

JOSHUA DOWNEY'S

Getting Your Home Ready to Sell Checklist

Take a look at the following checklist for getting your house ready to sell. We've divided it into interior and exterior elements, so you can work your way through the entire home and get everything ready to present to your potential buyers.

Exterior Elements

ROOF

- Inspect the flashing around roof stacks, skylights, chimneys, and vents
- Search for any damaged shingles or tiles

CHIMNEYS

- Check for missing or damaged bricks and mortar
- Clean out any obstructions

GUTTERS

- Inspect gutters for leaks or areas of impending breakdown
- Clean any areas that impede proper water movement
- Remove anything hanging from gutters

WALLS

- Check for damage
- Clean dirty siding
- Repair cracks and chips
- Redo caulking around windows and doors

GARAGE

- Check the doors for peeling or cracked paint and replace if possible
- Test all outlets
- Test all doors
- Lubricate any hinges that don't move smoothly

Replace faulty garage door openers

Organize and declutter the space by at least 50%

Remove anything that may be dangerous (tools, chemicals, etc.)

Check for uninvited guests (bugs, rodents, etc.) and evict them

Make the lights properly illuminate the space

DRIVEWAY

Repair any cracks in the concrete or asphalt

Sweep off any debris

Remove any weeds growing between concrete slabs

Clean any grease stains

Remove kids toys, sports equipment, etc., so they only see an open driveway

YARD

Mow the lawn

Remove clutter

Trim hedges and prune the trees

Weed gardens and flowerbeds

Use an edge to make everything look crisp

Check the sprinkler system

Focus on reviving brown and yellow patches

FOUNDATION

Closely inspect the foundation around the entire house for cracks or crumbling areas

Interior Elements

WALLS, FLOORS, AND CEILINGS

- Check the paint and wallpaper condition
- Repair any cracks or holes and fix damaged drywall
- Clean walls, railings, and other elements of grease, smudges, dirt, and fingerprints
- Inspect floors for cracks, creaks, missing tiles, stains, and overly worn areas.
- Check baseboards and moldings for damage
- Check the carpeting for loose areas, serious stains, flat padding, or hanging threads
- Paint walls that may have a little “too much character”

WINDOWS AND DOORS

- Clean the surface of all windows and doors
- Replace cracked panes
- Reapply any weather stripping or caulking
- Refresh the paint if necessary
- Oil the hinges or slides to ensure quiet movement
- Make sure the doorbell works

KITCHEN AND BATHROOM

- Clean all counters
- Organize all cupboards
- Focus on eliminated built-up grease around the oven and stove fan
- Clean the refrigerator
- Clean any mildew and mold
- Make sure all faucets work properly
- Make sure the toilet is clean and functional
- Polish all fixtures

LIVING ROOMS AND BEDROOMS

- Clean all carpets and rugs
- Organize furniture to make the room feel more spacious
- Replace old drapes or other window coverings
- Replace burned-out lightbulbs

Remove paintings and wall hangings (i.e. start “de-personalizing” the home)

Make the beds

Declutter each room

ATTIC

Check for leaks or water stains in the underside of the roof

Check and clean any ventilation openings

Clear out or organize the possessions stored in the attic

Check and remove any insect homes

Check for cracks, unexplained water, and other damage in floors and walls

Check for leaky pipes

PLUMBING AND ELECTRICAL SYSTEMS

Make sure all faucets produce sufficient water pressure (individually and all together)

Check for leaks in all pipes

Clean out any clogs or slow drains

Check for exposed wiring

Replace outlets that show signs of wear

Test all light switches and outlets

Replace components that aren't working

Always check with a professional electrician before making major replacements

Make sure each circuit breaker switch is properly labeled (with professional help)

HEATING AND COOLING SYSTEMS

Have an HVAC specialist check your system

Change any furnace or AC filters

Clean any visible dust off the vent covers

Clear the area around the heating and cooling units

Closets and Storage Space

Remove clutter from closets (declutter at least 50%)

Organize everything that is left

Clean all dust and dirt out of the storage spaces