

# Preparing Your Home

Your home has just one chance to make a great impression with each potential buyer. The following "tricks of the trade" will help you keep track of what needs to be done. The whole idea is to present a clean, spacious, clutter-free home-- the kind of place you'd like to buy. Accomplish a little every day, and before long your home will be ready to make the impression that can make the sale.

## Your Home's Curb Appeal

- Mow Lawn
- Trim shrubs
- Edge gardens and walkways
- Weed and mulch
- Sweep walkways and driveway, remove branches, litter, and debris
- Add color and fill in bare spots with plantings
- Remove mildew or moss from walls or walks with bleach and water or other cleaner
- Stack woodpile neatly
- Clean and repair patio/deck area
- Remove any outdoor furniture which is not in good repair
- Make sure pool/spa sparkles
- Replace old storm doors
- Check for flat-fitting roof shingles
- Repair broken windows and shutters, replace torn screens, make sure frames and seams have solid caulking
- Hose off exterior wood and trim, replace damaged bricks or wood
- Touch up exterior paint, repair gutters, and eaves
- Clean and remove rust from any window air conditioning units
- Paint the front door and mailbox
- Add new front door mat and consider a seasonal door decoration
- Shine brass hardware on front door, outside lighting features, etc.
- Make sure doorbell is in good working order

## General Interior Tips

- Add a fresh coat of interior paint in light, neutral colors
- Shampoo carpeting, replace if necessary
- Clean and wax hardwood floors, refinish if necessary
- Clean and wash kitchen and bathroom floors
- Wash all windows, vacuum blinds, wash window sills
- Clean fireplace
- Clean out and organize closets, add extra space by packing up items you won't need again until after you move
- Remove extra furniture, rugs and items you do not use
- Repair problems such as loose door knobs, cracked molding, leaking taps, and toilets, squeaky doors, closet or screen doors which are off their tracks
- Secure jewelry, cash and other valuables

## The Living Room

- Make it cozy and inviting, discard chipped or worn furniture and frayed or worn rugs

## Dining Room

- Polish any furniture
- Set the table for a formal dinner to help viewers imagine entertaining here



## The Kitchen

- \_\_\_ Make sure appliances are spotless inside and out
- \_\_\_ Make sure all appliances are in perfect working order
- \_\_\_ Clean often forgotten spots on top of refrigerator and under the sinks
- \_\_\_ Wax or sponge floor to brilliant shine, clean baseboards
- \_\_\_ Unclutter all counter space, remove countertop appliances
- \_\_\_ Organize items inside cabinets, pre-pack anything you won't be using before you move

## The Bathrooms

- \_\_\_ Remove all rust and mildew
- \_\_\_ Make sure tile, fixtures, shower doors, etc. are clean and shiny
- \_\_\_ Make sure all fixtures are in good repair and working order
- \_\_\_ Replace loose caulking or grout
- \_\_\_ Make sure lighting is bright, but soft

## The Bedroom(s)

- \_\_\_ Organize furnishings to create a spacious look with well-defined sitting, sleeping and dressing areas
- \_\_\_ Remove all clutter
- \_\_\_ Organize closets and pre-pack anything you won't be using before you move.

## Basement

- \_\_\_ Sell, give away or throw out any unnecessary items
- \_\_\_ Organize and create more floor space by hanging tools and items on shelves
- \_\_\_ Clean water heater and drain sediment
- \_\_\_ Change furnace filter

- \_\_\_ Make inspection access easy
- \_\_\_ Clean/paint concrete floors and walls
- \_\_\_ Provide strong overhead light

## The Garage/Shed

- \_\_\_ Sell, give away, or throw out any unnecessary items
- \_\_\_ Clean floors
- \_\_\_ Provide strong overhead light
- \_\_\_ Tidy storage and work areas

## The Attic

- \_\_\_ Sell, give away or throw out any unnecessary items
- \_\_\_ Make sure energy-saving insulation is apparent
- \_\_\_ Make sure vents are in working order
- \_\_\_ Provide strong overhead light
- \_\_\_ Pre-pack anything you won't be using before you move

## When It's Time To Show

- \_\_\_ Open all draperies and shades, and turn on all lights
- \_\_\_ Pick up toys and other clutters. Check to make sure beds are made and clothes are put away
- \_\_\_ Give carpets a quick vacuum
- \_\_\_ If weather permits, open windows for fresh air
- \_\_\_ Use air fresheners as needed
- \_\_\_ Put pets crates away or remove them from the home
- \_\_\_ Make sure pet areas are clean and odor-free
- \_\_\_ Make sure all trash is disposed of in neatly covered bins
- \_\_\_ Make sure all dishes are clean and put away

