

Laminex®

Laundry Design & Renovation Guide

Simplifying the Process



Your new laundry starts here.

A laundry is all about design, it has purpose, needing to operate effortlessly to keep calm and order.

With a changing world, our priorities have shifted, and we are now spending more time at home, and pragmatic solutions to our daily needs are required to make our lives easy and fuss free.

Whatever your reason for a new laundry, space is key. Smaller laundries require smart planning and clever organisation to maintain their functionality, while larger laundries can be multi-use spaces and more than storage, but the same principles apply; make it easier, practical, user friendly and a place that's pleasant to be. So, whether it's a \$5k refresh or a \$20k renovation, planning can make or break the outcome.

Laminex is here to help you every step of the way, from budgeting to functions and features, our Laundry Design & Renovation Guide walks you through the six stages of a successful renovation to achieve the laundry you've always wanted.

01 Planning

02 Budget

03 Storage & Layout

04 Style & Colour

05 Materials & Fixtures

06 Bringing it to life

Step 1 — Planning

A successful laundry renovation begins with a good plan. The creation of space, functionality and budget can be completed in style with great planning.

01 — Why are you renovating?

Start by determining a clear purpose for your project. Do you want to add value to your property for sale, or simply update to better suit your lifestyle? Understanding your reason for renovating will help you make the right decisions in the planning phase and beyond.

02 — Create a rough project schedule

Write a checklist outlining all the elements of your renovation and estimate how long each task will take to complete. Minor setbacks and changes are normal when renovating, so allow some room to move.

03 — Determine your budget

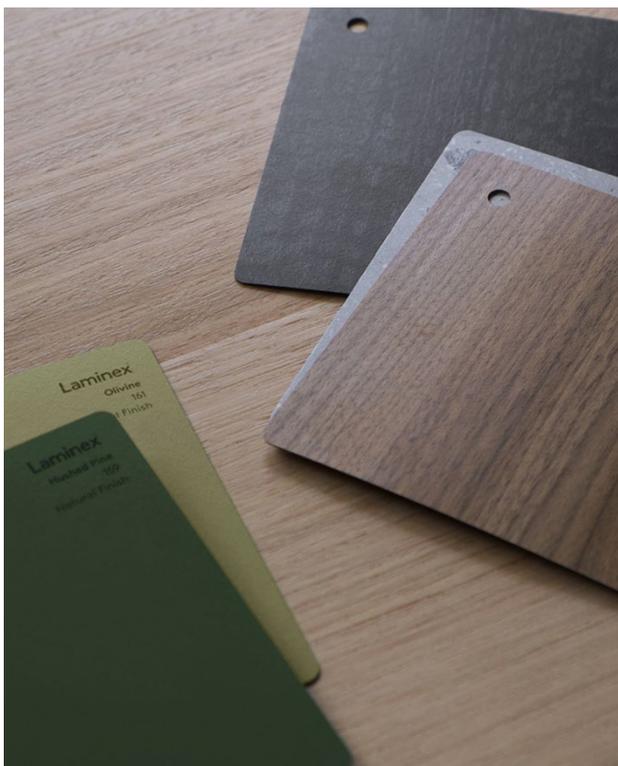
Consider the items on your checklist and roughly budget the amount you're able to spend on each. Prioritise items with the largest allocated spend at the beginning of the project, in case your budget becomes overstretched. Use the budget template in Step 02 as a guide for what to include.

04 — Be inspired

Spend time researching and curating reference images that communicate your style and goals. Pinterest, Instagram and magazines are the perfect places to find inspiration. Head to a showroom to feel inspired, motivated and gather ideas. Note the brands, materials and colours that make you feel connected and are appropriate for your project, gathering product swatches and samples as you go.

05 — Create a mood board

Visualise your future laundry using the inspiration you've collected online, in print, and in showrooms. Create your perfect colour palette and watch your laundry's style start to take form. Think about the big ticket items like your flooring, tapware, benchtop and cabinetry selections to create the base for your palette. Create a second mood board to compare. It will ensure you are confident with your selection.



Expert tip:

Write a brief prior to the renovation

Writing a succinct brief is essential for communicating your requirements to any designer, builder or tradesperson. Detail exactly what you are trying to achieve, scope of work, budget, project schedule, the existing elements staying or going, and other information you may need to refer to later.

06 — Outline your practical needs

For the most efficient space possible, ask yourself:

- Do you need to change the orientation or layout of your laundry for it to operate more efficiently?
- How much space do you require for storage?
- How much workspace do you require?
- What practical features need to be considered and how will they be integrated into your design?
- What considerations need to be made for appliances and where will they go?
- Is the benchtop laminate? If so, you will require an over-mount sink.
- What are the limitations and major considerations of your space? Existing doors, plumbing, electrical, structural beams and walls.
- What existing elements can you utilise? Natural light and windows, existing frames, walls.

07 — Identify your project team

Identify who you might need to bring your project to life. Do you plan to use a designer, or are you planning on project managing yourself? Asking friends and neighbours to refer a designer and qualified tradespeople they trust is a great way to build your project team.

08 — Create a timeline

Perhaps the most important part of a good plan is to know your timelines. Get to know your project and avoid costly delays. Have your materials, appliances and products ordered and ready on site before works commence. Living through a renovation can bring unforeseen delays too, the added stress of being without a laundry might need to be considered.

Ensure a smooth program by getting ahead of the project, lock in your trades in advance and understand how long each will require to finish their work.

Planning checklist

Task	Done
01 — Why are you renovating?	
02 — Create a rough project schedule	
03 — Determine your budget	
04 — Be inspired	
05 — Create a mood board	
06 — Outline your practical needs	
07 — Identify your project team	
08 — Create a timeline	

Step 2 — Budget

Consider how much you want to invest in your laundry. A set budget will inform the products and finishes that are most appropriate and help separate the essentials from the luxury items.

Laundry renovation costs can vary, therefore, establishing a budget from the outset is essential.

Ask yourself these important questions to define whether your project is a low, mid-range or high-investment undertaking.

Is this project a quick fix, renovation for sale, or your future dream laundry?

A dream laundry renovation warrants significant investment. Selling your home requires an inexpensive refresh and update for buyer appeal, which might include quick fixes, like refacing cabinets, painting and upgrading fittings.

What exactly will you be spending money on?

List all the elements likely to incur costs over the course of your renovation, from design, consultations and products, to labour, demolition, waste removal and freight charges.

How much are you willing to spend on your project?

If you have a budget set aside, divide this into stages to cover all elements of your project. Prioritise the areas most important to you.

Will you need to make compromises?

With your budget set, priorities will need to put in place. How do you make the most of the existing framework? Save money by leaving plumbing and utilities in place and opting for an excellent laminate benchtop or refresh existing cabinetry with fresh doors and an exciting new palette.

How important is energy efficiency?

Investing in energy efficient materials and appliances often require more investment upfront but can save you significant money long-term.

Are you able to recycle materials, or retain your existing laundry layout?

Moving plumbing or electrical fittings can blow out a budget. There may be tasks you can manage yourself, like painting and tiling. Complicated jobs, such as installing cabinetry, plumbing and electrical work should be left to qualified professionals.

What can your budget realistically achieve?

Your answers to these questions will help you determine if you're able to undertake a low, mid-range or high-budget renovation. The following chart provides a general outline of what's achievable in each category.

Developing a clear overview of renovation costs ensures your project runs smoothly. Use the template on page 10 and average budget indication to guide your process to ensure you remain on budget. Always ask your supplier to advise in writing the components included in their quote.

Expert tip:

Budget clarity

Your budget will not only guide you in your selections of finishes and appliances, but also will help guide your architect, designer or cabinet maker. It will give them some knowledge to the best scope of works, types of finishes, and selections that they can recommend for that budget.

Low range renovation of a European to small laundry (under \$10,000)

Cosmetic change only

Retain existing layout, no structural change, retaining plumbing locations, cabinetry carcass and tiles

Sink & tap upgrade

New benchtops, cupboard doors and painted walls

Appliance upgrade – we recommend you hunt for a bundle sales package under \$1,500

Laminate cabinetry and benchtops are ideal

Essential trades



Benchtop in **Laminex Terrazzino Perlato**, cabinetry in **Laminex Pale Honey** and door in **Laminex French Cream**.

Mid-range renovation of a small to medium laundry (\$10,000 - \$20,000)

Small structural update

Consider working with a renovation specialist or cabinet maker for new cabinetry, benchtop, splashback and fittings

If space allows include hanging rails and built in storage

A range of benchtop solutions are possible in the price range from premium laminate finishes to mid-tier stone

Consider floating or open shelving as a design feature, to display items

A reputable appliance package with some added features

Hire professional installers



Overhead & rear cabinetry and open shelving in **Laminex Danish Walnut**, base cabinetry in **Laminex Hushed Pine**.

High range renovaton of a medium to large laundry (\$20,000+)

Budget allows for a complete overhaul

Use a professional designer and project manager to manage the build, including the appointment of contractors and tradespeople

New layout to maximise your space and functionality, including structural changes

Create a mudroom with seating and additional storage if space allows

Personalise your space with the selection of splashback, fixtures and fittings including drawers and storage elements

Statement benchtop in stone, porcelain, polished concrete, or marble

Cabinetry finishes such as Laminex Chalk, PureGrain or AbsoluteMatte®

Top tier appliances integrated into joinery

Consider additional elements such as fold down ironing boards, hidden linen hampers and large sinks

Custom cabinet build & installation



Cabinetry in **Laminex Tornado**, overhead cabinetry in **Laminex Tornado PureGrain** finish and shadow-line in **Laminex Brushed Stainless Steel**.

Expert tip: Hidden costs

Allow room for error with some contingency in your budget, around 15%, in case of the unexpected. Common issues that can occur are:

- Discovering outdated plumbing or electricals
- Discovering unsafe old materials and water damage
- Poorly completed DIY jobs that require professionals to fix
- Damp or termites
- Taking incorrect measurements



Developing a clear overview of renovation costs will help your project run smoothly. The below template represents an average mid-range renovation. Using this guide will ensure your budget remains in place. Don't forget to include service and freight charges as these costs can add up quickly and change your budget projections. Depending on your project management approach your designer or cabinet maker can facilitate and help you through your plans. If you are self-managing, start creating your list of suppliers and get rough quotes to build out your budget.

Budget Template	Your overall budget \$		
	Budget \$	Actual Cost \$	Difference \$
Design consultation			
Project documentation			
Demolition			
Rubbish removal			
Cabinetry installation			
Carpenter			
Electrician			
Plumber			
Plasterer			
Waterproofer			
Tiler			
Flooring (supply & install)			
Lighting (supply & install)			
Appliances (supply & fitting)			
Benchtops (fabrication & install)			
Cabinetry (fabrication & install)			
Handles & hanging rails			
Sinks & taps			
Splashback			
Caulking			
Painting			
Sealing			
Totals			

Step 3 — Storage & Layout

A laundry is all about functionality, especially if you're working with a smaller space or footprint. Consider your storage and work zones carefully and prioritise your needs accordingly. Make life easy and design a space that is a pleasure to use.

Cleaning products & equipment

'A place for everything and everything in its place.' Larger items, like stick vacuums and ironing boards can be kept in a designated cupboard. Power points for chargers and clasps for hanging keep everything clean and ready at a moment's notice.

Laundry products & equipment

Get practical. What are the laundry baskets and hampers you use and where are they best kept? Use separate laundry baskets or dividers to separate laundry or concealed options to hide mess. Washing detergents and products should be stored within reach of their appliances.

Hanging space

Make your space work. If there's room, add a hanging rail or rack so clothes can be hung straight after washing or ironing. Make it reachable yet high enough that clothes don't touch the bench. In larger rooms a drying cupboard is a great addition.

Appliances

Here's where budget and planning get important. Are you using existing appliances, or will you be updating? These will be the largest items in your laundry and will guide how your space is used. Front loading washing machines can slide under benches or be stacked with dryers. But for bigger families and larger laundries, top loaders might be more practical.

Plumbing and ventilation is an important consideration for all machines.

Clever storage & features

With space and budget work with a cabinet maker to add clever and ingenious solutions like fold away ironing boards, shelves for folding, hidden drawers and drying racks. Ensure you remember to add plenty of room for linen, towels, cleaning products, tools, appliances and more.

Work space

A laundry is for working. Ensure there is plenty of space to work on. Placing sinks to the side ensures more space to fold and sort. Provisions for laundry baskets, full and empty, should be considered to ensure a mess free zone.

Designing your perfect laundry

Functionality and efficiency are what makes a laundry tick, but the design and aesthetic should ideally sit comfortably within your home, consistent with your kitchen and bathroom joinery. However, your new laundry might be a chance to explore new ideas and materials, and an opportunity to express your design dreams.

Expert tip: Consider how you like to work in the space

- Ensure the overhead cupboards are reachable, incorporating a drying rail if you can.
- Consider a step ladder to reach the top shelves/cupboards and tall cabinetry. Make it a part of the design aesthetic.
- Drawers below your bench are more practical but more expensive than cupboards. Think about how you will use them and assess your budget.
- Don't forget the little things. Hand towel rails near the sink, power near the ironing board or even a feature light can make using your laundry a more pleasant experience and elevate the space.

Layout options

To determine your ideal layout, consider these questions:

- How do I use the laundry on a daily basis?
- How does my family utilise this space?
- How much storage do I require? Will this be hidden or on display?
- What appliances will be in the space and where will they be placed in the space?
- Is a laundry a dedicated room or can it be concealed in a hall or bathroom?

We have included some common floor plans to inspire your future laundry design.

Expert tip:

Lighting

—

Consider the benefits of both natural and artificial lighting sources. Arrange your laundry to maximise natural lighting, taking note of the available light at different times of the day during the planning stage.

In smaller spaces or darker rooms consider incorporating lighting into cabinetry and shelves to create a seamless solution that better lights your space.



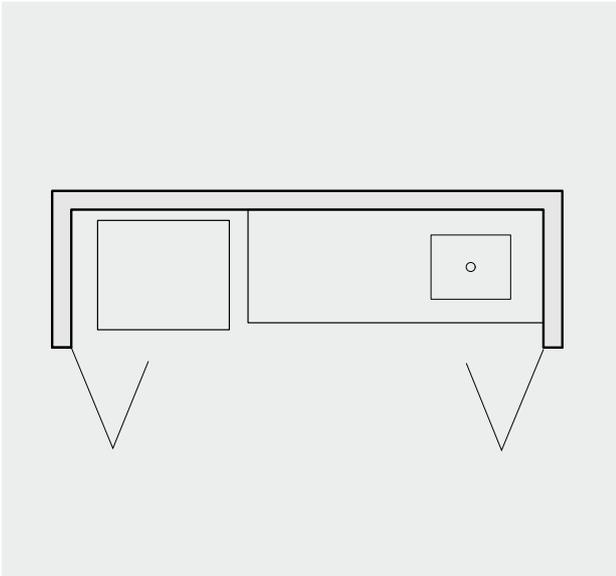
Benchmark in **Essastone White Concrete Matt** finish, cabinetry in **Laminex Planked Urban Oak Chalk** finish.

Common laundry layouts

European concealed laundry

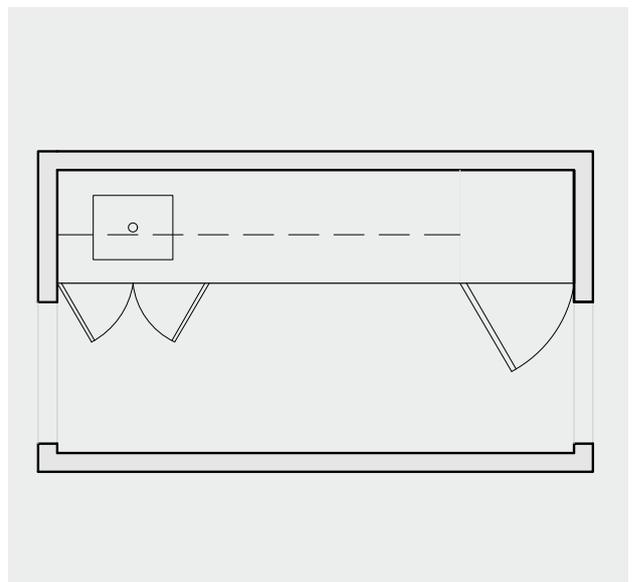
Normally found in the hallways and bathrooms of smaller homes and apartments.

