

Get Your Home Show Ready

A Home Seller's Checklist

INTERIOR

Clean:

- Doors
- Windows
- Light switches
- Baseboards
- Chair rails

Other tasks:

- Have draperies cleaned
- Remove or pull back dark curtains
- Lubricate squeaky door hinges
- Lubricate doors if necessary
- Clean ceiling fans
- Check for cobwebs in all corners

- Fix scratches in wooden floors
- Repair/replace broken flooring
- Have carpets cleaned
- Use area rugs if needed
- Empty wastebaskets
- Make beds
- Fluff or replace accent pillows

Paint:

- Paint/repaint rooms in neutral colors as needed

KITCHEN

- Keep dishes and food out of sight
- Clean appliances
- Clean range hood, including light bulbs
- Keep floor clean
- Clean light fixtures
- Test all electrical outlets
- Eliminate cooking odors
- Deodorize garbage disposal, dishwasher, and refrigerator
- Organize cupboards
- Clean under sink
- Replace garbage disposal gasket to reduce noise

BATHROOMS

- Clean out cabinets and remove nonessentials
- Keep fresh, clean towels on towel rack
- 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
- Clean exhaust fan, heater; replace if broken or noisy

CLOSETS

- Keep closets clean and free of clutter
- Throw out or pack away nonessentials

BASEMENT

- Eliminate any signs of dampness
- Check for and eliminate cracks

GARAGE/CARPORT/SHED

- Keep area clean and 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
- Remove any stored items

LAUNDRY AREA

- Clean out area behind washer/dryer
- Eliminate any mildew odors

HEATING/AIR CONDITIONING UNIT

- Vacuum
- Replace filter
- Clean intake vent

EXTERIOR

Replace, repair, and/or paint any damaged:

- Plaster
- Wood siding
- Trim
- Rain gutters
- Shutters
- Doors
- Window frames
- Screens
- Street numbers on house

- Fences/gates
- Outdoor lighting

Clean/wash:

- Siding
- Windows
- Screen
- Outdoor BBQ
- AC unit
- Pool/spa
- Clean around service areas/trash cans

- Haul away garbage/debris
- Straighten woodpile
- Repair leaky spigots
- Clean up pet droppings
- Test doorbell
- Clean oil stains from driveway

Put 100-watt light bulbs in:

- Porch lights
- Carport
- Garage



Additional Tips

Clean everything.

Cleanliness signals to a buyer that the home has been well cared for and is most likely in good repair. A messy home will cause buyers to notice every flaw.

Unclutter your home.

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.

Let some 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. Active children can be distracting to someone viewing 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.

Turn off TV and turn on soft instrumental background music.