



Laundries are never the sexiest room in the house, and I avoided mine at all costs. It was old, cluttered and grimy (the dirty clothes were cleaner than my laundry!) and shrieked 1970s, with its orange and brown wall tiles, mouldy floor mosaics and rusting laundry tub. Mum suggested, rather optimistically, that its retro style might come back into fashion, but I couldn't wait that long. I wanted it fixed and I wanted it fixed NOW! I might be on a budget, but I knew there were things I could do!

Laundry clean-up

*In just under a week,
I turned my retro junk heap
into a clean and functional
laundry.*

MY FIRST home

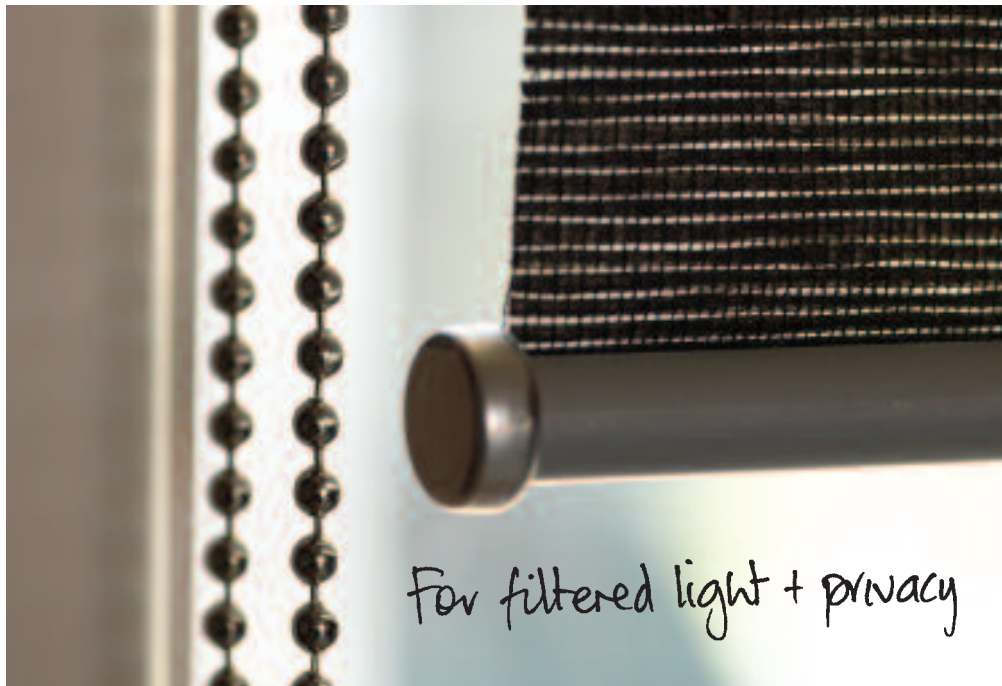
Words: Kate Griffith
Photographs: Joe Filshie
Diagram: Stephen Pollitt



BROUGHT TO YOU BY
ROJAN



More like a luxury bathroom than a laundry



For filtered light + privacy

TOP LEFT: After looking around, I chose Abey's chrome 'Mixmaster 35' tap. It has a 35mm ceramic disc cartridge and comes with a five-year guarantee. For information and stockists, go to www.abey.com.au

ABOVE: My 600mm-long chrome towel rail is called 'Manhattan' and cost \$33.84 from Bunnings.

LEFT: An Avanti roller blind in the colour 'Burnt Ash'. It sells for \$62 from Bunnings Warehouse.

BOTTOM LEFT: You can buy one of these clever Rubbermaid iron organisers for \$27.50 from Bunnings.

BELOW: The single-bowl Abey 'Leichhardt' E1820/10 41-litre laundry trough was ideal for the space. Find out more at www.abey.com.au



I still hate ironing!



