiful materials and colors. Today's mudrooms are refined interior destinations unto their own, seamlessly transitioning into the rest of the home while also offering innovative cleaning and storage solutions.

So, what makes for a successful mudroom? Combining a variety of design elements will

help create a beautiful and functional space. The following tips and strategies will help you design a mudroom that can successfully keep you and your home organized.

Create storage solutions for the whole family by incorporating cubbies or lockers for each individual to store their everyday items such as jackets, backpacks, and accessories all in one place. This strategy also creates a dedicated space for muddy boots and shoes, allowing the rest of your home to stay clean between vacuum days.

Use hooks to allow for vertical storage of clothing, bags, hats, dog leashes, sports equipment, and more. Vertical storage is highly space-efficient and helps keep things off of the floor.

Place a bench or a small seating area in the mudroom to provide a place to sit when removing shoes. Many bench styles offer additional storage, either in a drawer underneath or inside the bench with a flip-up top.

Tuck a writing desk against the mudroom wall to create a family hub. The space



Mudrooms come in all shapes and sizes. Some are in the entryway, garage, or the laundry room. You can even fit a mudroom into a hallway!



can house a computer, a wall calendar or whiteboard, and a place for bills and other mail, allowing you to manage the family business in a central location.

Position a deep utility sink in a convenient location to tackle tough cleaning jobs that other sinks in the house can't handle.

Create a dog-friendly space by tiling a corner of the mudroom and adding a hand-held showerhead to create a dog wash station. Create a built-in nook that can house an automatically refilling water bowl for the ultimate convenience.

Incorporate flooring that is beautiful and easy to clean—a porcelain tile that looks like Bluestone or a hardwood tile, or Chicago brick, which hides everything.

Utilize beautiful baskets to store miscellaneous items. Baskets keep things organized, but it also hides them out of plain sight. When used in abundance, these materials add texture and visual appeal to a space that mainly consists of cabinetry.

Implementing these mudroom design and organizational strategies can make even the dirtiest place in your home beautiful. Now, if only we could teach the dogs to wipe their feet at the door.



Born and raised in Virginia, **Cathy Purple Cherry** ultimately landed in Annapolis where she grew a large architectural firm specializing in high-end custom homes and estates. Today, the firm has four offices—Charlottesville, VA, Middleburg, VA, White Sulphur Springs, WV, and Annapolis, MD—and specializes in creating luxurious residences across the United States. A talented architect, visionary, and three-dimensional thinker, Cathy is able to marry clients' dreams with the reality of the built environment. While she revels in the intricate design opportunities presented by high-end residential architecture, Cathy is equally passionate about her philanthropic efforts. She and her firm offer their design knowledge and sensitivity to the special needs community via the Purple Cherry Purposeful Architecture Studio. A true creative servant, Cathy Purple Cherry is unfailing in her efforts to positively impact all those around her.

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