

HOUSE PREP

Checklist

EXTERIOR:

- Remove peeling and chipped paint; replace with a fresh coat.
- Fix loose trim and fencing.
- Clear gutters and downspouts.
- Make sure there is good exterior lighting and all walkway lights and front-door lanterns work.
- Clean and repair the roof as needed.
- Clear garage of clutter and tidy shelves.
- Inspect chimney for cracks and damage.

YARD:

- Mow and trim grass; re-seed and fertilize where necessary.
- Prune all overgrown trees and shrubs.
- Weed flower beds.
- Remove or replace dead or diseased plants, shrubs and trees.
- Clean grease and oil stains from driveway.

DECKS/PATIOS:

- Paint or stain worn areas on wood decks.
- Remove grass growing in concrete cracks; sweep off debris from shrubs and trees.
- Clean all deck rails and make sure they're secure; replace missing slats or posts.
- Clean outdoor furniture.

FRONT DOOR:

- Polish or replace the door hardware so it shines.
- Add a fresh coat of paint to get rid of nicks.
- Clean the glass on the storm door; make certain the screen is secure.
- Make sure the doorbell operates properly and there are no squeaks when the door opens and closes.

WINDOWS:

- Clean all windows inside and out. If needed, add a fresh coat of paint to the window trims and sills.
- Make sure all windows open and close easily.
- Replace cracked windowpanes and those with broken seals.
- Make sure window screens are clean and secure; replace any screens with holes or tears.

ENTRY:

- Clean entryway floors and area rugs.
- Downsize clutter in the entry and entry closet to give the appearance of spaciousness.
- Double-check entry lighting to make sure it works.

THROUGHOUT:

- Clean all floors, carpets, walls and trim. Replace burned-out light bulbs.
- Empty trash.
- Remove family photos, valuables, and prescription drugs.

KITCHEN:

- Make sure countertops, grout, and sinks are clean and stain-free.
- Replace grout as needed.
- Fix dripping faucets.
- Organize pantry and cupboards so they appear clean, neat and spacious.
- Make sure the refrigerator and freezer are defrosted and free of odours.
- Clean the oven and cook-top thoroughly.
- Set the table.

LIVING/FAMILY/DINING ROOMS:

- Give rooms a fresh coat of paint as needed.
- Repair cracks and holes in ceiling and walls.
- Make sure all wallpaper is secure.
- Repaint any woodwork that is worn or chipped.
- Clean or replace draperies and blinds; open them to maximize light.
- Make sure draperies and blinds open and close.
- Steam-clean carpets.
- Clean rugs and wood flooring, and remove any stains or odors.
- Position the furniture to showcase the size and space of the room.
- Remove and replace any attached items, such as chandeliers and draperies, that you wish to move with you.
- Put away toys and hobby supplies; remove extra magazines and books from tables.

BATHROOMS:

- Make sure sinks, tubs, showers and countertops are clean and free of stains.
- Repair any leaky faucets.
- Remove grout and soap stains from tile.
- Replace any missing or cracked tiles or grout.
- Make sure all joints are caulked.
- Make sure all fixtures, including heat lamps and exhaust fans, are operating. Install a new shower curtain and buy matching towels.
- Store all supplies, such as toilet paper, shampoo bottles and cleansers, out of sight.

BEDROOMS:

- Repair cracks in ceiling and walls.
- Apply a fresh coat of paint if necessary.
- Make sure wallpaper is secure.
- Clean draperies and blinds; open them to maximize light.
- Put away toys, clothes, and clutter.
- Neatly make up the beds.
- BASEMENT: Check for water penetration or dampness; call for professional repairs if necessary.
- Get rid of musty odours.
- Clean furnace, hot water heater, and drains.
- Make sure light fixtures work.
- Arrange storage area in a neat and organized manner.
- Make sure stairway handrail is secure.

TIDY EXTRAS:

- Use air fresheners or bake treats to make the house smell good.
- Plant flowers to brighten a walkway and enrich the entry.
- Remove any indoor houseplants that are brown or losing their leaves.
- Remove all “fixer” cars, campers and boats from the property.
- Discard the clutter of magazines on the coffee and end tables.
- Tidy and declutter all closets.
- Hide or get rid of worn-out throw pillows.
- Store pet supplies.
- At night, turn on the porch light and outdoor lighting. Buyers often drive by homes they are considering at various times of day.



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