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Preparing your home, SO IT WILL SELL!

Note before you begin: The idea here is to somewhat de-personalize your home so that prospective buyers can vision themselves living in your home – similar to the feeling of entering a “model” home.

All Rooms

- ___ **Pack away ALL valuables, breakables and sentimental items!**
- ___ Remove boxes or stored items and put in garage or storage space.
- ___ Clean light switch covers, door frames and high traffic wall areas.
- ___ Vacuum (and possibly clean) carpets and/or sweep/dust mop wood floors.
- ___ Dust and remove cobwebs from ceilings and corners.
- ___ Remove all small throw rugs. (They can be a tripping hazard.)
- ___ Wash walls where necessary and touch up or re-paint where needed.
- ___ Complete any unfinished home projects. (ie: Missing molding around doors, incomplete painting/wallpapering, missing baseboard molding in kitchens and bathrooms, landscaping.)

Living Room

- ___ Pack away knick-knacks, magazines, and clutter from table tops, shelves and bookcases.
- ___ Pack away extra pillows, blankets, and excessive afghans from couches/chairs.
- ___ Keep personal photos, pictures and decorations on walls to a minimum.
- ___ Re-arrange furniture (if necessary) to maximize room usage and traffic flow.

Bedrooms

- ___ Pack away knick-knacks from night stands, headboards, windowsills.
- ___ Store all clothes and hampers in enclosed space. (ie: closet)
- ___ Keep dresser tops cleared off except for one or two items for color or balance.
- ___ Keep beds made. (Hint: Under a bed is a great place to quickly remove items from site.)

Office

- ___ Pack away-unused items from shelves, desktops, and floors. (ie: office supplies, software)
- ___ Conceal from site any confidential information. (ie: financials)

Note: Home offices tend to be cluttered by nature. Although it may be a slight inconvenience to clear out these rooms or conceal the clutter, it is worth it for the impression your home will give☺

Kitchen

_____ Clear countertops! Pack away or store the following items in cupboards. (Even if they are used on a daily basis.)

- Appliances (ie: coffee maker, blender, toaster, can opener)
- Cookie jars, dish drainers, utensil holders.
- Food items/Snacks

Note: It is not necessary to remove absolutely everything from counters, but less is better.)

_____ Keep towels and pot holders in a drawer and not hanging on appliances/hooks.

_____ Clear all magnets, notes, pictures off of refrigerator.

_____ Clear off all items from top of refrigerator! (Hint: Get a huge basket and put items in it and put this on top so all that is seen is the basket and not the clutter.

_____ Clean all appliance and cupboard faces and knobs with a grease cutting cleaner.

_____ Replace stove burner liners. (if applicable)

Bathrooms

_____ Clean, Clean, Clean! Floors, walls, tubs, showers, sinks, toilets, drawers, and mirrors.

_____ Remove hampers and waste baskets if possible. (Put wastebaskets in under sink cupboard.)

_____ Keep counters and backs of toilets free of knick-knacks, cosmetics and personal hygiene items.

_____ Remove bar soaps from sink edges. (Replace with pump soap if necessary.)

_____ Remove excess hair products, razors, wash clothes from shower/tub. (Keep tub-mat clean)

_____ Place fresh towels on racks or rolled and arranged in a basket.

Exterior

_____ Step back and view your home from the point of view of a passer-by. Take note of any items that others may and take care of them.

_____ Apply caulking around windows and corners and touch-up with paint where needed.

_____ Clean doorways and windows to remove dirt and grime, cob webs, dried leaves, etc.

_____ Sweep porches and decks. (If these areas are small, remove and store away barbecues, briquettes and lighter fluid, extra or old beaten up lawn furniture, garden tools, lawnmower)

_____ Pull weeds and manicure lawns and/or flower beds if applicable.

_____ Apply a fresh layer of bark dust to flower beds and borders.

Extras

- **Safety:** remove prescription medications from medicine cabinets- store in an inconspicuous place.
- Place bright flowers (or flower bowl) at front door/porch.
- Place plug-in air fresheners (light scent) in odor prone areas (ie: location of cat box or diaper pail)
- If your bathroom towels are in despair, buy new sets to display.
- Replace old dark or out-dated curtains with inexpensive mini-blinds or light curtain panels.
- Remove window air conditioners if you can stand it. They are nice, but sometimes unsightly.
- If you have an indoor litter box, make sure to keep it clean and as odor free as possible.
- If you have small children, try to keep toys from being scattered on the floor. (Not only is it hard to get around, but it can be a tripping hazard. Purchase an inexpensive laundry basket(s) and keep in the corner for “quick clean ups”.)
- Replace any burned out light bulbs (interior and exterior)
- Keep unscented baby wipes on hand for quick clean-ups all around the home.