

Dress Your House For Success Checklist

Uncluttering makes every room look larger and feel neater. If a house is cluttered, buyers have trouble imagining themselves in it. By removing or storing things you don't need, you create a roomy comfortable feeling that will be inviting to prospective buyers. Remember, when in doubt, throw it out, sell it or give it away!

Cleaning makes your house easy for buyers to explore and gives the impression that it has been well cared for. Be sure every room smells as good as it looks, paying special attention to pet areas, nurseries and bathrooms. Some fresh paint and a one-time professional

cleaning service can make your house look like new!

Repairing eliminates buyers' objections before they arise. If you think something is too much trouble to fix, chances are buyers will, too. Buyers tend to think repairs will cost more than they do.

Neutralizing helps buyers see their own things in your house and picture themselves living there. Neutral paint, décor and carpeting creates a home for any lifestyle. Eliminating distracting colors and accessories lets buyers concentrate on positive impressions.

Dynamizing makes the exterior and every room of your house special. Since it is competing with many other houses on the market, you need to make it stand out and be memorable. Look in magazines and catalogs for ideas. From the front door to the basement, from fresh flowers to fresh smells, this is the finishing touch!

Showtime! Is the final step before each time your house is shown. Identify jobs and assign them to make this step quick and easy. If you keep up daily, Showtime! Will be easier for you and your family. Plan a fun activity—away from the house—during showings.

Exterior/Curb Appeal	Kitchen	Bathrooms
<p>Uncluttering</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Lawn/garden - mow, trim, weed, water, pick up <input type="checkbox"/> Pet areas - clean up, resod spots as needed <input type="checkbox"/> Extra vehicles - remove from curb view <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <p>Cleaning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Windows - wash inside & out <input type="checkbox"/> Walls and driveway - sweep & remove stains <input type="checkbox"/> Siding/brick or stucco - hose down <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <p>Repairing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Doors/windows - repair screens, glass & door hardware <input type="checkbox"/> Siding - repair or paint as needed <input type="checkbox"/> Fences - repair or paint as needed <input type="checkbox"/> Sidewalks & driveways - repair as needed <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <p>Neutralizing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Lawn areas - remove any distracting decorations <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <p>Dynamizing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Add a large plant, wreath or doormat at entrance <input type="checkbox"/> Add potting or hanging flowers to deck or porch <input type="checkbox"/> Borrow lawn furniture <input type="checkbox"/> Add new house numbers or a brass door fixture <input type="checkbox"/> Add fresh layer of rock or bark if needed <input type="checkbox"/> _____ 	<p>Uncluttering</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Counters - clear extra appliances, accessories, etc. <input type="checkbox"/> Cupboards - remove & pack extra dishes, food. <input type="checkbox"/> Memo areas - straighten & remove papers <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <p>Cleaning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Cupboards - wipe inside & polish cabinets <input type="checkbox"/> Vents, exhaust hoods - clean and deodorize <input type="checkbox"/> Appliances - clean thoroughly inside & out <input type="checkbox"/> Shine - polish and clean, remove stains <input type="checkbox"/> Floors and walls - scrub and wax floors <input type="checkbox"/> Garbage, produce areas - clean & deodorize <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <p>Repairing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Faucets - repair leaks <input type="checkbox"/> Appliances - check bulbs, replace parts <input type="checkbox"/> Wall & ceiling cracks - patch & paint <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <p>Neutralizing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Walls - use neutral paint & wallpaper <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <p>Dynamizing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Clean or replace reflector plates <input type="checkbox"/> Add new throw rug <input type="checkbox"/> Add green or flowering plants <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ 	<p>Uncluttering</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Counters - clean, pack & store <input type="checkbox"/> Vanities, medicine cabinets & linen closets - organize, pack & store <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <p>Cleaning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Vanities - clean inside, scrub & polish outside <input type="checkbox"/> Sinks, tub & shower - remove stains & mold <input type="checkbox"/> Mirrors and chrome - polish to sparkle <input type="checkbox"/> Floors & walls - scrub clean & deodorize <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <p>Repairing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Toilets and plumbing - make needed repairs <input type="checkbox"/> Grout & caulking - patch as needed <input type="checkbox"/> Wall & ceiling cracks - patch & paint as needed <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <p>Neutralizing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Walls - use neutral paint & wallpaper <input type="checkbox"/> Shower curtain & towels - use basic colors <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <p>Dynamizing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Add scented soaps or a candle <input type="checkbox"/> Purchase or borrow "show" towels & accessories <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____ <input type="checkbox"/> _____

