

## Sharon Quataert Realty CHECKLIST

# Get Ready for a Home Showing

- Remove clutter.** Clear off counters and pack unnecessary decorative items. Put extra furniture in storage, and remove out-of-season items. Don't forget to clean out the garage, too.
- Let it shine.** Cleaning windows and screens will help bring more light into your home. Replace burnt bulbs, and consider higher wattage in low-light areas. Clean the walls or roll on a fresh coat of bright, neutral paint. Replace heavy curtains with sheer ones and show off your view.
- Keep it clean.** A deep clean before listing your home will make upkeep easier. Consider hiring a cleaning service to help. Visit SharonQ.com for a list of trusted service providers.
- Maximize comfort.** In summer, shut A/C vents on the first floor so more air will get upstairs. Reverse the process in winter.
- Perform a sniff test.** Clean carpeting and drapes to eliminate odors. Open the windows to air out the house. Use diffusers or scented candles in moderation. For quick fixes in the kitchen, cotton balls soaked in vanilla extract or orange juice can instantly make the fridge a nicer-smelling place. Boil lemon juice in your microwave, then add it to your dishwasher to eliminate odors. You can also run lemon rinds through the garbage disposal for a similar effect.
- Take care of minor repairs.** Sticky doors, torn screens, cracked caulking, or a dripping faucet may seem trivial, but they'll give buyers the impression that the house isn't well-maintained.
- Tidy up outdoors.** Cut the grass, rake the leaves, add new mulch, trim the bushes, edge the walkways, and clean the gutters. A pot of bright flowers near the entryway adds great curb appeal.
- Set the scene.** A bright throw or new accent pillows can jazz up a dull room. Pretty dishes or a simple centerpiece on the tables can help buyers picture themselves living there. At Sharon Quataert Realty, we view houses on a daily basis and we'll have some great staging tips for your home before for we list it.
- Make the bath luxurious.** Make sure your personal toiletry items are out of sight. Adding new hand towels, bath mats and a shower curtain can give your bathroom a fresh new look.
- Send the pets to the neighbors.** If that's not possible, crate or confine them to one room, and let the us know where they'll be to eliminate surprises.
- Lock up valuables and medication.** Agents can't watch everyone all the time.
- Head out.** It can be awkward for everyone if you're home at the time of a showing. We want the buyers to be able to speak freely with their agent so that we get the most honest feedback when we request it.

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