



Get Your Home Show Ready

A Home Seller's Checklist

Here are a few tips that can help you get your home ready to show.

Clean everything. Cleanliness signals to a buyer that the home has been well cared for and is most likely in good repair. A messy or dirty home will cause prospective buyers to notice every flaw.

Unclutter your home. Have a garage sale. Empty closets. Donate what you can't sell. The less "stuff" in and around a home, the roomier it will seem.

Let the light in. Open the blinds. Put brighter bulbs in all the lamps. Bright, open rooms feel larger and more inviting. Dark rooms feel small and gloomy.

Let fresh air in. If the weather is nice, open the windows. Fresh flowers and potpourri can also be used to your advantage.

Send the kids to Grandma's or take them on a walk around the block. Children can be noisy and distracting to someone interested in looking at a home.

Paint. There's nothing that improves the value of a home more than a few cans of paint. And it's so often easier to paint a room than it is to scrub it. Stick with neutral colors.

Keep the noise down. Keep the noise down. Turn off T.V. and turn on soft instrumental background music.

KITCHEN

Clean/wash:

- Keep dishes and food out of sight
- Clean appliances
- Clean range hood, including light bulbs
- Clean behind appliances

- Keep floor clean
- Clean light fixtures
- Make sure all electrical outlets work
- Eliminate cooking odors
- Deodorize garbage disposal, dishwasher, and refrigerator

- Repair faucets
- Put fresh shelf paper in cabinets
- Organize cupboards
- Clean under sink
- Replace garbage disposal gasket to reduce noise

BATHROOMS

Keep them spotlessly clean:

- Keep wastebaskets empty/clean
- Clean out cabinets and remove nonessentials
- Keep fresh, clean towels on towel racks

- Clean shower door - if sliding door, keep track well lubricated
- Remove soap residue, mildew and mold from sink/tub/shower
- Replace shower curtain

- Make sure toilet flushes properly; replace mechanism if necessary
- Clean exhaust fan, heater; replace if broken or noisy

EXTERIOR

Replace, repair, and/or paint any damaged:

- Plaster
- Wood siding
- Trim
- Rain gutters
- Shutters
- Doors
- Window frames
- Glazing
- Screens
- Hardware
- Fences/gates
- Outdoor lighting

Clean/wash:

- Siding
- Windows
- Screen
- Outdoor BBQ
- AC unit
- Pool/spa
- Clean around service areas/trash cans
- Haul away rubbish
- Straighten woodpile
- Repair leaky faucets
- Clean up pet droppings
- Paint or varnish doors

- Make sure doorbell/knocker works
- Paint or replace street numbers on house
- Make sure septic tank is odor free
- Clean oil stains from driveway/street
- Patch/reseal driveway

Put 100-watt light bulbs in:

- Porch lights
- Carport
- Garage

ALL ROOMS

Clean especially around:

- Doors
- Windows
- Light switches
- Baseboards
- Chair rails
- Wash lace curtains and have draperies cleaned
- Remove or pull back dark curtains

- Lubricate window slides (soap for wood silicon or a candle stump for metal)
- Lubricate doors if necessary
- Clean ceiling light fixtures
- Check for cobwebs in all corners
- Fix any scratches in wooden floors
- Replace worn/broken flooring

- Remove or replace worn carpet
- Use area rugs where needed
- Empty wastebaskets
- Make the beds
- Fluff the pillows

CLOSETS

- Keep closets clean and free of clutter
- Throw out or pack away nonessentials
- Adjust/repair sliding doors
- Lubricate sliding door hardware
- Paint, if needed

BASEMENT

- Eliminate any signs of dampness
- Check for and eliminate cracks

GARAGE/CARPORT/ SHED

- Install 100-watt light bulbs
- Keep area clean/uncluttered
- Hang up/put away tools
- Clear away any cobwebs
- Remove oil/paint stains from floor
- Adjust tension rod to eliminate sag from overhead garage door
- Lubricate/adjust/repair garage door opener
- Paint if needed

HEATING/AIR CONDITIONING UNIT

- Vacuum
- Replace filter
- Clean intake vent
- Remove any stored items

LAUNDRY AREA

- Clean out area behind washer/dryer
- Eliminate any mildew odors