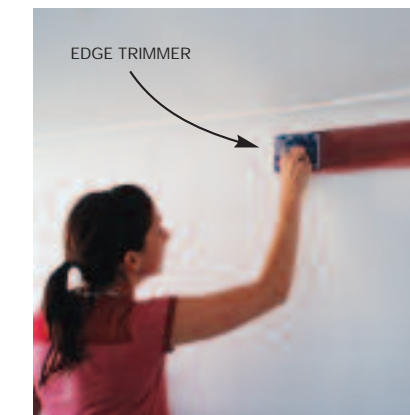
1 DEMOLITION TIME I completely stripped out the old laundry, including the tub, wall tiles, cupboards and doors. This has become one of my favourite parts of DIY renovation – ripping out the old stuff. I just let all that pent-up frustration fly! A particularly satisfying effort in this room: no more rotting cupboards, rusting laundry tub or daggy wall tiles.



2 SUGAR SOAP WALLS, CEILING AND FLOORS Now to clean up the mess I'd made. Armed with gloves, goggles and a couple of bottles of sugar soap, I took to the walls, floors and ceiling for a good, old-fashioned scrub. I think 30 years of laundry scum ended up in my buckets, but I could actually make out the original wall colour. Amazing!



3 PREP FOR PAINTING – FILL HOLES, CRACKS AND GAPS There were plenty of cracks, gaps and peeling paint in this room, so it took a fair amount of time to get it ready for a decent paint job. I used a spatula laden with filler to get a nice flat surface again. Then I gave the walls a light sanding all over, and it was ready for the undercoat.



4 PAINT WALLS, TRIM, CEILING AND DOORS I gave the walls a quick undercoat and used British Paints' All-in-One ceiling paint to help save time and the effort of painting a ceiling twice. I opted for a strong wall colour, to give the room some oomph. Darker colours may require an extra coat, but the result was definitely worth the effort.

COOL COLOUR Even the most basic makeovers include a splash of new paint on the walls, but I wanted to steer away from the traditional blues and greens

MY FIRST home

favoured for laundries. I wanted the room to feel like part of my house, and I also wanted to actually enjoy working in it. I opted for strong, warm colour (British Paints 'Empress Red' with 'Sand Brush' trims), in an attempt to ease the pain of doing boring domestic duties – and to help hide the dirt. It turned out even better than I had expected. My advice? Don't be afraid to have some fun with colour when it comes to the laundry – it's the one room in the house where you can really let your hair down.

QUICKGRIP CLAMPS

How good are these! I remember Dad taking five minutes to wind up an old G-clamp, but these little beauties just slide into position and tighten by pulling the trigger – very nifty. Find them at your local hardware store.

