



Preparing & Showing

Your Home

A clean, neat home in need of few or no repairs will sell faster, and at a higher price, than one that is showing wear and tear. Here are a few tips to give your home its best possible presentation:

REPAIR & CLEANING CHECKLIST

EXTERIOR:

- ❑ Remove peeling and chipped paint; replace with a fresh coat.
- ❑ Clear gutters and downspouts. Remove any moss from the roof.
- ❑ Make sure there is good exterior lighting and all lights work.

YARD:

- ❑ Mow and trim grass; re-seed and fertilize where necessary.
- ❑ Prune all overgrown trees and shrubs. Weed flower beds.
- ❑ Remove or replace dead or diseased plants, shrubs and trees.
- ❑ Clean grease and oil stains from driveway.

DECKS/PATIOS:

- ❑ Repair or replace worn areas in wood decks. Paint or stain as needed.
- ❑ Clean and sweep concrete.
- ❑ Clean all deck rails and make sure they're secure.

FRONT DOOR:

- ❑ Polish the hardware on the door until it shines.
- ❑ Add a fresh coat of paint if needed.
- ❑ Verify the doorbell operates properly and there are no squeaks when the door opens and closes.

WINDOWS:

- ❑ Clean all windows—inside and out. Make sure they open and close easily.
- ❑ If needed, add a fresh coat of paint to the window trims and sills.
- ❑ Replace cracked windows and those with broken seals. Replace screens with holes or tears.





Preparing & Showing (continued)

MAIN LIVING AREAS & BEDROOMS:

- ❑ Give the room a fresh coat of paint if necessary; repair any cracks/holes; secure loose wallpaper.
- ❑ Repaint any woodwork that is worn or chipped.
- ❑ Clean draperies and blinds; open them to maximize light; ensure they are fully operational.
- ❑ Clean rugs and flooring.
- ❑ Position the furniture to showcase the size and space of the room.
- ❑ Remove and replace any attached items, such as chandeliers and draperies, that you wish to move with you.
- ❑ Put away toys and hobby supplies; remove extra magazines and books from tables.
- ❑ Downsize clutter in entry closet to give the appearance of spaciousness.

BASEMENT:

- ❑ Check for water penetration or dampness; call for professional repairs if necessary.
- ❑ Clean furnace and drains; sweep floor.
- ❑ Arrange storage area in a neat and organized manner.
- ❑ Ensure optimal lighting.

TIDY EXTRAS:

- ❑ Plant flowers to brighten the walkway and entry.
- ❑ Remove any indoor houseplants that are brown or losing their leaves.
- ❑ Remove cars, campers and boats.
- ❑ Discard the clutter of magazines on the coffee and end tables.
- ❑ Hide or discard worn-out throw pillows.
- ❑ Replace shower curtains and invest in a matching set of towels in the bathroom.
- ❑ At night, turn on porch light and outdoor lighting. Buyers often drive by homes they are considering at various times of day.

SHOWING CHECKLIST

- ❑ Remove pets. Take them with you or pen them in the yard or garage.
- ❑ Open blinds/curtains to let in light.
- ❑ Turn on enough lights so the home is well-lit.
- ❑ Remove clutter from tables and surfaces.
- ❑ Put away items in the yard such as garden tools, bicycles and toys.
- ❑ Grind up part of a lemon in the disposal to add a fresh smell to the kitchen.
- ❑ Keep radios and TVs off, or on low volume.
- ❑ Keep money and other valuables, as well as prescription drugs, locked up.

