



Home Prep Checklist for Listing Your Home

1. Declutter & Depersonalize

- Remove excess furniture to make rooms feel larger
- Clear countertops (kitchen, baths, desks)
- Pack away personal photos, collections, trophies, and memorabilia
- Organize closets (buyers *will* look—aim for 30–40% empty)
- Clear garage, basement, attic, and storage areas

Goal: Help buyers picture *their* life in the home.

2. Deep Clean (Top to Bottom)

- Professionally clean or deep clean entire home
- Scrub kitchens and bathrooms (grout, fixtures, sinks)
- Clean inside appliances (oven, microwave, fridge)
- Wash windows (inside & out)
- Dust ceiling fans, vents, baseboards, and light fixtures
- Remove pet hair and odors

Tip: If it doesn't sparkle, it detracts.

3. Repairs & Maintenance

- Fix leaky faucets and running toilets
- Patch nail holes and touch up wall damage

- Repair doors that stick or don't latch properly
- Replace burned-out light bulbs
- Service HVAC if overdue
- Repair cracked tiles, loose railings, or damaged trim

Rule of thumb: Small issues feel big to buyers.

4. Paint & Visual Refresh

- Touch up scuffed walls and trim
- Consider repainting bold or dark colors in light neutrals
- Freshen up front door paint if worn
- Replace outdated cabinet hardware if needed

Best colors: Soft whites, light greige, warm neutrals.

5. Flooring & Finishes

- Professionally clean carpets
- Refinish or polish hardwood floors if needed
- Replace badly worn or stained carpet
- Secure loose flooring or transitions

6. Curb Appeal (First Impressions Matter!)

- Mow lawn and edge sidewalks
- Trim shrubs and trees away from house

- Add fresh mulch to beds
- Remove weeds and dead plants
- Power wash siding, walkways, and driveway
- Clean or replace worn welcome mat
- Make sure house numbers are visible

Buyers decide in the first 10 seconds.

7. Lighting & Atmosphere

- Open all curtains and blinds
- Replace dim bulbs with bright, warm lighting
- Turn on lights for showings
- Use subtle scents only (no strong candles or sprays)

Let the home feel bright, clean, and welcoming.

8. Staging Touches

- Arrange furniture to show flow and space
- Add fresh towels in bathrooms
- Neutral bedding with clean lines
- Simple décor (plants, bowls, books— not clutter)
- Set dining table minimally

9. Pre-Listing Final Check

- Secure valuables and medications
- Remove pet items (litter boxes, bowls, crates)
- Empty trash and recycling
- Set thermostat to comfortable temperature
- Make beds and tidy daily

10. Day-Of Showing Checklist

- Beds made
- Dishes put away
- Counters wiped
- Floors swept or vacuumed
- Lights on
- Pets out of the home