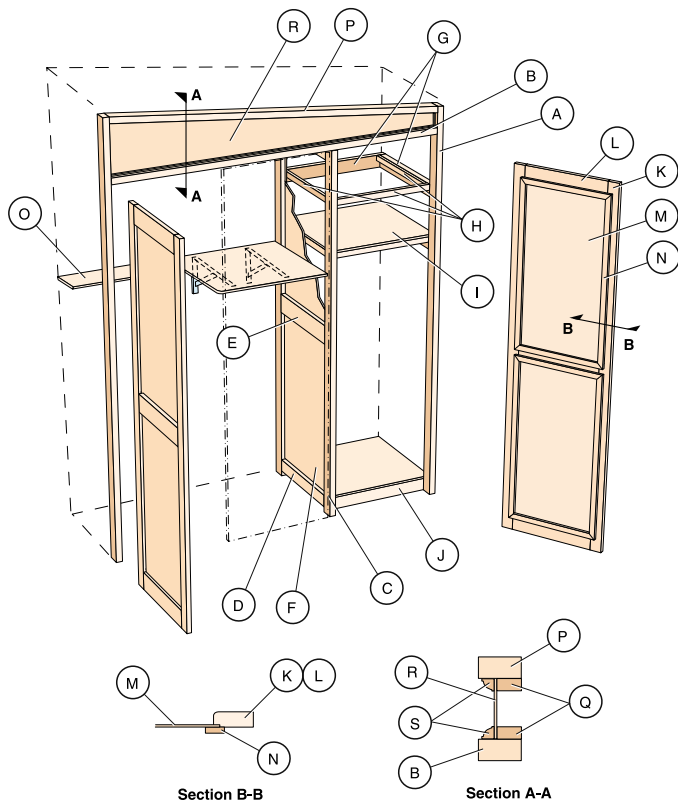


Laundry hideaway



Remove laundry clutter with built-in storage

Hide the business side of the laundry behind specially built cupboards and gain a light, bright room into the bargain. You only need basic carpentry skills to do it. Use this idea and adjust the measurements to suit your laundry. *By Dieter Mylius*

Here's how

Plan. Draw layout on paper. Note opening width and ceiling height. Our opening is 1930mm wide, 2250mm high and 670mm deep to allow for tub, washer, dryer and wall clearances. Check walls and floor for vertical. Note positions of power and water outlets, plumbing and conduit. Fix wall-mount dryers at least 1350mm from ground and allow for a top-loader-washer lid to open. On the floor, mark divider position, allowing for appliances.

Framed opening. Prepare side-wall studs (A). If walls aren't plumb, pack out or plane studs to suit. Prime studs on wall and undersides. Anchor to brick or screw to timber. To find anchor holes, drill four 8mm holes per stud and counterbore for washer and nuts. Holding stud, drill into wall through one hole using a masonry bit. Remove stud, then drill to depth of wall anchor. Fix stud, partly tighten anchor, plumb the stud, then mark other holes. Swing stud aside and drill holes. Swing stud back, insert anchors and tighten with ratchet and socket. Cut top plate (B) to fit between studs, skew-screw to one stud for a 2120mm opening height. Check level. Fix other side.

Divider panel. Check top plate (B) isn't sagging. Cut uprights (C) and three rails (D, E). Screw uprights to rails, edge to edge, with base rail raised 30mm from ground and mid rail centred between ends. Rout 10 x 10mm rebate around inside of both openings. Cut divider panels (F)

to suit. Round corners and nail to rebates. Prime divider on the underside, then locate on floor. Check plumb, screw to top plate.

Shelves. Locate main shelf supports (G) avoiding plumbing. Shelves shown are 70, 1500 and 1800mm from floor. Fix with wall anchors. Screw divider panel to ends of shelf supports at back. Add shelf cleats (H) to divider and side support and across front. Cut shelves (I) around studs, pipes and conduit, then nail to supports. Prime kickboard (J), then add to underside.

Doors. Set out stiles and rails (K, L) with mid rail centred. Mark two dowel holes for each joint across both timbers, 15mm from top and bottom. With a dowelling jig, drill 8mm holes. Glue holes and dowels, then clamp. Rout beading profile along face edges of doors. Rout 10mm x 3mm-deep housing along inside-back edge for panels (M). Nail on the panels. Mitre and nail on trim (N). Undercoat, then hang with 75mm flush hinges.

Dryer mount. Use a mounting bracket or a shelf (O), held by heavy-duty brackets. If shelf crosses tub, cut to allow access. Add other shelves as required.

Infill panel. The area above the top plate may need an infill panel. Frame it with 70 x 35mm pine (P), with a pine stop (Q) screwed flush with the back edge (Q). Infill with plywood (R) and finish with beading (S) mitred into corners. **See Buying Guide**

What you will need

Item	Part	Size	Material
A	Studs (2)	70 x 35 x 2250mm	Pine
B	Top plate	70 x 35 x 1860mm	Pine
C	Divider uprights (2)	70 x 35 x 2120mm	Pine
D	Top/bottom rails (2)	70 x 35 x 530mm	Pine
E	Centre rail	90 x 35 x 530mm	Pine
F	Divider panels (2)	550 x 950 x 10mm	MDF
G	Shelf supports (6)	70 x 35 x 625mm	Pine
H	Shelf cleats (9)	40 x 19 x 625mm	Pine
I	Shelves (3)	625 x 600 x 12mm	Plywood
J	Kickboard	70x 19 x 625mm	Pine
K	Door stiles (6)	65 x 23 x 2110mm	Oregon
L	Door rails (9)	100 x 23 x 475mm	Oregon
M	Door panels (6)	495 x 925 x 3mm	Plywood
N	Trim (total)	31 x 10mm x 18.5m	Maple beading
O	Dryer shelf	1270 x 550 x 12mm	Plywood
P	Infill frame	70 x 35 x 2000mm	Pine
Q	Stop bead (2)	40 x 19 x 2000mm	Pine
R	Panel	2000 x 200 x 3mm	Plywood
S	Trim (total)	19 x 19mm x 4.5m	Maple scotia

Note: Adjust measurements to suit your laundry

You will also need 24 of 75 x 8mm wall anchors (for brick walls), assorted screws to 100mm, 2 heavy-duty 400mm steel brackets, timber offcuts; six 75mm flush hinges, doorknobs; finishing materials