

THE HB BUYER'S GUIDE TO FIREPLACES & HEATERS

AUSTRALIAN

# Home beautiful

## BEFORE & afters

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### Room of one's own

Everyone gets their own 'gym locker' in this mudroom on Sydney's Northern Beaches, created by interior designer Janette Stritt and architect Andrew Barnyak. Because the residents generally access the house directly from the garage or garden, often straight from the beach, sandy wet towels and flip-flops don't make it past the mudroom. The chequerboard tiles from Amber were selected by the homeowner, who saw them in a magazine. "They're porcelain and a bit more robust than marble," says Janette. Just what you need in a mudroom.

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### Double feature

Since it's likely to be a dumping ground for smelly socks and mud-soaked football jerseys anyway, the mudroom is the optimal spot for laundry appliances too. If you can, extend plumbing into your mudroom when planning a renovation or new build. To save on floor space, stack your washer and dryer, and consider a pull-out clothes hamper. A hanging rail is a must and if you live in a cold, rainy or even snowy climate, a drying cupboard can be a godsend. And make it nice! After all, someone will be spending a lot of time in there.

## 6 MAXIMUM EFFICIENCY

*Do you require lockers or cubbyholes for schoolbags? What about a drying cupboard? Drawers, hooks or hanging space? Dedicating spots for all the things you schlep to and from the car will keep your mudroom tidy and save your sanity. The owners of this contemporary-but-classic rural home (opposite) in the NSW Southern Highlands thought of everything. "All the winter jackets, boots, hats and firewood are stored on open shelves, rather than behind cupboard doors, because they're in constant use," says Darren Mills, director of Cadence & Co.*

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## CREATE FARMHOUSE VIBES

*Since the mudroom was conceived on farms, back when humans and animals lived in close quarters, it makes sense to channel your inner pastoralist when designing your 'boot room', as they say in the UK. "Mudrooms are a link between the home and the land. Simple materials with a 'natural language' – think timber, recycled bricks and wrought iron – will inject classic country charm into a mudroom," says Darren. "You can then layer up with detail to create more character."*

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## CIRCULATE, DARLING

*Because mudrooms house wet brollies, muddy boots and all the damp things you don't want passing the threshold, it's important to ensure yours is well ventilated. A louvre window or Dutch door will invite fresh air to flow while keeping kids and pets in (or out). An exhaust fan or dehumidifier will also help. "Drawers with mesh panels will allow shoes and sports gear to breathe," adds interior designer Anna Spiro.*

*Above left: The hardwood timber bench in this Stritt Design & Construction-built mudroom is the perfect place to peel off wetsuits or wipe down golf clubs.*

## Beautiful DESIGN

*The brief for the mudroom of this contemporary homestead, designed by Cadence & Co, was to make it less rural and more modern. "As such, the palette is more finished," explains Cadence & Co director Darren Mills. "The floor, for example, is solid hardwood boards in a polished finish rather than a more rustic or raw option." The owners can add or subtract charming accoutrements to this blank canvas as they wish. >*

