

# PRE LISTING CHECKLIST: Cleaning

There's something so satisfying about marking off each item as you make progress. We created this comprehensive list to help catalog every spot in your home that needs some attention before a potential buyer walks through. If it does not apply to your house, mark it as complete. Psychologically, you will feel like you are making progress with every item you check off!

Just a reminder - Buyers have your list price in their head as they walk through your home. For every dirty, unrepaired, unattractive item, the buyer takes money off that price. Use this checklist to make it hard for them to find any flaws.

---

If you are ready to move within the next six months, start going through this list and pack up the stuff you will not realistically need during that time. The goal is to maximize walking areas and make your home appear to be spacious.

1. Get rid of all clutter and call the pest control company for a spray at least two weeks before deep cleaning.
2. Start in the garage and clear the floor space.
3. Use this area to store things as you move through the house.
4. Remove anything blocking or close to the electric panel. The inspector will be taking that panel off the wall for insurance forms.
5. If you plan to store things in your garage, make an organized pile in the middle and not against a wall (nothing makes an inspector more suspicious).
6. You should be able to see nearly half of your floor space, so store (or donate) the remaining furniture that is overcrowding the area.
7. Each shelf should have space on it.
8. Every closet floor should be visible.
9. As you declutter, set aside any documents that will stay with the house. Ex. warranties, instruction manuals, permit applications, etc.
10. Make an extra set of keys and label them if you have multiple keys for multiple doors. (Don't put your name and address on the label just in case the keys are lost or misplaced.)
11. When you are ready to have showings, consider having some fresh flowers throughout the house instead of the chemical air fresheners.
12. The biggest return on investment for remodeling is landscaping. Buyers tend to look past various things they would like to change if the curb appeal already matches what they want.



## Kitchen

- Swap out light bulbs with higher wattage bulbs.
- Clean light coverings + replace any that are brittle with age
- Wipe down the front of cabinets + repair any broken doors
- Replace cabinet pulls if worn or dated.
- Clear out every cupboard + store any small appliance you do not use at least weekly.
- Each cabinet should have empty space.
- Organize the food pantry + leave extra room on each shelf.
- Alter or replace leaky faucet and/or hose sprayer.
- Ensure the sink and counters are spotless.
- Relocate any unnecessary items on counters. The less on them, the better.
- Move alcohol bottles from sight.
- Take personal photos off of the fridge and walls.
- Patch up any damaged drywall.
- Touch up paint or give it a fresh coat in a bright neutral color.
- Fix any broken windows and/or screens.
- Address squeaky door hinges and/or sticky window frames.
- Clean window sills Seriously, no one does this, and buyers are disgusted.
- Wash all windows + eliminate streaks or nose prints.
- Launder curtains/drapes or substitute with dark prints.
- Deep clean blinds and exchange any that are in bad shape. Keep them open when showings are scheduled.
- Replace pieces of damaged tiles or flooring at the end of its life.
- Get rid of any dirt or imperfections on doors, baseboards, and cabinet kickboards.
- Repair any pet damage.
- Sanitize light switches. If aged or damaged, consider replacing.
- Store any imitation plants.
- Tidy up + dust the tops of:
  - Cabinets
  - Shelves
  - Window frames
  - Door frames

## Living Space

- Swap out light bulbs with higher wattage bulbs.
- Clean light coverings + replace any that are brittle with age
- Clear out every cupboard + organize bookshelves.
- Each cabinet and bookshelf should have empty space.
- Store knickknacks and personal items.
- Move alcohol bottles and religious objects from sight.
- Take personal photos off of the walls and shelves.
- Consider washing the walls.
- Patch up any damaged drywall.
- Touch up paint or give it a fresh coat in a bright neutral color.
- Switch dark lampshades with lighter ones.
- Fix any broken windows and/or screens.
- Address squeaky door hinges and/or sticky window frames.
- Clean window sills (inside and out).
- Wash all windows + eliminate streaks or nose prints.
- Launder curtains/drapes or substitute with dark prints.
- Remove build-up from fans and all blades.
- Deep clean blinds and exchange any that are in bad shape. Keep them open when showings are scheduled.
- Replace pieces of damaged tiles or flooring at the end of its life.
- Get rid of any dirt or imperfections on doors, baseboards, and door frames.
- Repair any pet damage.
- Sanitize light switches. If aged or damaged, consider replacing.
- Store any imitation plants.
- Tidy up + dust the tops of:
  - Cabinets
  - Shelves
  - Window frames
  - Door frames

