

# How to make a laundry room a more functional space

Functionality is important when designing the interior spaces in a home. Homeowners who redesign their interior spaces can emphasize functionality to help reduce clutter and create a more efficient and even calming space.

Laundry rooms may not be the most glamorous rooms in a home, but they do get lots of usage, particularly in homes with children. Because laundry rooms tend to be well trafficked areas, it makes sense for homeowners to make them as functional and user-friendly as possible. With that in mind, homeowners can consider these tips to make laundry rooms more functional spaces.

• **Purchase laundry pedestals with storage capacity.** Laundry pedestals make useful additions to a laundry room. Many homeowners place their washing machines and dryers on top of pedestals with storage drawers, which can be used to store everything from dryer sheets to clothes irons to stain removal kits. Pedestals can be particularly useful in cramped



laundry rooms where the only means to adding storage is to go up and not out.

• **Install a freestanding laundry sink.** A laundry sink also adds function to a laundry room by enabling homeowners to hand wash certain clothes and apply stain removal products in the same space where the rest of their clothes are being cleaned. Installing a laundry sink is a relatively inexpensive job, but the cost may go up if new plumbing, venting or electrical work is necessary.

• **Add a countertop work space.** If you already have ample storage and won't be placing the washer or dryer atop

a laundry pedestal, then installing some countertop above the appliances can add function and aesthetic appeal. A countertop workspace above a dryer provides an accessible space to fold laundry the moment it dries, reducing the likelihood that clothes will become wrinkled and ensuring you won't put off folding.

• **Install floating shelves.** Floating shelves won't cost a lot of money, but they can be ideal in cramped laundry rooms. Shelves provide a space to store detergent and other items that may not fit inside laundry pedestals, including baskets.

• **Add hanging storage.** Some articles of clothing should not be dried in a dryer for fear of shrinking the fabric or destroying the item. In such instances, some readily accessible hanging storage capacity can make the laundry room more functional. Items can be hung on hangers or over a hanging rack suspended from the ceiling if space is minimal.

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# Is it time to replace old wiring?

Old homes can be charming and contain architectural elements not often seen in many modern housing developments. But what older homes may have in design appeal, they may lack in updated features.

While cosmetic changes are not necessarily difficult, one area of concern in historic homes -- and sometimes even in houses built 40 or 50 years ago -- is archaic wiring. Wiring provides power to every room of the home. In today's electronics-driven society, electricity that works is an essential component of daily life.

Over time, wiring can be compromised through simple aging, pest infiltration, weather, or other conditions. Deteriorated wiring can present a shock hazard and also a serious fire hazard, warn the home renovation experts at The Spruce. Furthermore, the home improvement site This Old House advises that the amperage of old wiring may not be able to meet the needs of the devices used in homes -- overpowering the circuits. This can cause breaker blowouts and other problems,



such as overheated wires that may spark and cause fires from within the wall.

Wiring often falls into the "out of sight, out of mind" category. Homeowners may make allowances for inadequate electrical systems, such as running extension cords or using mul-

tiplug connectors to increase their wiring capacity. However, they may not be diligently keeping on top of upgrades needed to stay safe. Confirming that a home's electrical system is safe is a necessary part of home maintenance.

For those who haven't already done so, schedule an inspection with a licensed electrician to go over the home's wiring. He or she can determine if any areas pose a safety risk and/or do not conform to local code requirements and the National Electrical Code. Failure to meet code can lead to difficulty obtaining permits to make other home renovations, or difficulty selling a home later on.

The electrician can also go over improvements that can improve safety and function. Additional outlets, including GFCI outlets in kitchens and bathrooms, may be part of the plan, as well as rewiring a fuse box or circuit panel to allow for better flow of power around the house. Frayed wiring or under-insulated wiring also may need to be replaced.

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# Tips to take care of wood flooring

A host of variables can affect how long wood flooring lasts and how its appearance holds up over time. Wood flooring in homes with pets that roam around the house, such as cats and dogs, may require more frequent maintenance than those without pets. The same goes for homes with children, who may routinely track dirt in from outside or spill food and drinks with greater frequency than adults. But even wood flooring in homes without pets and children requires consistent maintenance. Homeowners who want to protect their wood floors and ensure they maintain their aesthetic appeal for the long haul can consider the following maintenance tips, courtesy of the National Wood Flooring Association.

• **Sweep, dust or mop each day.** The NWFA recommends daily maintenance to remove dust and dirt that accumulates each day. Such cleaning can prevent damage that can compromise the aesthetic appeal of the floors and potentially affect their longevity.

• **Clean spills immediately.** Spills are inevitable, especially in homes where young children live. Though spills might not be preventable, the damage they can cause can be avoided with a prompt response. Cleaning spills immediately with a dry or slightly damp cloth can ensure the floors do not soak up the spilled liquids. The NWFA notes that mopping wood floors with a wet mop or steam mop will damage the finish and the wood over long periods of time. If allowed to soak into the floor, spilled liquid can contribute to warping, swelling and staining. Each of those issues can be costly to



address, but a quick and immediate cleanup can prevent all three from happening.

• **Vacuum once per week on the bare floor setting.** Utilizing a vacuum is less taxing on wood floors than sweeping so long as the vacuum is on the bare floor setting. Sweeping is best avoided to prevent small particles from being dragged across the floor, which gradually wears down the finish and ultimately contributes to a dull look. Vacuuming vertically lifts the debris off the floor, ensuring nothing is dragged along the surface of the floor. If you're using a manual vacuum instead of a robotic vacuum, vacuum with the grain to reduce the risk of damage.

