

Are you ready to sell your home?

Preparing your home for a sale is no walk in the park (though it may help if you live near one). If you want to attract interest and get the best value for it, you're going to have to put in the work.

Below are several steps you can take to start marketing your home. We've even added check boxes next to each task – because who doesn't like checking off boxes?

Hire a reputable real estate agent

This can save you a huge headache. The right agent will be familiar with your area and help you set a reasonable price, market your home, and take professional photos for your listing. They can also assist with paperwork and other logistics. Don't just hire anyone though – do your research to ensure they're experienced and successful. After all, they'll be getting a commission.

Remove or replace fixtures

Before your photoshoot, plan on taking down and/or replacing any fixtures that you want to take with you. If a potential buyer sees your chandelier in the photos, they may think that it's part of the house. But when they find out it's not, they may decline on the offer.

What's more, if you keep up the chandelier and don't exclude it from the sale in your contract, they may legally be entitled to it. What is and isn't considered a fixture can be a gray area – so speak with your real estate agent about this before you check off this box.

Remove personal items

Buyers want to be able to visualize themselves living in the home. Before you show off your home, take things down such as family photos, artwork, and anything that makes your house your home.

Clean

You wouldn't host a party with a messy home (we hope). So why would you show your home without cleaning it first? You want to impress potential sellers – so clean up, vacuum, wipe down counters – you know the drill.

Curb appeal

Another thing you wouldn't do is go to a job interview looking unkempt (unless there was some nepotism involved). So why would you try to sell a home that looks mess on the outside? Be sure to wash off any dirt or moss, consider painting the front door, plant some flowers – anything that can make your house look more inviting.

Make repairs where necessary

Still have that family picture frame over that hole in the wall? Time to spackle. Have a loose doorknob? Fix or replace it. Have mold growing in your toilet? Gross. (Also, clean it.) Nobody wants to move into a home that needs repair.

Hire a home inspector

Yes, the buyer is going to get it inspected. But getting it done beforehand gives you time to diagnose problems and decide what you need to get fixed – rather than having to make any quick decisions about repairs or negotiations after the buyer's home inspection. Plus, a pre-inspection looks good in the buyer's eyes – as it shows you're being proactive.

By following ALL of these steps, you'll be ready to make a sale you'll feel good about. And when you're ready to buy a home:

Check out these [5 Things to Do When Making an Offer on a House »](#)