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Creating a Clean, Orderly Space: Prepping Your Home for Sale

Current market conditions have made selling a home even more competitive than usual. According to [Shawn Strach](#) from Dream Real Estate, today's buyers want to drop their personal items into a finished home and not invest any sweat equity. Even though we're currently experiencing a seller's market, your home still needs to be in pristine condition. Often, a buyer's decision comes down to a simple detail, something you may have overlooked that another homeowner did not. That means maintaining an attention-grabbing exterior and an immaculate interior with features that buyers are looking for. Ultimately, your objective should be to create a look that makes a positive and memorable impression on prospective buyers. Here are a few effective tips recommended by most realtors.

Commit to Curb Appeal

Remember, the first impression you make is the most important one because it either will or will not encourage a passerby to investigate further. Shabby [landscaping](#), a cracked walk or driveway, and loose objects scattered throughout the yard won't give anyone the impression that yours is a well-cared-for and desirable property, even if you've created a glittering showplace inside. The lawn should be evenly mowed, bushes and hedges should be well-trimmed, and your home's facade should be clean and brightly painted. One of the best moves you can make to add curb appeal is to brighten up your [front door](#) with a fresh coat of paint or install a new one.

Don't Overlook Imperfections

No home buyer wants to see a cracked window or paint that's chipping or peeling off. Make the investment to keep everything repaired and in great shape at all times -- you never know when a motivated buyer will happen by. Dwell on the details. If your house number is missing a number or if the mailbox is tilting or falling apart, it's worthwhile to make those corrections right away. One oversight can leave visitors thinking they'll probably find other signs of disrepair or issues they'd have to pay for as the new owners. That's a good way to encourage someone to look for the next "For Sale" sign.

Declutter

A clean, clear, and unimpeded sense of [flow](#) is important to buyers, so make sure that loose objects, papers, and excessive furniture have been picked up, organized, or cleared out. That way, a potential buyer can envision how they might transform your space into theirs. Go room by room and organize all the bric-a-brac into separate piles for what you'll throw away, what you'll donate, and what you'll give away. While you're at it, don't forget to depersonalize your living environment. Don't forget to organize your [closets](#) and drawer space, as discriminating buyers will certainly look into every corner and crevice. Part of allowing someone to see your home as their own is to remove personal photos, mementoes, and anything that marks the space out as definitively yours. Don't worry, you can put it all back when your visitors leave.

Make It Smell Good

There's no way around the fact that everyone's house accumulates distinctive [odors](#) over years of living. Strach suggests two smells that can turn off a buyer are: smoke and pet odors. Bear in mind that people coming into your home for the first time can't help but be affected by the lingering smell of cigarette smoke or cat urine. First, air the place out and light scented candles to remove those nasty odors. Keep in mind for stubborn odors, you may need to repaint your home and remove draperies or anything the odors may have penetrated. You'll also mask the fact that you're a pet owner. Along those lines, make sure your pets are out of sight and out of mind whenever you hold an open house. Find a [pet sitter](#) or a friend who can host your furry friend for a few hours.

Selling a home means putting your best foot forward as a homeowner and giving potential buyers something to see that they'll remember. Create a clean and orderly space both inside and out. Make it easy for visitors to imagine themselves being happy in your house.

Article provided by Natalie Jones from HomeownerBliss.info.