

HOME SELLER'S

A STEP BY STEP GUIDE TO GETTING YOUR HOUSE READY TO SELL







HIRE A REALTOR

If you haven't already hired someone, today is the day. A realtor will need a few weeks to schedule and prepare the marketing required to list your home for sale. An experienced listing agent will also guide you through the home preparation and staging process. If you require assistance they can pass along contacts for home organizers, stagers and contractors. Call the SAM Team for our recommendations.



MAKE A LIST OF SMALL REPAIRS AND GET SPARE KEYS CUT

Go through your home and make a list of all the little repairs and fixes that need to be completed. If you aren't able to repair them yourself, hire a handyman to help. Get an extra set of keys cut at your local hardware store. These can be put in the lockbox so buyers and their agents can get access to your home.



PICK UP BOXES, TAPE AND GET A STORAGE UNIT

Consider renting a pod or storage unit as you declutter.





GET A PRE-INSPECTION

It's best to know about any deficiencies or potential challenges in advance of negotiations. Doing it up front gives you the opportunity to fix any issues. You can also factor them into the asking price and set expectations if you know in advance. Call the SAM Team for our list of professional home inspectors.



GATHER PAPERWORK AND ORDER AN UPDATED RPR

Pull together utility bills, tax bills, renovation details, warranties, and mortgage details. You will be required to provide an updated Real Property Report (RPR). If you have made ANY changes outside (new deck, fence, shed) this information must be reflected on the RPR. If you are in a condo, order condo documents from your association. Contact the SAM Team to get help organizing these details.



DECLUTTER DINING AREAS AND ADD CENTERPIECE

Get rid of the junk! Make these areas look like a pleasant room to share a meal and add something pleasing to the center of the table like a decorative bowl or flowers.



DECLUTTER STORAGE AREAS IN BASEMENT AND ATTIC

Best to tackle this early in the process! Make it look as spacious and clean as possible. Make a pile to donate, a pile to throw away and find storage for the things you want to keep.



DECLUTTER LIVING ROOMS, HIDE WIRES AND DEPERSONALIZE

Clean the furniture, get rid of the clutter, and find a tidy way to store the toys. Dust and organzie the book cases. Consider adding lamps and new throw pillows. Hide the wires of the TV. Remove all personal items such as family photos and collections so that potential buyers can picture themselves living there.



CLEAR OUT CLOSETS, CABINETS AND PANTRY

Go through the closets and remove clothing, coats and shoes that need to be donated, thrown away or stored. Organize the clothes closets and consider buying hangers so they are all uniform. Remove extra dishes and items not required in the kitchen cabinets. Throw away expired food and organize the pantry and medicine cabinets. Buyers will take a peek inside these areas so try to make them look as spacious and tidy as possible.





STORE, DONATE OR TOSS ITEMS

Now that you have made piles that need to be stored, donated or thrown out, make a trip to the donation box and the garbage bin. Box up items that you want to store and put them neatly in a storage room or storage unit.



Now that the house is decluttered and organized, it's time to start deep cleaning. Start by inspecting the walls and doors. Wipe them down or use a magic eraser to tackle stubborn spots. Make note of areas that need to be touched up with paint.



SCRUB STAINS AND MILDEW FROM SINKS AND TILE AND MAKE YOUR BATHROOMS SPARKLE

Remove all your toiletries from the vanities and showers and tuck them away. Scrub the tiles on the floor and walls. Remove hard water stains and build up around faucets and shower heads. Scrub water stains off your glass shower doors. Replace your toilet seats if required.







CLEAN THE GARAGE AND DRIVEWAY

Sweep and power wash the garage floor and driveway. If it is winter, make sure ice and snow is removed. Get some metal shelving and bins to store miscellaneous items. Hang tools and gardening equipment on walls and get as much off the floor as possible.