Stacked or combo appliances work best to maximise space in these layouts.



Straight line

Create clean lines in smaller or slim rooms that provide plenty of bench space. Tall cabinetry and a drying rail above the bench can save room a clotheshorse would otherwise take up.



Top: Doors in **Laminex Milkwood**, panels and benchtop in **Laminex French Cream**, photography by James Geer, design by CJH Studio.
Bottom: Cabinetry in **Laminex Rural Oak Chalk** finish, photography by The Palm Co, design by Oak & Orange.

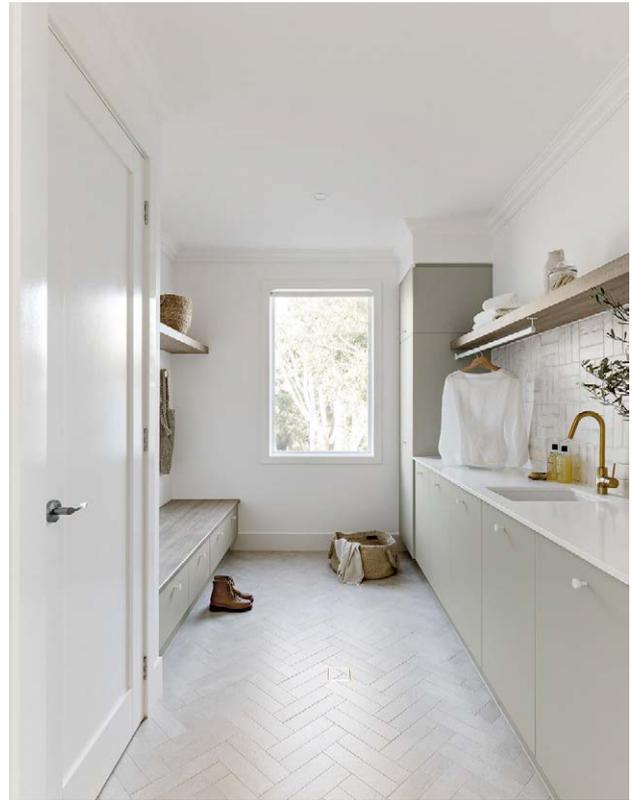
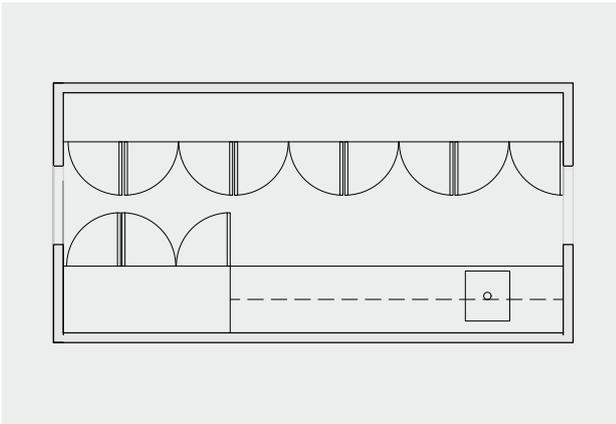
Common laundry layouts

Multi-purpose room

These useful catch-all spaces provide room to contain a busy life's messy overflow.

Consider adding a fridge to store kitchen overflow, or extra rails and hooks to hang wet clothes and shoes.

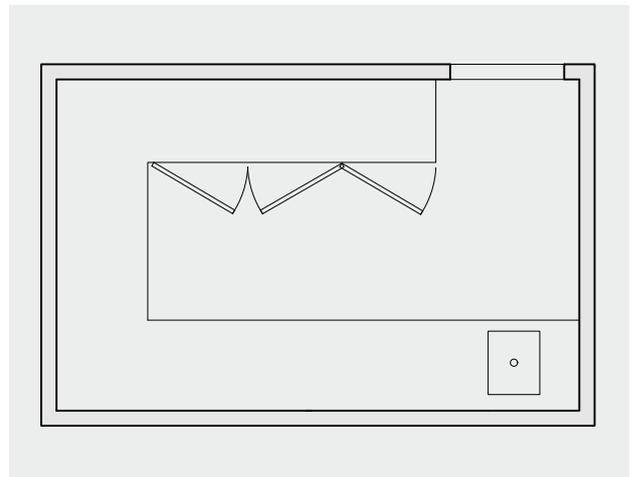
Make sure to measure and carefully check appliances and doors have enough clearance to open freely.