FLATPAX CUPBOARDS

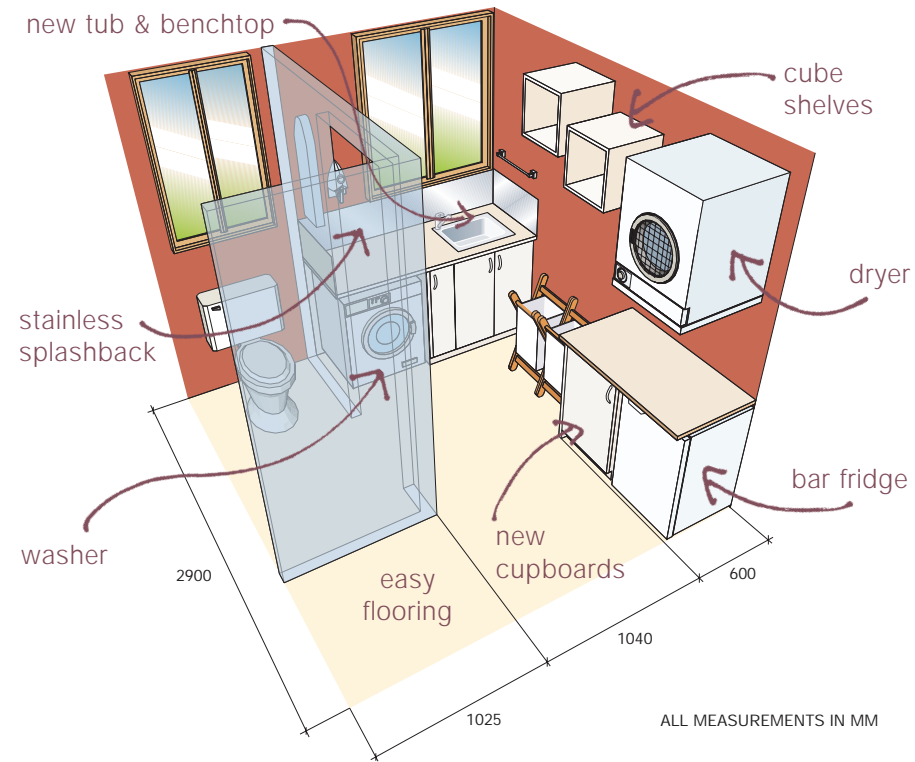
Flatpax produce a range of DIY cupboards. Putting a kitchen or laundry together has never been so easy. Floor- and wall-mounted cabinets (with doors and benchtops) are available. Check out www.flatpax.com.au





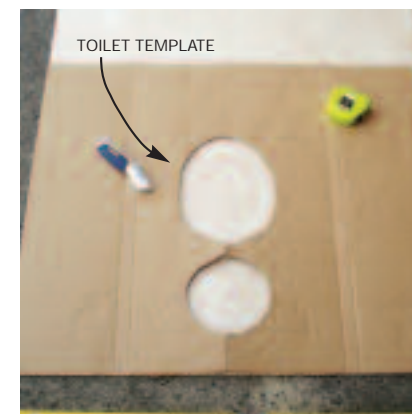
This is how I hung the cube shelves

These cute timber cubes have two recessed keyhole eye plates on the back, which can be tricky to hang straight. Here's the secret to getting it right: Trace the exact location of the keyhole eye plates onto a piece of paper. Hold the paper in position on the wall, make sure it's level, and drill your holes. You'll get the correct location for the screws every time.

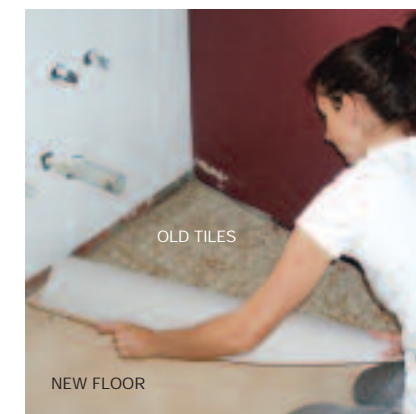


WORK OUT WHAT YOU NEED
I had a fair-sized room for the laundry – not like the mini ones that are tucked away behind cupboard doors these days. I figured I'd better make the most of the space. I had to decide how I wanted to work, move around and store everything I needed. After making a quick sketch of my ideas, I measured up all my appliances, to make sure they would fit into their new places.

MY FIRST home



5 MEASURE NEW VINYL FLOORING I had to cut the vinyl flooring out of one piece, which meant measuring carefully. I drew up a detailed diagram of the area, with every possible measurement, and then marked it all out onto the vinyl with a pencil. For the tight areas around toilet and doorways, I used a cardboard template, then cut it to shape with a utility knife, using a spirit level as a straightedge.



6 INSTALL NEW VINYL FLOORING The Gerflor Texline flooring was a great time-saver. It can be laid directly onto the original ceramic floor without preparation work or hardboard underlay. It's perfect for wet areas, too. So, with a little help, I carried the cut-out piece into the room and sighed with relief when it slipped into place, needing only a few trim-ups with a utility knife.



