

What to Remove Before Selling Your Home

Buyers should notice your home—not your belongings. Use this checklist to remove distractions, create inviting spaces, and help buyers picture themselves living there. You got this!

Personal Items ~ Help Buyers Picture Themselves Here

Personal belongings remind buyers they're touring someone else's home. Pack these items away to create a more neutral environment.

- ☐ Family photos, wedding portraits, and graduation pictures
- ☐ Children's artwork, school projects, and report cards
- ☐ Diplomas, trophies, awards, and certificates
- ☐ Personalized signs, monograms, and family-name décor
- ☐ Memorial displays, keepsakes, and personal collections

Sensitive Items ~ Keep the Home Welcoming to Everyone

Buyers have different backgrounds and beliefs. Remove potentially divisive or uncomfortable items so everyone feels welcome.

- ☐ Religious symbols, artwork, books, and devotional displays
- ☐ Political signs, flags, campaign materials, and slogans
- ☐ Provocative artwork, lingerie, and intimate personal items
- ☐ Firearms, ammunition, and weapon collections
- ☐ Cannabis products, paraphernalia, and related décor

Distinctive Décor ~ Remove Major Distractions

Memorable décor should never overshadow the home itself. Pack away items that might distract, overwhelm, or unsettle buyers.

- ☐ Taxidermy, animal skins, antlers, and hunting trophies
- ☐ Oversized sports memorabilia and themed collections
- ☐ Novelty signs, excessive figurines, and crowded displays
- ☐ Out-of-season holiday decorations and artificial plants
- ☐ Broken, dated, or overly dramatic decorative items

Cleaning Supplies ~ Show the Clean, Not the Cleanup

Buyers should notice that your home feels clean without seeing the tools and products behind it.

- ☐ Spray bottles, sponges, dish soap, and cleaning wipes
- ☐ Mops, brooms, vacuum cleaners, and carpet machines
- ☐ Toilet brushes, plungers, and visible bathroom trash
- ☐ Laundry detergent, stain removers, and bulk supplies
- ☐ Pest traps, odor removers, and heavily scented sprays

Bathroom and Kitchen Items ~ Clear the Countertops

Open surfaces make kitchens and bathrooms feel larger, cleaner, and more functional.

- ☐ Toothbrushes, cosmetics, razors, and hair tools
- ☐ Medications, supplements, and personal hygiene products
- ☐ Extra shower products, damp towels, and laundry hampers
- ☐ Refrigerator magnets, family photos, paperwork, and mail
- ☐ Small appliances, food containers, spices, and dish racks

Furniture and Clutter ~ Let Every Room Breathe

Excess furniture and everyday clutter make rooms feel smaller and distract from the home's best features.

- ☐ Oversized or unused furniture blocking windows or walkways
- ☐ Excess pillows, blankets, accessories, and crowded shelves
- ☐ Stacks of magazines, paperwork, chargers, and visible cords
- ☐ Exercise equipment, hobby supplies, and unfinished projects
- ☐ Worn rugs, damaged furniture, and extra decorative items

Closets and Storage ~ Make Storage Feel Spacious

Buyers will open closets and cabinets. Give them room to see the storage your home offers.

- ☐ Out-of-season clothing, extra shoes, and unused accessories
- ☐ Excess hangers, linens, bedding, and duplicate household items
- ☐ Luggage, seasonal decorations, and oversized storage bins
- ☐ Broken electronics, unused appliances, and miscellaneous clutter
- ☐ Items crowding closet floors, shelves, and cabinet interiors

Pet Items ~ Keep the Focus on the Property

Visible pet supplies can make buyers worry about odors, damage, or cleanliness. Store them before photos and showings.

- ☐ Food bowls, pet beds, toys, leashes, and grooming supplies
- ☐ Litter boxes, crates, scratching posts, and pet gates
- ☐ Pet hair, damaged furniture, and scratched surfaces
- ☐ Yard waste, outdoor feeding stations, and pet accessories
- ☐ Strong pet odors or products used to cover them

Valuables and Private Information ~ Protect Your Privacy

Secure personal, valuable, or sensitive items before opening your home to potential buyers.

- ☐ Jewelry, cash, credit cards, and small electronics
- ☐ Passports, identification, and financial documents
- ☐ Prescription medications, spare keys, and garage remotes
- ☐ Password lists, confidential paperwork, and personal mail
- ☐ Family heirlooms and irreplaceable keepsakes

Outdoor Items ~ Create Clean, Inviting Spaces

Outdoor areas should feel usable, welcoming, and easy to maintain.

- ☐ Broken furniture, worn cushions, and unnecessary patio décor
- ☐ Toys, sports equipment, garden tools, and uncoiled hoses
- ☐ Empty planters, dead plants, and visible trash containers
- ☐ Extra vehicles, trailers, building materials, and unused equipment
- ☐ Pool supplies, pet items, and outdated seasonal decorations

Final Walk-Through ~ See Your Home Through a Buyer's Eyes

- ☐ Clear countertops, tabletops, and walkways
- ☐ Open closets and remove anything that feels overcrowded
- ☐ Store personal items, cleaning supplies, and pet accessories
- ☐ Secure valuables, medications, and sensitive documents
- ☐ Remove one more unnecessary item from each room
- ☐ Take a breath, admire your progress, and remember: You got this!