L-Shape or U-Shape

A versatile option for most plans and budgets. Perfect for wider spaces or those with a larger footprint.

These shapes can conceal mess by hiding hampers and appliances out of eyesight, maintaining a calm presence in the house.



Top: Cabinetry in **Laminex Seed**, seating benchtop and floating shelves in **Laminex Rural Oak**, photography by The Palm Co, design by Oak & Orange.
Bottom: Cabinetry in **Laminex Spinifex** and **Laminex Calm White**, photography by The Palm Co, design by Oak & Orange.

Step 4 — Style & Colour

Creating a laundry that is functional is a must. Designing a laundry that is both functional and beautiful is a joy. Use our style and colour tips to guide you to your perfect laundry.

Planning a space that is as efficient as it is eye-catching is what good design is all about. A laundry has specific needs and requirements and once they are set in place, a room or space needs to reflect your home's aesthetic or your design intentions.

Remember to complement your existing schemes and materials if possible, letting your new laundry flow from its adjoining spaces and seamlessly into use.

Inspiration is everywhere, from Instagram and Pinterest to magazines and film. Create a mood board from your interests to distil down to your favourite ideas. Keep it consistent, keep it practical—this is a laundry after all—but have fun.

Expert tip:

Materiality

Laundry materials must be functional and durable to ensure longevity and continued use, but the consideration of aesthetically pleasing colours and styles need not be left behind.

Textures and finishes can be layered for effect, while hardware and handles can add interest and define the look of a space.

Expert tip:

Choosing a palette

When choosing a palette for your laundry you can:

- Create a sense of continuity. Select materials that are the same or like others in your home such as tiles, benchtops, flooring, and cabinetry.
- Go a step further and create a new theme in your home by experimenting with colour and texture. Create the space you want to live in.

Colour palette

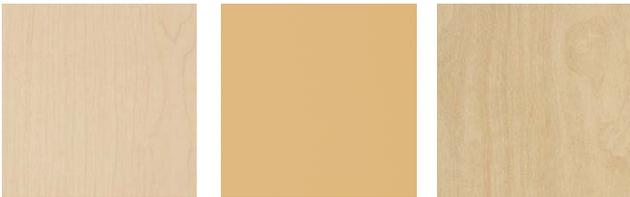
Your laundry may be dictated by the aesthetic and palette of your home or may be a chance to experiment and explore new design ideas for your house; either way a clearly defined colour palette is essential in achieving your laundry dreams.

Visit the Laminex Inspiration Gallery online to view a range of beautiful palettes and finishes, arranged according to style.

Working within a colour scheme and palette can deliver extraordinary results and ensure consistency throughout your design. Use our guide to discover the latest trends in colour and how to use them in wonderful harmony with materials and details that complement each other to create your perfect laundry.

Soft, Warm Neutrals

Leave white alone and use soft warm neutrals to add warmth and depth to your laundry. A neutral palette is a chance to explore woodgrains that bring texture and nature to your home without contrasting any existing themes or colours. Mix timber finishes with solids, like Laminex Milkwood and Laminex Raw Cotton for a contemporary look or consider solid laminates in block colours to modernise your space and lift it from the drudgery of standard white joinery.



Dansk Maple

Pale Honey

Raw Birchply



Laminex Pale Honey and Laminex Raw Birchply



Cabinetry in **Laminex Milkwood** and Cabinetry Interiors in **Laminex French Cream**, designed by CJH Studio.



