

1977

EC77-2045 Workroom Planning

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Workroom Planning

THE UTILITY OR WORKROOM

Care of family clothing probably ranks second only to meal preparation in the list of important jobs for the homemaker.

If you have the room, combining the sewing center and the laundry center makes a complete clothes care center. This encourages mending before laundering. Pressing equipment and sorting tables can also be used for both activities.

This section will look at the ingredients of two centers. Use the checklist provided.

Laundry

Venting, noise and possible breakdown of equipment all will influence where you locate your laundry center. A central location near bath and bedroom reduces carrying and saves steps. But this may be secondary to some other features of your home.

Some possible locations for laundry equipment include:

- . kitchen or family room
- . bathroom
- . basement
- . specific utility or workroom

An efficient laundry area will provide space for all the activities involved:

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Collection and storage | Drip drying |
| Sorting | Machine drying |
| Pretreating | Folding clothes |
| Hand laundry | Ironing |
| Machine washing | Temporary storage for clean clothes |

A counter six feet long will provide a good sorting and folding space. Placing bins, baskets or boxes either above or below will provide for a convenient method of sorting clothing as it accumulates. A deep laundry sink is also nice to have.

Space required for a washing machine and a dryer will depend upon the exact size of each. Both vary from 24" to 30" wide (61-76 cm). Top opening washers requires space above the machine. Front opening machines require 3' to 3' 6" in front (91.5-107 cm) for opening doors.

When placing the appliances beware of the swing of the doors to provide easy, convenient loading and unloading of the machine.

Hanging space is desirable as close to the dryer as possible. Space for drip drying is also desirable. Ironing equipment should be close by. Approximately 4' 9" x 6' of floor space (144.5-182.8 cm) is needed for ironing.

The arrangement of this area should allow for a logical sequence of work. This generally means in the following order: collecting, sorting, pretreating (sink), washing, drying, folding, hanging and ironing.

Checklist For Laundry Area

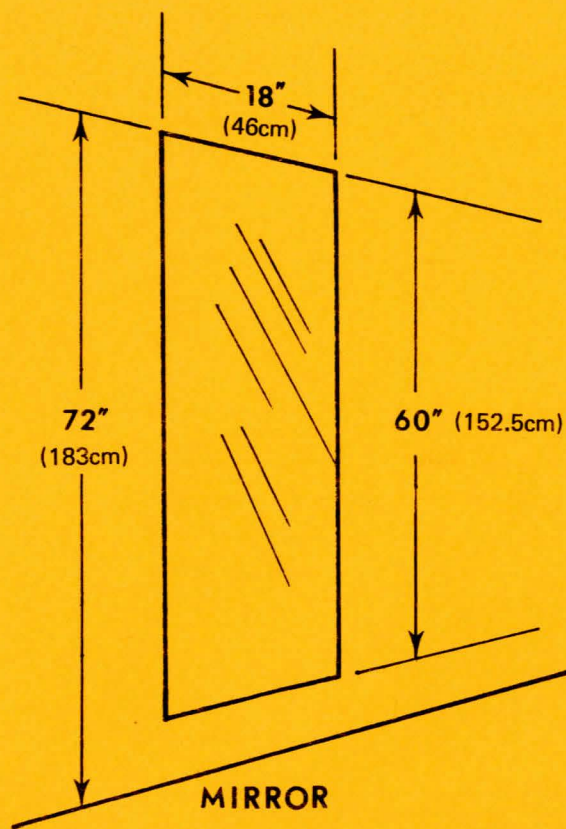
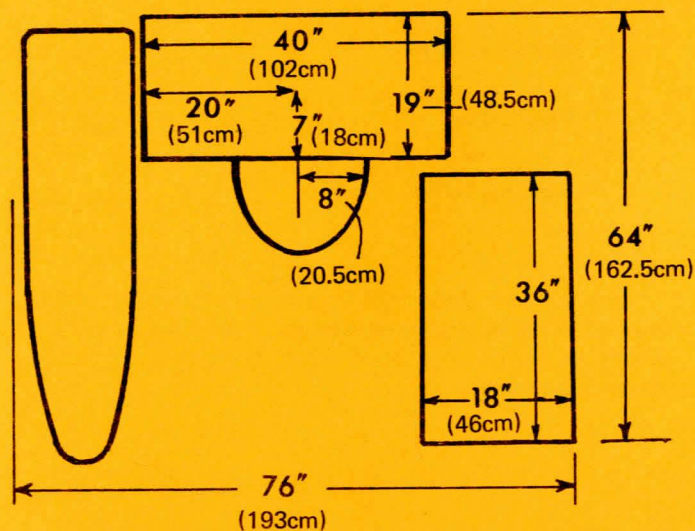
Analyze your present or future laundry area.

