

20 Steps To Sell Your Home

1. **Make the Most of that First Impression**

A well-manicured lawn, neatly trimmed shrubs and a clutter-free porch welcome prospects. So does a freshly painted - or at least freshly scrubbed - front door. If it's autumn, rake the leaves. If it's winter, shovel the walkways. The fewer obstacles between prospects and the true appeal of your home, the better.

2. **Invest a Few Hours for Future Dividends**

Here's your chance to clean up in real estate. Clean up the living room, the bathroom, the kitchen. If your woodwork is scuffed or the paint is fading, consider some minor redecoration. Fresh wallpaper adds charm and value to your property. Prospects would rather see how great your home really looks than hear how great it COULD look, "with a little work."

3. **Check Faucets and Bulbs**

Dripping water rattles the nerves, discolors sinks and suggests faulty or worn-out plumbing.

Burned out bulbs leave prospects in the dark. Don't let little problems detract from what's right with your home.

4. **Don't Shut Out a Sale**

If cabinets or closet doors stick in your home, you can be sure they will also stick in a prospect's mind. Don't try to explain away sticky situations when you can easily plane them away. A little effort on your part can smooth the way toward a closing.

5. **Think Safety**

Homeowners learn to live with all kinds of self-set booby traps: rollerskates on the stairs, festooned extension cords, slippery throw rugs and low hanging overhead lights. Make your residence as non-perilous as possible for uninitiated visitors.

6. **Make Room for Space**

Remember, potential buyers are looking for more than just comfortable living space. They're looking for storage space too. Make sure your attic and basement are clean and free of unnecessary items.

7. **Consider Your Closets**

The better organized a closet, the larger it appears. Now's the time to box up those unwanted clothes and donate them to charity.

8. **Make Your Bathrooms Sparkle**

Bathrooms sell homes, so let them shine. Check and repair damaged or unsightly caulking in the tubs and showers. For added allure, display your best towels, mats and shower curtains.

9. Create Dream Bedrooms

Wake-up prospects to the cozy comforts of your bedrooms. For a spacious look, get rid of

excess furniture. Colorful beadsreads and fresh curtains are a must.

10. Open up in the Daytime

Let the sun shine in! Pull back your curtains and drapes so prospects can see how bright and

cheery your home is.

11. Lighten up at Night

Turn on the excitement by turning on all your lights - both inside and outside - when showing

your home in the evening. Lights add color and warmth, and make prospects feel welcome.

12. Avoid Crowd Scenes

Potential buyers often feel like intruders when they enter a home filled with people. Rather than

giving your house the attention it deserves, they're likely to hurry through. Keep the company to

a minimum.

13. Watch Your Pets

Dogs and cats are great companions, but not when you're showing your home.

Pets have a talent

for getting underfoot. Do everybody a favor: keep Kitty and Spot outside, or at least out of the

way.

14. Think Volume

Rock-and-roll will never die, but it might kill a real estate transaction. When it's time to show

your home, it's time to turn down the stereo or TV.

15. Relax

If you must be present at the time of your showing, be friendly, but don't try to force

conversation. Prospects want to view your home with a minimum of distraction.

16. Don't Apologize

No matter how humble your abode, never apologize for its shortcomings. If a prospect

volunteers a derogatory comment about your home's appearance, let your REALTOR handle the

situation.

17. Keep a Low Profile

Nobody kows your home as well as you do. But your REALTOR knows buyers - what they

need and what they want. Your REALTOR will have an easier time articulating the virtues of your home if you stay in the background.

18. Don't Turn Your Home Into a Second-Hand Store

When prospects come to view your home, don't distract them with offers to sell those

furnishings you no longer need. You may lose the biggest sale of all.

19. Defer to Experience

When prospects want to talk price, terms, or other real estate matters, let them speak to an

expert.

20. Help Your Agent

Your REALTOR will have an easier time selling your home if showings are scheduled through

our office. You'll appreciate the results!