

STYLISH MUDROOMS

BY DESIGN

By Lindsay Thornton | Cornerstone Design & Build

CREATING A FUNCTIONAL AND STYLISH MUDROOM REQUIRES A THOUGHTFUL BLEND OF DESIGN AND PRACTICALITY; UNFORTUNATELY, SHOES DON'T HIDE THEMSELVES.



Creating a functional and stylish mudroom requires a thoughtful blend of design and practicality; unfortunately, shoes don't hide themselves. Therefore, the first step is to inventory all of the items your mudroom needs to store each season. Does your mudroom need to accommodate sports gear, pet supplies, or just everyday coats and shoes? Once you have your list of items, you can tailor your design accordingly.

The next step is to assess who will be using the space & how tidy are they really! We have found that families with children (young and old) prefer open hooks/cubbies, as a closed door seems to be one too many steps in putting items away. We have also found that kids tend to do well with



their own locker or hooks to give them a designated space to hang their bag/coat. Opting for drawers or baskets for shoe and hat storage also tends to work better vs shelving which requires a more careful placement.

We highly recommend investing in custom storage to address your functional needs, while also adding a custom colour/texture. However, if a custom solution is not in your budget, opt for a bench with wall hooks and then add in colour on the walls or a washable patterned floor runner.

Consider a combination of open and closed storage to maintain a tidy appearance while keeping items readily accessible. Additionally, incorporating adjustable shelves or a mix of hooks that can help accommodate varying heights and changing needs. Choosing durable materials will ensure your mudroom stands up to daily wear and tear. Opt for easy-to-clean flooring such as ceramic tile, vinyl, or natural stone, and select patterns or textures that help conceal dirt. For wall finishes, use washable paint or durable materials like beadboard.

When it comes to selecting a style vein for your mudroom, don't be shy! Mudrooms are often a closed off area to the home, so don't be afraid to play with a bit of colour or wallpaper/panelling.

On trend lately, are handmade/old looking tiles, which we love for mudrooms as they hide dirt so easily. Consider a brick patterned floor or a textured tile that will help conceal dirt, while also adding some style. Lastly, we know that for many of our design clients they have had the challenge of having dirty shoes and having to run to other parts of the home prior to leaving the house. To avoid this, we recommend and include within our designs the ►

following within a mudroom 1) Key Storage- a box or hooks will do. 2) A bench or chair for tricky boots and 3) a mirror!

One final item to consider is proper ventilation is also important, particularly if you're storing sports equipment or pet supplies that may require extra air circulation.

By integrating these design tips, you can create a mudroom that is both stylish and highly functional, tailored to meet the every changing needs of your family. ♦



LINDSAY THORNTON is the founder and Creative Director for **Cornerstone Design & Build**. This sought after design and build firm has become known for creating highly curated personal homes. Providing complete bespoke residential design and construction services throughout Toronto , Ontario, and cottage country.

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