## Bathrooms

- Swap out light bulbs with higher wattage bulbs.
- Bathrooms should appeal to both sexes. Dial back any pink frills or animal themes.
- Clear out every cupboard + store any small appliance you do not use at least weekly.
- Each cabinet should have empty space.
- Wipe down the walls and front of cabinets
- Replace cabinet pulls if worn or dated.
- Alter or replace leaky faucet, shower head, and/or toilet.
- Re-caulk tubs, showers, toilets, and sinks.
- Ensure the sink, shower, tub, toilet, and counters are spotless
- Relocate any unnecessary items on counters.
- Store toothbrushes, medication, soap, etc. from sight.
- Patch up any damaged drywall (especially around the shower).
- Touch up paint or give it a fresh coat in a bright neutral color.
- Fix any broken windows and/or screens.
- Address squeaky door hinges and/or sticky window frames.
- Clean window sills (inside and out).
- Wash all windows + eliminate streaks or nose prints.
- Launder curtains/drapes or substitute with dark prints.
- Deep clean blinds and exchange any that are in bad shape. Keep them open when showings are scheduled.
- Remove build-up from fans and all blades
- Replace pieces of damaged tiles or flooring at the end of its life.
- Get rid of any dirt or imperfections on doors, baseboards, and cabinet kickboards.
- Repair any pet damage.
- Sanitize light switches. If aged or damaged, consider replacing.
- Store any imitation plants.
- Tidy up + dust the tops of:
  - Cabinets
  - Shelves
  - Window frames
  - Door frames

## Bedrooms

- Swap out light bulbs with higher wattage bulbs.
- Clean light coverings + replace any that are brittle with age
- Wipe down beds, chests, nightstands, and all furniture.
- Repair any broken closet doors + replace pulls if worn or dated.
- Organize closet + make sure floor is visible.
- Take personal photos off of the walls and shelves.
- Patch up any damaged drywall.
- Touch up paint or give it a fresh coat in a bright neutral color.
- Switch dark lampshades with lighter ones.
- Fix any broken windows and/or screens.
- Address squeaky door hinges and/or sticky window frames.
- Clean window sills (inside and out).
- Wash all windows + eliminate streaks or nose prints.
- Launder curtains/drapes or substitute with dark prints.
- Remove build-up from fans and all blades.
- Deep clean blinds and exchange any that are in bad shape. Keep them open when showings are scheduled.
- Replace pieces of damaged tiles or flooring at the end of its life.
- Get rid of any dirt or imperfections on doors, baseboards, and door frames.
- Repair any pet damage.
- Sanitize light switches. If aged or damaged, consider replacing.
- Store any imitation plants.
- Tidy up + dust the tops of:
  - Cabinets
  - Shelves
  - Window frames
  - Door frames

## Garage & Laundry Room

- Swap out light bulbs with higher wattage bulbs.
- Clean light coverings + replace any that are brittle with age
- Clear off every shelf + store anything you do not use weekly (including tools).
- Each cabinet should have empty space.
- Wipe down:
  - Cabinets
  - Washer
  - Dryer
  - Hot water heater
- Repair any broken closet doors + replace pulls if worn or dated.
- Organize storage spaces
- Alter or replace leaky faucet and/or hose sprayer.
- Ensure the sink and counters are spotless
- Relocate any unnecessary items on counters.
- Patch up any damaged drywall (especially around the shower).
- Touch up paint or give it a fresh coat in a bright neutral color.
- Fix any broken windows and/or screens.
- Address squeaky door hinges and/or sticky window frames.
- Clean window sills (inside and out).
- Wash all windows + eliminate streaks or nose prints.
- Launder curtains/drapes or substitute with dark prints.
- Remove build-up from fans and all blades
- Replace pieces of damaged tiles or flooring at the end of its life.
- Get rid of any dirt or imperfections on doors, baseboards, and cabinet kickboards.
- Repair any pet damage.
- Sanitize light switches. If aged or damaged, consider replacing.
- Change air filters and consider having a service check with a local HVAC company.
- Tidy up + dust the tops of:
  - Cabinets
  - Shelves
  - Window frames
  - Door frames

## Outside

- Swap out light bulbs with higher wattage bulbs.
- Clean patio furniture. Throw away and replace anything damaged.
- Arrange furniture in an inviting manner.
- Pressure wash:
  - House
  - Driveway
  - Roof
- Swap out porch lights with higher wattage bulbs.
- Replace any broken lights.
- Tidy up storage sheds
- Remove weeds and dead plants from planters, sidewalks, and driveways.
- Prune all tree limbs within six feet of the roof.
- Repair any damage caused by limbs.
- Sweep or blow off leaves and pine needles.
- Ensure there is no yard debris left behind
- Fill in empty space with seasonal flowers. Color helps a lot to draw the eye.
- Prune all bushes back from the house and/or walkways.
- Add fresh mulch to beds.
- Mow weekly. (With the Tallahassee heat and sun during the summer, you can practically hear the grass grow.)
- Clear drains and gutters of debris.
- Check for + fix water leaks at faucets and connections.
- Take quality photos each season so the potential buyer can daydream about their beautiful future yard.