

Making Your Home Market Ready

Garage

- **Clean out attic & garage, dispose of everything you're not going to take with you when you move.**
- **Separate items that you won't need again until after you've moved, and pack them away neatly in boxes.**
- **Arrange and stack items neatly against walls so areas look larger**

Kitchen

- **Make kitchen bright and attractive, for it is the most important room in the house. If it's dull and dated, paint cabinets and update cabinet hardware**
- **Clean ventilating hood**
- **Put down new flooring if floor is badly worn**
- **Remove excess small appliances, such as toasters, coffee makers and can openers from counters so counters look more spacious**
- **Make sure kitchen smells good – like freshly baked cookies or simmering potpourri**

Bathroom

- **Repair dripping faucets**
- **Keep towels fresh and neatly folded**
- **Clean stains from toilets, bathtubs and sinks**
- **Clean mirrors**
- **Keep a deodorizer in bathrooms**
- **Replace old caulking around tubs**

Living Areas

- **Have all plaster in top shape- cracks, nail pops and visible seams in dry wall are easy to fix**
- **Check ceilings for leaks and leak stains. Fix the cause of damage, repair ceiling and repaint**
- **Stick to white and neutrals when painting or decorating**
- **Clean out fireplace and lay logs in it**
- **Wash windows and replace or repair any broken windows or screens**
- **Make sure all windows will open and close easily**
- **Replace burned out light bulbs, make certain all light switches are working, and make sure all bulbs are at least 60 watts**
- **Make floors shine, and repair the cause of creaking boards or stair treads**
- **Straighten up closets, get rid of excess items, and store out-of-season clothes so closets look larger**
- **Use room deodorizers to eliminate musty odors**
- **Lubricate any sticking or squeaking doors**

Outside

- **Make sure lawn is well-manicured, shrubs are neatly clipped, and walks and porches/decks are swept clean. The grounds make a crucial first impression**
- **Invest in new landscaping only in highly visible areas, bright colored flowers help with the curb appeal**
- **Cut back overgrown shrubbery that looks scraggly or keeps light out of the house**
- **Paint your house if necessary. A well-maintained exterior does more for sales appeal than any other factor. At least paint windows, shutters, and trim if exterior looks dull or shabby**
- **Inspect the roof and gutters. Clean out badly clogged gutters and replace worn or missing roofing shingles**
- **Repaint the front door if necessary, and put a pot of flowers or some other attractive touch by the front door**
- **Repair broken steps**