7 ASSEMBLE THREE FLAT PACK CUPBOARDS I bought three FlatPax cupboards, with white gloss doors, to give me two workstations in the laundry. With a helping hand, I pre-assembled all the pieces, following the instruction sheets. These units are precision-made, so assembly is a breeze, especially for a novice like me! All you need is a cordless drill, to screw them together, and you're away.

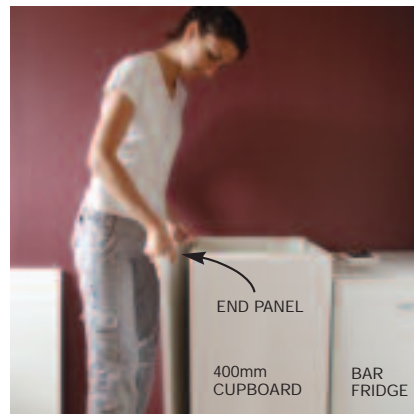
WHERE'S YOUR CADDY?

I bought my first ironing caddy as a present for my new laundry. It just screws to the wall and is even heat-resistant, so you can pop your iron in while it's still hot. This keeps it away from little ones and creates it's own dedicated spot in the room – very neat!

SAFETY FIRST!

Water and electricity can get a little tricky in these tight areas. There are guidelines to follow, so make sure you work out the correct placement of power points for appliances, or ensure they have waterproof covers.





8 CUPBOARDS AND KICKBOARDS I adjusted the legs on the cupboards, to make sure all was level, then clamped two of the cupboards in place. I screwed them to the wall and to each other, using cabinet connectors, then fitted the new doors. The end panels were screw-fixed on from inside for a tidy finish. I cut the kickboards to length and screwed them in place through the cabinet bases.



9 HOLES FOR PIPES I got to use my new hole saw to get my washing machine pipes through to the sink. I'm definitely getting the hang of all these power tools. I also had to make extra holes in the back of my cupboard for the plumbing pipes under the sink. Beware! Matching these up can get tricky, so make sure you measure exactly where you need them or you could end up with bigger holes!



10 CUT BENCHTOPS. Two benchtops were needed for my cupboards, but, thankfully, no mitre joints were needed – just nice straight cuts. I measured and marked the lengths ready to cut – and stuck masking tape along the cut line, to stop the laminate chipping. I clamped a straight piece of timber to the benchtop as a guide, and then ran the circular saw along the line.



11 INSTALL BENCHTOPS To help support the benchtop, I first screwed narrow timber cleats around the walls that had no base cupboards, making sure they were level with the cupboard tops. I fixed the benchtop into place from inside the cupboards, using my cordless drill and the supplied brackets and screws. I ran silicone along the back of the benchtop, to fill any remaining gaps.



12 CUT HOLE FOR SINK My new Abey sink came with a handy template for cutting the hole. I traced around the template with a pencil, allowing enough room around the edges for the overhang, and then stuck masking tape around the cut line, to stop the bench from chipping. I drilled a couple of holes as a starting place, then followed the line with the jigsaw.



13 TESTING TIME With the hole cut, I checked that the sink fitted. Success! I just had to seal the cut edges, drill a hole for the mixer tap, clamp the sink in place from underneath and contact Pete the Plumber to do his bit!

NO-FUSS FLOORING

No amount of scrubbing was going to return the existing mosaic floor tiles to their former glory. As this is a wet area and houses our second toilet, I decided to go for Gerflor Texline in 'Capella Cream'. It didn't require any additional preparation and could be laid straight on top of my existing tiles. No levelling compound or hardboard underlay was necessary. This flooring has excellent sound-proofing qualities and is pure comfort to walk on. What a time and money saver! For further info, go to www.gerflor.com.au





14 INSTALL SPLASHBACK
I was lucky enough to score a leftover piece of stainless steel from friends. It was just enough to make a splashback. All I needed to do was get it guillotined to length, apply a suitable adhesive to the back with a caulking gun, fix it to the walls, then brace it overnight with some scrap pieces of timber. Wow! What a difference it's made – you've gotta love freebies!



