

CHARLOTTE URBAN

HOME

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CELEBRATING INSPIRATIONAL DESIGN AND PERSONAL STYLE





ANATOMY OF A GREAT MUDROOM

By Anne Marie Ashley

We all have one. A secret hall closet, a mysterious drawer, a garage full of clutter. A great mudroom, though, can be a Godsend for chaotic lives full of backpacks, shopping bags, coats, hats, boots and a host of other incendiary items that need a home for a short time. Here, we demystify the elusive “organized drop zone” and highlight the key items for keeping your goods at hand and looking neat.

Storage Bins

Perfect for creating spaces for each individual in the family, or for occasionally used items.

“Lockers”

If you have the ability to have separate compartments, it creates a type of “locker” atmosphere where each person has their own personal space.

Rug

It’s a mudroom! A rug offers you a place to wipe your shoes, dry your feet or be a drop zone for messy or wet sneakers.

Hooks

Hang coats, purses, scarves or book bags for easy access and uncluttered floors.

Seating

Sit down to put on shoes, organize shopping bags or just take a load off! Provides a drop spot for smaller items and quick use.

Drawers/Cabinets

Hide away items that aren’t used as often like umbrellas, snow boots or footballs, but that still deserve a home in a high traffic area.





Child's Play

By Nancy Atkinson

With so many toys, clothes, books and accessories, children's rooms can often become a war zone while fighting the battle to clean up and get organized. You have to start somewhere, so we asked Certified Professional Organizer, Laurie Martin and Associate ASID Interior Designer, Traci Zeller for tips on overcoming the clutter. Read on for peaceful, organized solutions to ending the battle of the bulge in your child's room.



Lucy & Co.



Lucy & Co.



Traci Zeller Designs



Lucy & Co.



Apartment Therapy

Teach Organization As A Life Skill

To help your child (and you) enjoy the benefits of having an organized room, Laurie and Traci say it is essential to involve your child in the process.

“Resist the urge to purge your child’s bedroom when they are not present and consult with them on a system that makes sense to them,” says Laurie. To eliminate stress and potential arguments, you may want to hire a professional organizer to assist you.

Room To Grow

One of the biggest challenges in creating an organizational system for children’s rooms is that their needs change as they grow – quickly!

“Hobbies, habits, and sizes change frequently,” says Laurie. She recommends customizing a system to fit the needs of each child or teen, tweaking them once or twice a year. “Before the holidays and at the end of the school year are great times to purge and de-clutter.”

Traci likes flexible storage solutions. “If you are investing in a custom closet or quality furniture, look for adjustable shelves and the ability to accommodate a variety of basket or box sizes so you can change the layout of the closet or furniture piece as the child’s needs change.”

The Right Tools

What are the organizational experts favorite tools? For Traci it’s boxes, baskets and bins, especially when paired with a shelving unit. “It’s easy cleanup for children when they can put all their dolls into an open basket and then stash that basket on a shelf,” she says. “I also appreciate how neat they can look when they are all lined up.”

Laurie likes clear containers. “Containers help define the category and allow children to see exactly what they have,” she says. “Labeling the containers makes it easier for children to put things back where they belong!”

Traci sums up the point of helping your child organize by saying, “More time and less frustration leads to happier moments and a better quality of life.” ❖

RESOURCES

- Lucy & Company.....704-342-6655..... www.lucyandcompany.com
- Simplicity, Laurie Martin.....704-464-3713..... www.simplicity-organizers.com
- Traci Zeller Designs.....704-953-6096..... www.tracizeller.com