



## Home Checklist to Prepare for a Move & Boost Sales

### **A Word (or two) of Advice:**

*Whether you have a lot of clutter or a little, organizing can feel overwhelming. Clutter causes anxiety, but it can also stir up other emotions, especially when letting go of items you've held onto for a while. That's okay and part of the process.*

*Another part of that process is choosing what you want to surround yourself with. Decide whether the items in your home represent the best of who you are.*

*Always consider the buyer's perspective. What would you as a buyer want to see or not see if you were buying a new home?*

### **Tools to Declutter:**

- Heavy-duty trash bags
- Hooks and shelves
- Boxes, Baskets, Plastic Containers

### **Decluttering Steps:**

1. Start small. Begin in one room and gather items you wish to remove into one spot. Sort similar items together. For maximum effect, finish one area before you begin on another decluttering/organizing project.
2. Let go of things you don't like and won't need or use in your new home. Decide which items – including no-longer-needed furniture – you wish to sell, donate, recycle, or toss.
3. Designate a specific place to store every item.

4. Declutter the outside of your home shortly before your home goes on the market. This will be the first impression for any potential buyers and curb appeal matters.

### **OUTSIDE:**

- Leaves, sticks, cut grass, and other natural debris in the yard \_\_\_\_\_
- Toys and equipment \_\_\_\_\_
- Dead or dying plants, trees, or shrubs \_\_\_\_\_
- Off-season items \_\_\_\_\_
- Don't forget to mow the lawn prior to a showing!

### **KITCHEN:**

- Toss out any expired nearly empty food, beverages, spices, or cleaning products \_\_\_\_\_
- Toss any items that are broken \_\_\_\_\_
- Keep only what you like, use, and need \_\_\_\_\_
- Only keep items you use every day on your countertops like a coffeemaker and toaster. Store non-essential items in a cabinet or closet \_\_\_\_\_
- Toss old, used sponges \_\_\_\_\_
- Remember to clean out the fridge as well – buyers often look inside! \_\_\_\_\_

### **Suggested Tools to organize Items You Like, Use, and/or Need**

- Pot and pan organizers, spice racks, dry food storage containers, and dividers

*Pro-Tips: Base the number of dishes, utensils, and glassware on your current lifestyle and how large your new kitchen will be. Consider selling or donating items you no longer need. Also, remember to clean away unnecessary pet-care items.*

### **BATHROOMS:**

- Toss any expired products and medications \_\_\_\_\_
- Toss, use or combine mostly empty products \_\_\_\_\_
- Refrain from buying products in bulk until after you've moved \_\_\_\_\_
- Keep three sets of sheets and towels per household member \_\_\_\_\_

### **Additional Tools to Store Items You Like, Use, and/or Need**

- Bins, glass jars

### **BEDROOMS:**

- Remove piles of reading material from the bedroom \_\_\_\_\_
- Remove personal photos \_\_\_\_\_
- Store expensive items like jewelry in a secure area \_\_\_\_\_
- Keep clothing that is in good condition, fits you well, and you like \_\_\_\_\_
- Toss clothing that is dirty, torn, or damaged \_\_\_\_\_
- Donate clothing you haven't worn in two or more years \_\_\_\_\_

*Pro-Tips: Invest in a set of quality non-slip hangers to achieve a uniform look. Store items in clear bins so you can quickly find what you need or label them. Fold everything the same way for a uniform look. A bed skirt can hide storage kept under the bed.*

### **LIVING ROOM:**

- Remove excess reading material and personal photos \_\_\_\_\_
- Keep remote controls together or near the equipment it belongs to \_\_\_\_\_
- Toss dead or dying plants \_\_\_\_\_
- Remove broken furniture \_\_\_\_\_
- Toss, recycle or sell old electronic equipment including cords \_\_\_\_\_

*Pro-Tips: Still have items you need to keep but don't want them seen? Baskets or furniture with hidden storage can make the room look less cluttered while still keeping everything you need nearby.*

### **STORAGE CLOSETS AND GARAGE:**

- Store heavier items on the bottom shelves, lighter items on top \_\_\_\_\_
- Organize and sweep the garage so it doesn't detract from your home's beauty \_\_\_\_\_

*Pro-Tips: Buy storage solutions that fit your needs: Too small and it doesn't contain the clutter. Too large and it only attracts more clutter making it impossible to find anything and therefore useless. Pack empty suitcases with items you won't need until after you move.*

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