15 THE FINISHING-OFF ACCESSORIES To finish the room, I added a couple of neat little accessories, including two open cube shelves from Bunnings, a wall iron caddy and an indoor clothes rack. I'm actually excited about getting my first load of dirty clothes to try it all out – I'm sure that will definitely impress Mum!



16 CALL IN THE BOYS! Finally, it was time to get Plumber Pete and Electrician Adam over to get everything working. I had new power points fitted, my brand-new stainless steel sink and mixer tap connected and the washing machine hooked up. No excuses for avoiding doing the washing and ironing now...



MY FIRST
home

OK, HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

ITEM	COLOUR	SIZE	QTY	COST (\$)
Ceiling paint	White		2L	32.50
Interior acrylic	Empress Red		4L	53.00
Semi-gloss acrylic	Sand Brush		4L	49.80
Interior acrylic	Romantic Chintz		2L	33.20
FlatPax case sink cabinet	White	800 x 600 x 600	1	105.68
FlatPax base cabinet	White	200 x 600 x 600	1	62.32
FlatPax base cabinet	White	400 x 600 x 600	1	72.00
FlatPax doors	White Gloss	400	3	
		200	1	101.95
FlatPax end panels	White		2	108.00
FlatPax kickboards	White	2400mm	1	
		1200mm	1	47.45
FlatPax bench tops	Mocha Glaze	2400mm	1	
		1200mm	1	329.40
Abey single-lever mixer tap	Stainless		1	99.00
Abey 'Leichhardt' sink	Stainless		1	360.00
Gerflor Texline vinyl flooring	Capella Cream	4 x 3m	1	480.00
Iron organiser	White		1	27.50
Clothes rack	White		1	17.80
Cube shelving units	Pine		2	40.00
Avanti roller blind	Burnt Ash		1	62.00

SUB-TOTAL \$2,081.60



Plumber	150.00
Electrician	150.00
Sugar soap	20.00
Adhesive	32.00
Stainless steel splashback	FREE

TOTAL COST \$2,433.60



BROUGHT TO YOU BY

TROJAN

tools

- Bucket ■ Caulking gun ■ Circular saw
- Cordless drill ■ Electric drill & drill bits
- Electric plane ■ Hammer ■ Handsaw ■ Hole saw
- Jigsaw ■ Measuring tape ■ Paintbrushes
- Paint edger ■ Paint roller ■ Pencil ■ Pinch bar
- Quikgrip clamps x 2 ■ Sawhorses ■ Screwdriver set
- Spatula ■ Spirit level ■ Squeegee mop ■ Stud finder ■ Utility knife

suppliers

There are heaps of great ideas for laundries in the marketplace these days. Sadly, you still can't buy a box that will do all the cleaning for you. Surely, someone must be working on it! Here are some great places to look if you're stuck for ideas:

- Bunnings www.bunnings.com.au
- Closetmaid www.closetmaid.com
- Hills www.hills.com.au
- Howards Storage World www.hsw.com.au
- Ikea www.ikea.com.au
- Robinhood www.robinhood.co.nz



Porta Pine Panels

For projects where quality workmanship is what you want.

Porta Pine Panels are:

- Manufactured from premium quality clear grade pine.
- Available up to 800mm wide.
- Precision trimmed, square, pre-sanded and ready to use.
- Warp resistant and up to 40% stronger than standard panels.
- Suitable for interior use.
- Available from Bunnings and other major hardware outlets.

Porta Pine Panel

Narrow sections of quarter sawn timber edge glued.
More stable.



Standard Panel

Wide sections of back sawn timber.
Tend to cup or warp.



For further information and project plans using Porta Pine Panels visit www.porta.com.au

porta portamouldings