CLEAN THE APPLIANCES

Clean the oven. Empty the fridge, throw away all expired food and wipe shelves and drawers down before refilling. Scrub the microwave, clean the hood fan and scrub around the range burners. Remove all magnets and papers from the fridge doors. Clean all appliance handles and knobs.



CLEAN LIGHT FIXTURES AND REPLACE BURNT OUT BULBS

Dust all light fixtures and lamp shades. Replace bulbs that have burnt out.



CLEAN WINDOWS INSIDE AND OUT

Hire a company to clean the exterior windows. It makes a huge difference!



DAY 19



COMPLETE SMALL REPAIRS

Make sure everything on the list you made at the beginning of the process has been repaired including leaking faucets and water stains on ceilings.



BUY FRESH TOWELS, DUVETS AND SHOWER CURTAINS

Spruce up your bathroom with new white towels. If your bedding needs an update purchase new duvets, bedskirts and throw cushions. Replace your old shower curtains with new white ones.



TOUCH UP HARDWOOD

Hire a flooring company to come touch up your hardwood floors if they have visible scratches.



CLEAN GARDEN, PAINT DECK AND PICK UP AFTER PETS

Make sure to tidy up your yard, front and back. Remove junk from side yards. Repaint your deck if it is faded or peeling. Pick up after your pets. Weed your garden and mow the lawn.



DAY 23



CLEAN FRONT DOOR AND MAKE YOUR ENTRANCE WELCOMING

Most buyers will have an emotional reaction to your home within the first 15 seconds of entering it, so make sure it's a positive experience. Wash or repaint your front door and remove any cobwebs. Clean the porch light and make sure it is operational . Sweep the porchand add a rug at the front door. Add some flower pots to the front steps with seasonal arrangements.



CLEAN FRONT YARD, SWEEP WALKWAY, RAKE LEAVES OR SHOVEL SNOW

Ensure that your curb appeal is at it's best! Make sure the front yard is mowed or raked.Remove all weeds from flower beds. Keep your walkway clean or free from ice and snow.



PAINT TOUCH UPS

Patch visible holes and repaint walls and baseboards where necessary.



CLEAN CARPETS

Have all your carpets professionally cleaned.









REMOVE ITEMS FROM COUNTERS IN KITCHEN

Clear the kitchen counters and find a new home for the toaster, blender and other small appliances. Tuck your bathroom toiletries away too.



MAKE A PLAN FOR PETS AND KIDS DURING SHOWINGS AND CONTACT YOUR AGENT

Now that the house is almost ready, it's time to come up with a plan for showings. It's best if you, your kids and pets are not present when buyers come through. Prepare so that when a showing is booked, you and your family can be out of the way. Reach out to the SAM Team to let us know you are on track and ready to go over next steps.



FINAL TIDY UP

This is a step you will want to repeat before every showing. Gather loose papers and mail and store them out of the way. Empty the garbages. Pick up toys and put shoes away. Make your beds and tuck laundry baskets away.







DO A FINAL CLEAN AND MAKE IT SMELL GREAT

Do a final clean and make it smell great. You are almost at the finish line! Clean all glass and stainless steel. Dust furniture and vaccuum carpets. Wash floors and clean bathrooms top to bottom. Wipe kitchen counters and do the dishes. Light a scented candle to get rid of unpleasant smells. You will want to complete these tasks each week as long as your home is listed for sale.



FINAL LOOK OVER AND HAVE PHOTOGRAPHS TAKEN

After all that hard work you are almost finished! Have one last look over everything and complete final details. Have the house photographed to capture it at it's best. Call the SAM Team to book photos and videos.



PUT OUT FRESH FLOWERS AND SUMMER YARD PHOTOS

Display a bouquet of seasonal flowers on your kitchen or dining room table. If you are selling in the winter months, dig out some photos of your yard in the summer for buyers to view.



30 DAY ACTION PLAN

step by step checklist to get your house ready to sell

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PUT OUT FRESH FLOWERS & SUMMER YARD PHOTOS

OUR EXPERIENCE IS YOUR ADVANTAGE

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