• **Apply wood flooring cleaner once per month.** If your wood floors are newly installed, ask your installer to recommend a cleaner specifically designed for the finish on your floor. If your floors are not new, contact a flooring professional for a recommendation. Wood flooring cleaners specific to a given floor's finish are important because these products are specialized and formulated with both cleaning and protection of the floor itself in mind. The right wood floor cleaner won't lead to dull-looking floors

nor damage the finish.

• **Recoat floors if they start to look dull.** The NWFA notes that recoating with wood floor finish every three to five years can renew the appearance of natural wood flooring that might be starting to look a little dull.

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## MINUTES OF REGULAR MEETING LEEDS CITY COUNCIL January 14, 2026

A regular meeting of the Leeds City Council was called to order by Mayor Nick Parslow on Wednesday, Jan. 14, 2026 at 6 p.m. at Leeds City Hall. Present were council members Tony Gratton, Kris Larson, Kyle Nelsen and Patrick Streyle. Also present were city employees Al Lundstrom and Gina Harkness. Adam Parslow and Brady Stoll joined the meeting briefly.

Sheriff Report -- The Benson County sheriff neither attended nor provided a report for the meeting.

Public Works -- Gratton made a motion, seconded by Larson, to accept the public works superintendent's report. The motion carried unanimously.

Financials -- A motion was made by Larson, seconded by Gratton, to accept employees' time sheets. The motion carried unanimously.

Larson made a motion, seconded by Nelsen, to accept the financial report. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Streyle, seconded by Larson, to approve the minutes with corrections from the Dec. 3, 2025 regular meeting. The motion carried unanimously.

New Business --

A motion was made by Nelsen, seconded by Streyle, to move forward with the proposed building repairs. The motion carried unanimously.

Gratton made a motion, seconded by Nelsen, to increase the personnel and equipment charge on the fee schedule from \$50/hour to \$100/hour. The motion carried unanimously.

A motion was made by Larson, seconded by Nelsen, to approve payroll and accounts payable. The motion carried unanimously. The bills were as follows:

Acme Tools .....	\$9,764.15
Aqua Pure, Inc. ....	254.50
B & J Excavating, Inc. ...	1,404.26
Banyon Data Systems ...	2,215.00
Blue Cross Blue Shield .	1,168.37
CenDak Cooperative ....	888.03
Farmers Union Oil Co. ....	
--York .....	319.95
First Dist. Health Unit ....	30.00
Gibbens Law Office .....	920.00
H. E. Everson Co. ....	49.95
Hawkins .....	2,672.86
Leah Biby .....	1,546.63
Leeds Airport Authority .	390.21
Leeds City Park District	3,000.00
Mac's Hardware .....	10.13
ND Telephone Co. ....	263.01
Northern Plains Elec. ....	594.85
Otter Tail Power Co. ....	2,302.32
Payroll .....	13,620.17
Plunkett's Pest Control ...	54.14
Quill Office Supply .....	229.27
Ritterman Excavating ....	32,348.62
Ritterman Trucking .....	4,164.80
Susag Sand & Gravel, Inc. ....	1,440.00
Verizon .....	159.58
Visa .....	1,024.49
Waste Management .....	6,226.57

A motion was made by Gratton, seconded by Larson, to adjourn the meeting. The motion carried unanimously. The meeting was adjourned at 8:16 p.m.

Gina Harkness  
City Auditor

Nick Parslow  
Mayor

## Seeking summer intern

Are you a high school or college student interested in journalism as a career or who wants to learn more about the newspaper industry? Sign up with us for a summer internship and gain valuable experience. You'll have the opportunity to cover local events and sharpen your writing skills. Call us at 1-701-473-5436 or email farmerspress@gondtc.com for more information.

## NEWS

## UPCOMING AG EVENTS NEAR YOU!

Hosted by North Star Community Credit Union

**Protect Your Bushel, Preserve Your Farm With Hurley & Associates**

Thursday, February 19 at 5:30pm  
At the Maddock Opera House

**Agriculture Market Update Seminar With Randy Martinson**

Wednesday, February 25 at 5:30pm  
At the Maddock Opera House



Scan here to RSVP and save your spot, or reach out to your loan officer to get on the list!



## County Positions up for Election

**Soil Conservation District - 6 year term**  
**Commission Districts #1, 3 and 5 - 4 year terms**  
**Clerk of Court - 4 year term**  
**Auditor/Treasurer - 4 year term**  
**State's Attorney - 4 year term**  
**County Recorder - 4 year term**  
**Sheriff - 4 year term**  
**Director - Garrison Diversion - 4 year term**  
**Official Newspaper - 4 year term**

**If you would like to see change, step up!**



## Now Hiring Drivers!

**Benson County Transportation, an EOE, is looking for a Public Transit Driver with hours available Monday through Friday 8:30 a.m. - 5:30 p.m.**

**On the job training. Part-time 20 hour week guaranteed. Based in Maddock.**

**Starting Wage \$20/hour**

**For application & more information contact Laura at 701-438-2192 or 701-473-5671.**

# SHEYENNE STAMPEDE KICKOFF EVENT

DISCOUNT NIGHT ON 2026 STAMPEDE TICKETS

LOCATED AT NEW ROCKFORD EAGLES CLUB

# 2026

FEBRUARY 21

SUPPER AT 6PM

MUSIC AT 8PM



## RYAN KEPLIN BAND

CHILI FEED & FRY BREAD

SILENT AUCTION AND GUN RAFFLE

LIVE MUSIC- RYAN KEPLIN BAND

PLEASE INVITE YOUR FRIENDS! WE WANT TO EXTEND AN INVITE TO YOUR PREVIOUS AND FUTURE SPONSORS FOR THE 2026 SHEYENNE RODEO & STAMPEDE!



**SHEYENNE RODEO CLUB**