



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.

