



# 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