	Yes	No
1. Location		
Centrally located	_____	_____
No problems in water overflows	_____	_____
Laundry and sewing combined or close together	_____	_____
	Min.	Liberal
2. Work Space		
Space in front of washer	_____	_____
Space in front of dryer	_____	_____
Spacing for ironing	_____	_____
Sorting table or counter space	_____	_____
3. Storage for supplies	_____	_____

Arrangement

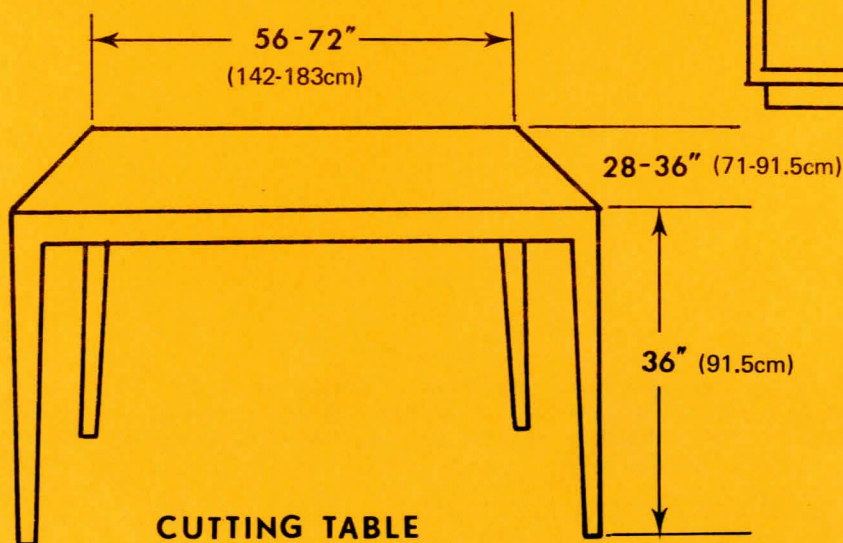
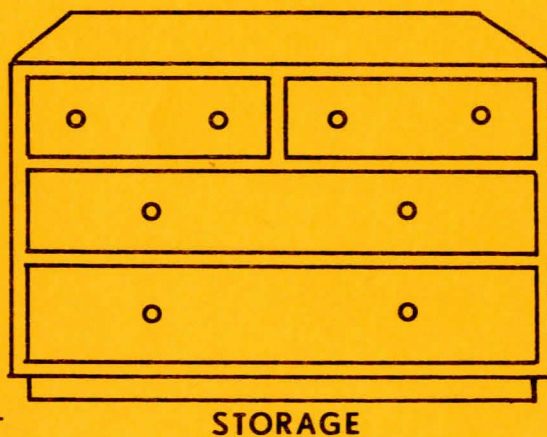
These ingredients may be arranged in a U shape, an L shape, in one line or in facing lines. The U shape is the most convenient arrangement.

In any arrangement, for a right-handed seamstress, the sewing table should be in the center of the side table on the right and the ironing board on the left. The left-handed seamstress would want the reverse arrangement.



You will also need a comfortable chair (one on casters is great), a good light, a wastebasket and perhaps a bulletin board on which to pin your guide sheet.

Outside of this area you will want a fitting area with a good mirror, a good surface for cutting and adequate storage for your equipment and supplies.



Checklist For Sewing

Analyze your present or proposed sewing center.

	Min.	Liberal
1. Work Space		
Sewing table space	_____	_____
Machine table	_____	_____
Side table	_____	_____
Cutting table	_____	_____

Adapted by Betsy Gabb, Housing Specialist, from material prepared by Gwen Cooper, former Gage County Extension Agent, and Mary Dale Christensen, Former Housing Specialist.

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