

Front entrance

- Clean doors and windows
- Sweep sidewalk
- Polish doorknob
- Shake out doormat
- Water container flowers (replace if necessary)
- Clean doors and windows
- Keep the lawn and landscaping trimmed

Entryway

- Clean doors and windows
- Mop floor, shake out rug, vacuum carpeting
- Water container flowers or plants
- Dust shelves or entry table
- Tidy up closet

Living room, family room

- Stow away newspapers, magazines, books, games, toys, and videos
- Straighten out coffee table, bookshelves, and other areas
- Mop floor or vacuum rugs
- Vacuum upholstered furniture; wipe down leather or vinyl
- Dust surfaces (including TV screen)
- Sweep fireplace
- Wipe down ceiling fan blades
- Water houseplants

Kitchen

- Mop or vacuum floor
- Clean appliances
- Wipe countertops, cabinets
- Clean sink
- Stow away kitchen sponge and dish towels
- Open windows or run fan to remove cooking odors

Bathrooms

- Wipe wet shower stalls and bathtubs
- Mop floors
- Put out fresh towels
- Empty wastebaskets
- Clean sinks, mirrors and faucets
- Stow away laundry

Bedrooms

- Make beds
- Mop floors or vacuum rugs
- Stow away shoes, laundry, clothes, books or toys
- Open curtains or shades
- Tidy up closet

Home office

- Straighten out desk and bookshelves
- Stow away files
- Mop floor or vacuum rugs
- Dust surfaces, including computer screen
- Polish cabinets and woodwork

Basement

- Clear clutter blocking access to furnace, electrical box or laundry room

- Sweep stairs

Repairs to Make Before Selling

Nothing turns off a potential buyer faster than peeling paint, a broken window, or a splintered front step. It's wise to make necessary repairs before you put your house on the market. A house in good condition demonstrates pride of ownership—one of your best sales tools. Start by covering these areas:

Inside the House

- Fix or replace damaged flooring, such as torn linoleum or cracked tiles.**

If you can't afford to replace damaged or worn floors, consider offering the buyer an allowance for renovation.

- Fix any drains, faucets, or plumbing fixtures that aren't operating.**

Fixes can range from replacing a faucet washer to buying a new toilet.

- Paint the interior.**

Fill and paint any cracks or holes in the walls. (You may need to repaint entire walls to mask such repairs.)

- Replace burned-out bulbs and broken electrical sockets.**

Most agents will want you to turn on all the lights before a showing.

- Replace or fix broken stairs.**

Fix any creaks as well.

- Replace old locks and doorknobs.**

Make it easy for a buyer to walk in.

- Fix any doors that don't open easily, including the garage door.**

If your garage door opener doesn't work, repair or replace it.

Outside the House

- Replace cracked windows and torn screens.**

Don't let your house be shown with the equivalent of a black eye.

- Fix cracks in the driveway and entry walkway, and clean up stains.**

If the driveway requires major repair, it may be preferable to offer the buyer an allowance for the work.

- Paint the exterior.**

Touch up peeling paint, window frames, porches, and shutters. Repaint the entire exterior if it is drab or peeling.

- Replace broken gutters or missing downspouts.**

Good drainage is key to passing a home inspection.



Replace or fix broken stairs.

It's a matter of both safety and aesthetics.

Reseal the deck and repair broken boards.

A new coat of sealer can spruce up a fading deck.

Repair the roof.

Replace shingles and tack down loose flashing. If the roof is old, you may want to replace it and adjust your sales price accordingly.