

American Farmhouse

Style

New Takes for the New Year

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ALL-IN-ONE

Oftentimes, there isn't enough space to have a separate room for every function. Use these tips to perfect your multifunction room for entering, storing and even laundry.

- **CLEAR PURPOSE.** Make sure you have clear delineations between each purpose in the single space. Put the sink, washer and dryer together, while the mudroom storage should be in its own separate area.
- **COHESIVE STYLE.** Especially if this space also acts as your entryway, make sure your farmhouse style is cohesive with the rest of your home. This will keep the area from feeling like a blank space when guests first step inside.
- **KEEP CLUTTER OUT.** This multipurpose room is primarily functional, so it's easy for clutter and messes to stack up. Keep a clearly designated area for each item that should go here, and if it shouldn't go in this room, don't let it stay here.
- **STORAGE, STORAGE, STORAGE.** As with any high-use room, storage is key. Closed cabinets, a bench with storage and hanging hooks will all help keep this space organized and fully functional.

Homeowners and design professionals often counsel that it's best to live in a space before renovating. Do you have traffic problems in your house every time more than one person is coming or going? This clever design accommodates for these problems with bench seating as well as coat hooks and cubbies for backpacks and those small, easily lost winter accessories.

FLOORING

Once your purpose is clear, start with the flooring. Wood looks great in the farmhouse, and it might work for this space. However, keep in mind that this is a high-traffic area. You might want to choose a durable tile or brick to hide dirt and stand up against rough use—especially if you live in an area where you'll be cleaning up muddy shoes on a regular basis.

STORAGE

A primary purpose of the mudroom and entryway is storage, so be sure to create lots of organizational space. This can be hooks on the wall, cubby spaces, a bench with storage underneath or a closet for jackets and boots. No matter what you end up choosing, make sure the items your family regularly dumps here—from soccer cleats and school backpacks to the dog leash or even food bowls—have an easily accessible and obvious storage space. The easier it is for your family to put things away, the more likely they are to do so.



If you have more square footage to work with, consider a larger island to create ample workspace as well as extra seating and serving opportunities for hosting.

HOW TO CHOOSE YOUR APPLIANCES

Creating the perfect kitchen requires balance between style and function. When it comes to selecting your refrigerator, dishwasher, stove and other appliances, Tony Dowling of Elmira Stove Works has a few tips to help.

• **GO FOR QUALITY.** Appliances are an investment, and you want pieces that stand the test of time. Elmira Stove Works appliances deliver many years of delicious meals. “A Heritage range can weigh up to 500 pounds,” Tony says. “They’re not only sturdy; they’re also built around reliable premium components.” While doing your research, look out for reviews from trusted sources such as Consumer Reports for the reliability of the model you’re considering.

• **TRY A VINTAGE LOOK.** There are many options for appliance finishes, so choose a look that enhances your kitchen design rather than taking away from it. “Incompatible appliances can detract from the design,” Tony says. “Vintage-inspired appliances can add a magical splash to a farmhouse kitchen.” For a vintage or classic farmhouse look, Elmira Stove Works appliances have plenty of vintage charm. If you like the modern farmhouse look, consider stainless steel.

• **FIND SOMETHING YOU LIKE.** “When you’re creating a great meal—perhaps ‘slow cooking’ (not in the Crock-Pot sense, but in the relaxed, unrushed sense) with friends and family, you’ll often spend more time with the appliances than you will at the table,” Tony says. Choose appliances that bring you joy, not only in how they look but also in how they help you accomplish your daily cooking tasks.

Bathroom Basics

Strategically pick materials and finishes for a bathroom style that will stand the test of time.

BY EMILY IRBY



Don't forget details like faucets and showerheads when refreshing your bathroom. Simple changes can go a long way. Whether your style is industrial or vintage, make sure you select finishes that create cohesion in the space, as well as the rest of your home.