

Open House Prep Checklist

Room by room — everything to line up before buyers walk through.

WHOLE HOME

- ☐ Open blinds and curtains, brighten every lamp
- ☐ Crack windows for fresh air if weather allows
- ☐ Turn off TVs; play soft instrumental music
- ☐ Send pets to a neighbor's for the day
- ☐ Clear cobwebs from corners and ceiling fans
- ☐ Empty every wastebasket
- ☐ Repair scuffed walls or scratched flooring
- ☐ Pull back dark, heavy curtains
- ☐ Have a property fact sheet ready for visitors

KITCHEN

- ☐ Clear counters — dishes and food out of sight
- ☐ Wipe down all appliances
- ☐ Sweep and mop the floor
- ☐ Run the disposal with a deodorizer
- ☐ Clear odors — skip cooking anything strong-smelling
- ☐ Wipe out cupboards and under the sink
- ☐ Test that outlets and light fixtures work

BATHROOMS

- ☐ Clear soap residue, mildew, and mold from every surface
- ☐ Hang fresh, matching towels
- ☐ Clear out cabinets — pack away the nonessentials
- ☐ Wipe down and lubricate the shower door track
- ☐ Replace a worn shower curtain

BEDROOMS

- ☐ Make every bed
- ☐ Fluff or swap in fresh accent pillows
- ☐ Clear nightstands and dressers
- ☐ Straighten closets — half-empty reads larger

GARAGE & OUTDOOR

- ☐ Clear clutter, put tools away
- ☐ Sweep out cobwebs
- ☐ Clean oil or paint stains off the floor
- ☐ Lubricate a noisy garage door opener
- ☐ Touch up paint on siding, trim, doors, and shutters
- ☐ Clean windows, screens, and gutters
- ☐ Pick up pet droppings and yard debris
- ☐ Straighten the woodpile, test the doorbell
- ☐ Power-wash oil stains from the driveway

FINAL WALKTHROUGH

- ☐ Squeaky door hinges — a drop of oil goes a long way
- ☐ Basement or crawlspace free of damp smell
- ☐ Furnace or AC filter replaced if due
- ☐ Trash and recycling bins out of sight
- ☐ One last walk-through with fresh eyes 30 minutes before showtime

You never get a second chance at a first impression. It's rarely the big things that move a buyer — it's whether the home feels cared for the moment they walk in.