

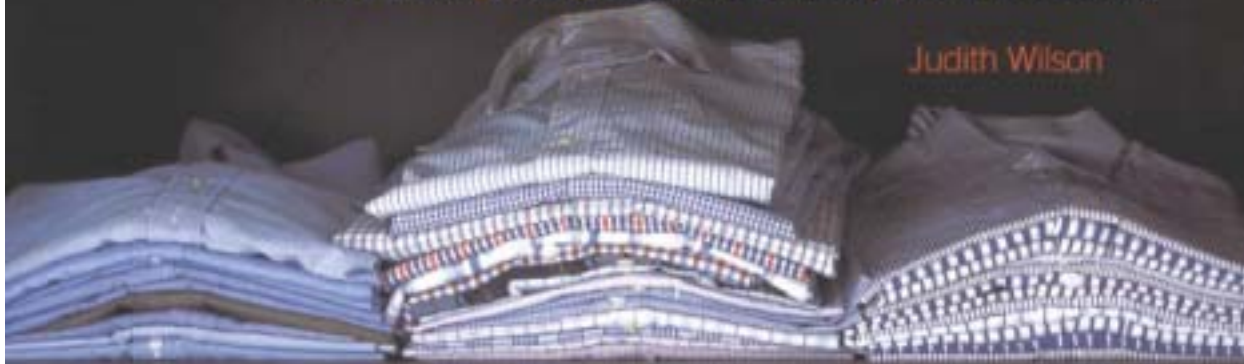
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the WELL-ORGANIZED HOME

hard-working storage solutions for every room in the house

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KITCHENS



THIS PAGE: If space is very tight, an efficient utility zone can still be arranged along one wall of a small room. This laundry zone makes maximum use of a tiny space, with the washing machine and dryer stacked one on top of the other, deep pull-out shelves for towels and sheets, and room on the floor for laundry baskets.

OPPOSITE: If there's no space for an ironing board, a sturdy retractable shelf for pressing clothes can be custom-built.



ASSESSING USE OF THE ROOM

A utility room will work wonders for the smooth running of the household. If everyone knows where to dump dirty laundry and find clean clothes, there will be less mess in the bathroom or on the kitchen floor. The basic essentials to be housed will include the washing machine and dryer (or washer-dryer if space is tight), laundry baskets, detergents, and the ironing board and iron. It's also the ideal place to store household essentials such as shoe polishing stuff, spare light bulbs, vases, and so on. If space permits, outdoor coats, sports gear, and cleaning equipment will also find a home here.

You don't need a large room, but efficient space-planning is vital so that there's both room to complete household tasks and enough storage space. If you don't have a utility room, consider where one might be added. A small room adjacent to the kitchen or an upstairs bathroom is ideal. Alternatively, you could convert a dry basement or garage (with access from the house), or add a utility zone under the stairs. The amount of space you allocate will depend on the size of the household.

Use the checklist at the end of the chapter to help you compile a personalized list, not just of what must be stored, but of how you plan to use the room. Is this just a space for doing the washing, or will you iron here, too? Does your home have a separate linen cupboard for sheets and towels, or should there be racks for storing fresh laundry? Will laundry be sorted here—in which case you'll need adequate counter space—and will there be hand washing, requiring a small sink? Finally, do you have access to an outdoor clothesline, or will clothes be dried and aired only in the utility room?