



Preparing Your Home for a Showing/Open House

Your home is listed and now it's time for realtors and potential buyers to view your home. First impressions are everything when selling your home. You want to create a "buyer friendly" atmosphere where people can visualize themselves living in your house. Below is a handy checklist for you and your family to use to make it easy to get your home "show ready".

General

- Vacuum, sweep, dust, and tidy each of the rooms.
- Do a sniff test and take care of any odours. e.g. avoid meals the night before that have strong odours. - open windows, if possible, to let the fresh air in.
- Remove/hide valuables like jewelry, prescription medication, and personal items.
- Not everyone is a pet person so tuck away your pets' toys, bowl, and bed.
- Take your pet with you when your house is being shown.
- Open all curtains and blinds to let the natural light in.
- Turn on all the lights.
- Keep your home temperature comfortable - not too cold or too hot.

Exterior

- Pull cars out of the garage and driveway. This will highlight the storage inside the garage and give buyers an unobstructed view of your home from the curb.
- Clear ice, snow, personal items from your driveway, sidewalk, front entrance/porch, and backyard area.
- For nighttime showings, keep your exterior well lit.

Front Entrance & Stairs

- Stow away all items on tables, the floor and on the stairs.
- Keep your closets tidy.

Living Areas

- Stow away items such as toys, papers, magazines, mail, and food.
- Clear the floor for maximum flow.
- Straighten your pillows, throws, coffee and end tables.

Kitchen

- Buyers love to have plenty of counterspace so stow away items that are on your countertop (e.g. toaster, butcher block, etc.).
- Clean countertops.
- Remove dishes and dishcloths from your sink.
- Polish your sink, faucet, and appliances.
- Stow away anything on your appliances.
- Empty garbage and recycle bins.

Dining/Eat-In Area

- Clear your table.
- Straighten chairs.
- Stow away booster seats and highchairs.
- Wipe table and chairs.

Bathroom

- Stow away all personal items on the countertops, floors, and in the bath/shower – tuck away neatly under your sink.
- Flush all toilets and put down the toilet seat.
- Polish the sink, faucets, and mirrors.
- Set out the “nice” towels.
- Clean all items off the floor e.g. garbage containers, toilet brush holder.

Bedroom

- Make all your beds – tuck in sheets and fluff pillows.
- Stow away items from your nightstands, dressers, and on the floor.

Now, let's get your house sold!