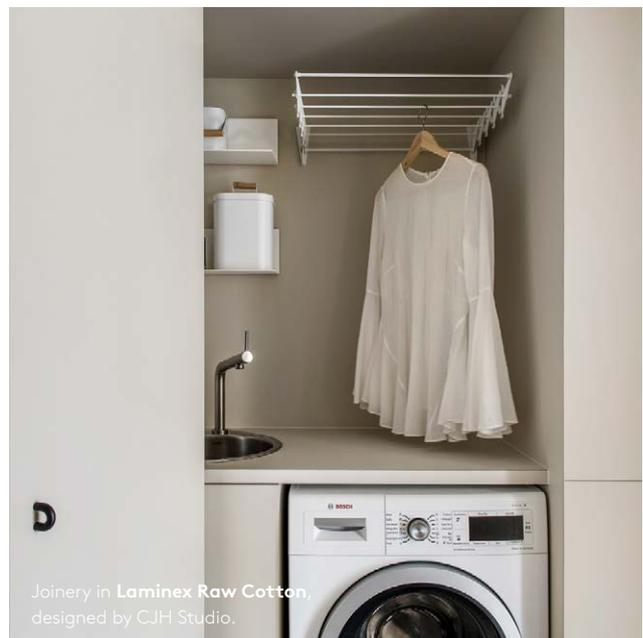
Cabinetry in **Laminex Raw Birchply Chalk** finish, designed by Maddie Witter.



Raw Cotton

French Cream

Milkwood



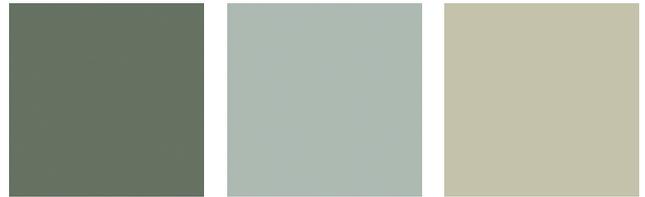
Joinery in **Laminex Raw Cotton**, designed by CJH Studio.

Grounding Greens

Greens are the new cool. Complementary and flexible, like nature, they work extraordinarily well with timber and woodgrain finishes. Greens run the whole spectrum from warm, earthy tones like Laminex Olivine and Laminex Possum, to cool, coastal vibes as Laminex Spinifex and Laminex Green Slate demonstrate. Where your laundry palette sits is up to you, but let the calming effects of our grounding greens wash over you to create a space that is as peaceful as it is stylish.



Green Slate Spinifex Seed



Hushed Pine Olivine Possum



Greys & Minerals

With flexibility and versatility, this palette of cool greys and warm minerals can deliver a laundry of great taste and style with ease. Able to work off stone finishes and deliver on timber textures, using this palette can create modern rooms that will stand the test of time. Mix Laminex Carrara Delicata with Laminex Classic Oak and Laminex Sarsen Grey for Scandinavian cool, the combination of stone and timber suggesting permanence and solidity with warmth and approachability.



Figured Limestone



Oyster Grey



Carrara Delicata



Benchtop in Laminex Elemental Ash.



Cabinetry in Laminex Oyster Grey, designed by Amarot Designs.



Cabinetry in Laminex Sarsen Grey, designed by CJH Studio.

Sarsen Grey

Classic Oak

Tumbled Terrazzo



Laminex Terrazzino Perlato and Laminex Tumbled Terrazzo.

Step 5 — Materials & fixtures

The details. Finish your project and enhance your design with complementary materials and fittings. Balance personal style with practicality for a laundry that is as useful as it is beautiful.



Benchtops

The workhorse of the laundry and centre of your palette and design, a benchtop should be crafted from a robust and long-lasting material. They need to withstand all that life can throw at it. Laminates are an excellent choice for laundries due to their hardwearing characteristics that offer water, scratch, and stain resistance, as well as being available in an extensive range of colours and finishes that can complement your design and home.

Tip – Laminate benchtops require an overmount sink.



Doors and panels

Surfaces such as doors and drawers offer a chance for your laundry to make a statement. If your laundry needs a quick refresh, then changing your surfaces is a great way to update without a full laundry rebuild. Laminex offers various product ranges to suit all styles and budgets, including finger-print resistant AbsoluteMatte, or Laminex PureGrain that has the look of painted veneer at a fraction of the cost.



