



Johanna Rienstra
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View on Fallingbrook

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Mudroom Storage Tips

Store It

Storage is the most important aspect of a mudroom, so take advantage of every inch that you can.

Make use of valuable vertical surfaces for built-ins. Try to incorporate shelves & hanging space with doors to close off clutter. Built-in shelves can store shoes and boots and free up floor space for a bench or chair.

Hang It

Wall hooks are a mudroom staple and there are many styles and shapes of hooks that go beyond the hardware store basics. When installing hooks, be sure to leave enough room between each so that even heavy winter coats and thick jackets won't appear crammed together on the wall.

For kids, install hooks 36" high so that little hands can easily hang up jackets and backpacks. Wooden pegs mounted a few inches above the floor work well for drying off wet mittens and gloves.



Step On It

Durable, easy to clean flooring works best for a mudroom, like slate, honed porcelain, or ceramic which will be less slippery when wet than polished flooring. Stone floors, though pricey, add elegance to any space, are almost indestructible and have low-slip risk. During cold or rainy months, place a large mat in front of the door to soak up water or mud and catch sand and salt before it gets tracked into the house.

Work with What you've Got

To create a mudroom within your regular entrance, begin by making your existing closet space as efficient as possible. Install a closet system that will help keep the area clutter-free and provide lots of storage space for frequently used outdoor clothing and sports equipment.

Situate a large coco mat in front of the door for wiping off muddy

boots and shoes. Spend a little extra on stylish shoe racks that can be placed against the wall. Install a few wall hooks for hanging light jackets or bags. A wall-mounted shelf or narrow console table topped with a decorative bowl or tray will offer a spot for dropping mail & keys. Add a mirror above the table and if wall space allows, hang some framed artwork to add interest and make the entryway feel welcoming. If space permits, incorporate a multi-purpose bench with a drawer below or storage inside. A tall, woven basket in a corner can provide storage for umbrellas.

<http://www.houseandhome.com/design/mudrooms-101>

Impressive Sales Growth for the Durham Region

The Durham Region Association of Realtors® reported their 3rd best year in sales in the Association's history. Stats show 9,162 sales of single family dwellings in 2009, which represents a 7% increase over 2008.

Year over year there was a modest increase of 1.8% in average selling prices. This makes for a much healthier market and home ownership of real possibility for the average consumer.

President Dierdre Mullen predicts that 2010 will be a positive year for real estate sales and we should see moderate growth in this important sector of our economy.

YOUR FALLINGBROOK SUBDIVISION

Currently For Sale: 2

Avg. List Price: \$342,450

Low: \$ 255,000

High: \$429,900

Sold in 2009: 51

Avg Sale Price: \$338,988

Low: \$199,900

High: \$470,000

Avg. % of List: 97.73%

Humidity in your Home

We need humidity for our comfort and health. But too much or too little humidity can produce a host of difficulties for householders. (see table) These problems often occur during the heating season when our windows are closed and indoor air circulation and ventilation are reduced.

To prevent window condensation during the heating season, the recommended indoor Relative Humidity (RH) is 30% to 50%. When it is below -10°C (14°F) outdoors, recommended indoor RH is 30%.

In winter, a house that is too wet usually has some high moisture sources (i.e. a damp basement, roof leaks, many plants). Deal with these problems first. If high humidity persists, you may need to make simple changes in your family's habits, such as remembering to open or loose doors or windows. Or, you can install equipment, such as exhaust fans in bathrooms or a heat recovery ventilator (HRV), to remove excess humidity.

Very low indoor RH levels in the winter may result from cold, dry air leaking in from outside. In this case, sealing up the house by weather stripping and caulking will improve humidity conditions indoors and may reduce your heating bills at the same time.

If low humidity problems persist, despite air tightening the house, consider the use of a humidifier. Humidifiers-both stand-alone humidifiers and humidifiers attached to your furnace-will increase indoor RH levels. But if they are not installed, used and maintained properly, they can also be sources of excess

moisture and mold in your home.

A small, inexpensive and easy-to-use instrument called a hygrometer can measure the humidity level in your house and confirm whether the house has too much or too little humidity. Once you know for sure, you can decide whether any action is required and, if so, what action.

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2010 Olympic Winter Games

Everything you wanted to know about the 2010 Vancouver Olympic Games

<http://www.vancouver2010.com/>

Send a Cheer to Canada's Olympic Athletes

<http://www.cheerios.ca/en/SendYourCheer.aspx>

Kid's Corner

