



# PREPARING YOUR HOME FOR SALE

When we present your home in various digital formats and in person, we want potential buyers to see a clean, spacious clutter-free home - the kind of place they'd like to buy. The checklist below is prepared to help you start thinking about how to clean, declutter and stage your home as we prepare to put it on the market.

## YOUR HOME'S CURB APPEAL

- Mow law
- Trim shrubs
- Edge gardens and walkways
- Weed and mulch
- Sweep walkways and driveway, remove branches, litter or toys
- Clean and repair patio and deck areas
- Remove any outdoor furniture which is not in good repair
- Make sure pool or spa sparkles
- House of exterior wood and trim, replace damaged bricks or wood
- Add a new front door mat and consider seasonal door decoration
- Shine brass hardware on front door, outside lighting fixtures, etc.

## GENERAL INTERIOR TIPS

- Clean and wax hardwood floors, refinish if necessary
- Clean and wash kitchen and bathroom floors
- Wash all windows, vacuum blinds, wash window sills
- Clean the fireplace
- Clean out and organize closets, add extra space by packing clothes and items you won't need again until after you've moved
- Remove extra furniture, worn rugs, and items you don't use; keep papers, toys, etc. picked up--especially on stairways
- Repair problems such as loose door knobs, cracked molding, leaking taps and toilets, squeaky doors, closets or screen doors which are off their tracks
- Secure jewelry, cash and other valuables

## THE DINING ROOM

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

## THE KITCHEN

- Make sure appliances are spotless inside and out (try baking soda for cleaning Formica stains)
- 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 immaculate and shining
- Make sure all fixtures are in good repair
- Replace loose caulking or grout
- Make sure lighting is bright, but soft

## THE BASEMENT

- Sell, give away, or throw out unnecessary items
- Organize and create more floor space by hanging tools and placing items on shelves
- Change furnace filter
- Make inspection access easy
- Clean and paint concrete floor and walls
- Provide strong overhead light

## WHEN IT'S TIME TO SHOW

- Make sure your Property Profile is in plain view
- Open all draperies and shades, turn on all lights  
Pick up toys and other clutter, check to make sure beds are made and clothes are put away
- Give the carpets a quick vacuuming
- Add some strategically placed fresh flowers
- Open bathroom windows for fresh air
- Pop a spicy dessert or just a pan of cinnamon in the oven for aroma
- Turn off the television and turn on the radio music at a low volume
- Make a fire in the fireplace if appropriate
- Put pets in the backyard or arrange for a friend to keep them
- Make sure pet areas are clean and odor-free
- Make sure all trash

## THE DAY WE WILL BE TAKING PHOTOS OF YOUR HOME

- Turn on all lights
- Open blinds and curtains
- Hide trash cans, tissue boxes, and all signs of pet life.
- Clear refrigerator of all magnets and photos.
- Hide paper towels, napkins and kitchen hand towels.
- Clear the sink of all sponges, dishcloths, soap and dishes.
- Clear the bathroom of all toothbrushes, medications, and hair/beauty products.
- Clean mirrors and glass surfaces.
- Remove cars and trash bins from the driveway. Close garage doors.
- Mow grass and trim shrubs.