Internal cabinetry

Apply woodgrain, a neutral colour scheme, or a pop of colour to the insides of your cabinets and make them a surprising, hidden feature. For a contemporary look, consider colour blocking in one or two colours of laminate to feature throughout the space, repeating and alternating colours for your benchtop, cabinetry interiors, doors, and surfaces. See the Laminex Inspiration Gallery online for amazing colour combinations by architects and designers.

Tip – Dark internal cabinetry may benefit from additional lighting.



Benchtops in **Essastone Luna Concrete Weathered** finish, lower cabinetry in **Laminex AbsoluteMatte Terril** and upper cabinetry in **Laminex Terril PureGrain** finish



Splashback

Get creative. Splashbacks are a great way to tie together or introduce a design feature to your laundry. Think about glass, tiles, stone and laminate surfaces and choose your favourite materials to suit your budget and style.



Sink

Outside of the washing machine, the sink may be the hardest working component you add to your laundry. Consider its use—does it need to work as a trough, a place to wash pets or hold sports equipment? If so stainless steel may be the best option. Other aesthetic considerations can inform your decision and acrylic, granite and other modern materials can provide sanitary and strong solutions while also being a design win.



Tapware

While design preference and lifestyle should be considered when deciding on tapware, if you're washing pets or filling up buckets, a pull-out gooseneck mixer may be the most practical. Whichever way you go, consider what colours, metals and materials will complement your laundry and your most common use behaviours.

Expert tip:

Select integrated elements early

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Before cabinetry is made and installed, confirm the plumbing products and appliances to be included. Your cabinet maker or builder will require this information in order to integrate cut-outs for elements like hoses, fittings and cavities. Complete this process early, so products can be ordered if needed.





Appliances

Appliances will dictate your laundry's use of space. For example, a big family may require a larger top loader to cope with their needs. Smaller homes with European laundries will invariably require front loaders. Performance, sustainability, aesthetics and convenience are key factors to consider when choosing appliances. Look for models designed to make life easier and less stressful with modern, technological functions, and energy efficiency.



Lighting

Lighting is crucial to make work easier, with less strain and a space that is more aesthetically pleasing. Often overlooked or forgotten, good lighting can make or break any room and a laundry is no different. Consider the placement of lighting to coordinate with the positioning of appliances and work areas. Balance mood with functionality by maximising natural light where possible and if budget permits consult a professional to guide your lighting design.



Flooring

Like a benchtop, laundry flooring must be robust, durable, and hardwearing. Select materials that can cope with spills and impacts, like tiles, slate, laminate, timber and vinyl.

Component Checklist

Component	Material	Colour	Supplier	Price
Benchtop – main				
Doors and panels – under bench				
Doors and panels – overheads				
Doors and panels – full height doors				
Internal cabinetry – standard				
Internal cabinetry – highlight				
Splashback				
Sink				
Tapware				
Appliances				
Lighting				
Flooring				
Handles				
				Total \$

Expert tip:

Refer back to your plan and mood board

Stick to your plan. Make sure you are always referring to your plan and mood board. Small changes have significant effects and can cause unwanted challenges and extra costs. Avoid these problems by frequently revisiting your plan and stay on track to save time and money.

Step 6 — Bringing it to life

With planning and design elements in place, it's time to press go.

If working with a professional team, now is the time to engage your designer, builder, or cabinet maker.

Design process

- 01 — Finalise your mood boards. Establish your brief and requirements.
- 02 — Plan out and measure your space with your selected appliances (if planning yourself).
- 03 — Consult with your designer and cabinet makers. Be open to their expert suggestions and experience.
- 04 — Engage your designer or cabinet makers if project managing yourself.

Construction process

Once the plans are signed off, it's time for construction. Depending on the materials and scope of work, renovations generally occur in the following order.

- 01 — Demolition and removal of existing elements
- 02 — Rough-in plumbing and electrical work
- 03 — Plastering
- 04 — Painting (with touch ups after)
- 05 — Cabinetry install or flooring depending on project
- 06 — Benchtop install
- 07 — Splashback install
- 08 — Fit-off of electrical and plumbing fixtures
- 09 — Caulking
- 10 — Your first load of washing



Cabinetry in **Laminex Tornado**, overhead cabinetry in **Laminex Tornado PureGrain** finish and shadow-line in **Laminex Brushed Stainless Steel**.

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