

Taunton's

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Built-Ins

I D E A B O O K



Cabinets
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Laundry rooms
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Closets
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Pantries



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drawers vs. pull-out shelves

In base cabinets, drawers have their advantages but so do pull-out shelves. With low sides and fronts, pull-out shelves allow a quick inventory of their contents. On the other hand, because their walls aren't as high as those of a drawer, items can fall out; a drawer is better at corralling its contents. Another advantage of a drawer is that it takes just one motion to see what's inside. With a pull-out shelf, you first have to open a cabinet door and then tug on the shelf. (There are base cabinets, however, that feature a stack of pull-out shelves attached directly to the cabinet door panel that glides straight out with one motion.) Finally, you may want to consider cost: An all-drawer base cabinet is more expensive than one with a drawer on top and a door concealing pull-out shelves on the bottom.



ABOVE More than the standard cutlery drawer, this one is customized to suit specific needs and incorporates a sliding compartment at the top to provide easy access to items at the back.

RIGHT When closed, this cabinet appears to be three graduated drawers. In fact, though, the top drawer is conventionally outfitted for flatware while the bottom portion is outfitted with canisters to hold utensils.



ACCOMMODATE YOUR FAMILY'S NEEDS

back entryway built-ins need not be a complex set of cabinets. In fact, simple, easy-to-use elements can often be the best choice. If family members come and go on the run, hooks and pegs might be a better option for coats and hats than a full-fledged closet with hangers. By the same token, baskets and open shelves can make for easy storage and retrieval. Here are a few suggestions for entryway built-ins:

- Place hooks or a dedicated basket at elbow-height for commonly misplaced items like keys and sunglasses.
- By the back door, devote a basket to outgoing mail and library books.
- Build in charging stations for electronics, either a centrally located strip of outlets or outlets in individual lockers.
- Provide enough hooks for in-season coats, jackets, scarves, and hats.
- Supply wall hooks for backpacks or, if each family member has his or her own locker, benches or shelves on which to set them.
- Designate a place for in-season sports gear.
- Provide a place for wet boots.
- To comfortably put on and take off shoes, build in a bench, which can double as storage with doors or drawers below.
- Don't forget about the four-legged members of the family; provide storage space for leashes, kennels, and bowls.

TOP RIGHT Built-in cabinets in this mudroom are topped with a solid surface that reaches down to create a tub for the family dog. One of the cabinets features standard door and drawer storage; the other was left open to create space for a comfy dog bed.

BOTTOM RIGHT Built-in storage is shared with the family pets in this mudroom. Open shelving houses bins for gloves and scarves as well as dog toys; coat hooks provide a space for dog leashes. The stroke of brilliance, though, is in the built-in food and water bowls, including the dedicated faucet.



LEFT In this mudroom, coat hooks make it easy to retrieve outerwear at a moment's notice, and there's a comfy seat below where you can pull on your boots. Just beyond—in addition to plenty of built-in storage—the laundry area makes it possible to throw dirty clothes in the wash before even entering the living spaces.

BOTTOM LEFT This mudroom accommodates an active family. On one wall, coat hooks line up behind a bench, while, on the opposite wall, cubbies, drawers, and bins keep all kinds of sports equipment organized. To the left of the closet at the far end of the room is a small door that's the model of convenience; it opens to access a stack of firewood.

BOTTOM RIGHT Back entryways can often have a cluttered look, but thanks to closed storage, this one is anything but. On one wall, a built-in takes on the look of a fine cabinet, while a nearby bench is underscored by drawer storage. The high cupboards are perfect for little-used items.