Entryway/Living & Dining/Family Rooms	Bedrooms	Basement/Garage
<p>Uncluttering</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Coffee & end tables - remove papers, etc.	<p>Uncluttering</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Children's play area - straighten, store extra toys	<p>Uncluttering</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Tool, shop & laundry areas - straighten, box & store
<input type="checkbox"/> Furniture - rearrange for openness, remove and store as needed	<input type="checkbox"/> Closets - straighten, box and store	<input type="checkbox"/> Rec room - straighten play areas, store extra toys
<input type="checkbox"/> Plants - remove extra or unhealthy plants	<input type="checkbox"/> Furniture - remove extra items & rearrange to enhance space	<input type="checkbox"/> Garage - store lawn/garden tools & equipment
<input type="checkbox"/> Bookshelves/office areas - straighten, pack & store	<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
<p>Cleaning</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Carpet - spot clean, consider professional service	<p>Cleaning</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Carpet - clean & deodorize in nursery	<p>Cleaning</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Floors - sweep, clean grease spots
<input type="checkbox"/> Furniture and woodwork - polish	<input type="checkbox"/> Drapes & curtains - wash or dry clean	<input type="checkbox"/> Walls & ceiling - remove cobwebs
<input type="checkbox"/> Lighting fixtures - clean & polish to a sparkle	<input type="checkbox"/> Lighting fixtures - wash & clean bulbs	<input type="checkbox"/> Windows - clean
<input type="checkbox"/> Hardwood floors - wash & shine	<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> Pet areas - clean thoroughly and deodorize
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<p>Repairing</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Wall & ceiling cracks - repair as needed	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
<p>Repairing</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Wall & ceiling cracks - repair and paint	<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<p>Repairing</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Appliances - be sure furnace, water heater, etc. are in working order
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<p>Neutralizing</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Walls - use neutral paint & wallpaper	<input type="checkbox"/> Pipes, laundry connections - check & make repairs as needed
<p>Neutralizing</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Walls - use neutral paint and wallpaper	<input type="checkbox"/> Bedspreads - use basic colors & patterns	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> General décor - remove distracting posters, etc.	<p>Neutralizing</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Walls & floors - consider spray painting and throw rugs
<p>Dynamizing</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Use logs & fireplace accessories	<p>Dynamizing</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Arrange toys to look fun and inviting	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
<input type="checkbox"/> Put linens on table and server	<input type="checkbox"/> Open a book on a night stand	<p>Dynamizing</p> <input type="checkbox"/> Arrange laundry supplies to suggest ease of work
<input type="checkbox"/> Use flower and potpourri	<input type="checkbox"/> Add a flowering plant	<input type="checkbox"/> Arrange games in play area
<input type="checkbox"/> Drape an afghan over a chair or couch	<input type="checkbox"/> Add curtains or valances to rooms without them	<input type="checkbox"/> Display a project in work or hobby areas
<input type="checkbox"/> Rearrange pictures to highlight special areas	<input type="checkbox"/> Arrange decorative pillows or shams on bed	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____
<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____	<input type="checkbox"/> _____

SHOWTIME!

The final check of the details that can make your house memorable.

Inside:

- Open shades and drapes
- Open windows to freshen rooms
- Arrange fresh flowers throughout
- Turn on lights
- Prepare a fire for open houses
- Set out a game, a book, a hobby project
- Set tables with flowers and linens
- Set out show towels
- Make sure rugs are clean and straight

- Empty wastebaskets
- Pick up dirty clothes
- Deodorize pet areas
- Play soft music and turn off television
- Set a comfortable temperature
- Do a "once-over" cleaning - vacuum, sweep, and dust
- Final check every room
- _____
- _____

Outside:

- Pick up lawn tools and toys
- Pick up after pets
- Remove obstructions from curb view
- Clear driveways and walk areas
- _____
- _____

Notes: