

# Preparing Your Home for Show

## Outside your home...

1. Keep your — lawn well trimmed and edged. Trim shrubs. Remove all dead limbs and debris.
2. Plant some extra flowers for color — or just put some pots of flowers beside the front door.
3. Put away lawn equipment. Arrange outdoor items, such as firewood or outdoor furniture, neatly.
4. Walk your fence line. Repair broken areas, and paint or stain spots in poor condition.
5. Check surfaces such as siding, window sashes, trim, and shutters. Touch up with paint, or clean.
6. Make sure the entry light and doorbell work. Paint, stain, or clean the door if needed.
7. Clean out debris in gutters. Touch up with paint if needed; realign if crooked.
8. Check the roof for shingles or flashing that needs replacing.
9. Fix broken windows and screens. Wash them.
10. Wash driveways and sidewalks. Patch holes.
11. Replace faded house numbers with shiny new brass ones.
12. If needed, repaint or replace the mailbox.



People often buy a home based on their feelings about it. If you're intending to sell your home, it's important to keep this in mind: Regardless of your location and price, something about your home "feels" wrong, buyers will look elsewhere.

Get the competitive edge by make sure all areas of your home are shipshape before putting it on the market.

14. No matter what the season, consider it spring — and do your "spring cleaning."
15. Buy higher-intensity light bulbs and put them in every lamp in the house. They'll make the rooms seem warmer and brighter.
16. Brighten things with fresh paint. It costs very little, and white, off-white, or beige walls make a room look bigger and lighter. They're also more likely to go with the new buyer's furnishings.
17. Clean all your windows and mirrors so they sparkle.
18. Check all closets for neatly arranged clothes and as few items as possible stored on overhead shelves and on floors.
19. Leave kitchen countertops as clear as you can. Arrange the inside of kitchen cabinets and cupboards in an orderly manner.
20. Clean the oven and all appliances. Polish the chrome on the sink. Polish the tub, toilet, and bathroom sink.
21. Go through the basement, attic, and garage, and organize them so they appear as spacious, neat, and as clean as possible. It's a great time to have a garage sale!
22. Launder draperies and curtains if needed.
23. Shampoo carpets and wax floors. Consider replacing your carpet if it really looks worn. You may not recover the costs, but your home may sell faster.
24. Get out your tool kit: Tighten loose doorknobs, pulls on drawers and cabinets, towel racks, switch plates, and outlet covers. Fix sticking doors and windows, squeaky doors, loose stair banisters, and the like. Replace cracked switch plates. Repair and clean caulking around tubs and sinks. Fix leaky faucets; remove water stains.

## Inside your home...

13. Arrange the furniture and discard unused items — so each room appears as spacious as possible.



**Millwood**  
Realty, Inc.

