

Preparing Your Home

For a Professional Photo Shoot

The photo-shoot should take no more than one hour (houses bigger than 3,000 sq ft may take more time). The photographer will be taking photos of both the inside and outside of your home, including all major rooms. You have a direct impact on how well your home will look in the photos by following these guidelines.

Exterior

- Replace any burned out light bulbs in fixtures and lamps.
- Remove all vehicles from driveways.
- Move garbage cans out of sight.
- Remove all the clutter such as cans, garden tools, pool toys, etc.
- Clean the driveways, sidewalks, and patios.
- Prepare the lawn by trimming the grass, taking out died plants and watering the plants.
- If you have a pool, remove the pool sweep, pool cleaning equipment and any pool toys.

Interior

- Replace all burned out light bulbs.
- Turn on all interior lights and keep them on during the shooting session.
- Turn ceiling fans and televisions off.
- Remove all the exposed items such as cables, newspapers, kid toys, personal photos, religion symbols, etc.
- Dust and vacuum all the rooms.
- Don't leave any dirty dishes in the sink.
- Move all the trash cans.
- Clear off the countertops – toothbrushes, shavers, soap dishes, tissue & lotion dispensers, makeup mirrors, etc.
- Windows, glass doors and mirrors should be cleaned.
- Open the blinds, shades, and curtains if there have good views of the neighborhood.
- Fresh flowers can be used to decorate some rooms and fresh fruits to stage the kitchen.
- Please make sure pets are contained, their food cans and litter boxes away from the view while photographs are being made.
- Throw rugs and runners in entryways, kitchens, and bathrooms should be removed.

Additional Tips

The Home Exterior

- Mow and rake yard.
- Sweep driveways, sidewalks, and patios.
- Clean grease stains from driveway.
- Clear back yard of pet waste.

The Living & Family Room

- Remove piles of newspaper and magazines.
- Hide all TV/Stereo remotes.
- Conceal all exposed cables as best possible.
- Remove clutter from bookshelves tables and cabinets.
- Tuck trash cans out of view in a closet or cupboard.

The Bedrooms

- Make all beds and tidy bedrooms.
- Clothes hung or folded and put away.
- Remove items from bedside tables.
- Plug in and turn nightstand lights ON.

The Kitchen

- Clear off counter tops and remove any appliances.
- Remove photos, notes, and papers from the refrigerator.
- Clean the major appliances and wipe down all countertops.

The Dining Room

- Set the table with your best China and dinnerware. (Optional)
- Add a colorful centerpiece such as candles or flowers.
- Remove child seats/booster chairs.

The Bathrooms

- Remove shampoo and other products from the shower/tub area.
- All toilet seats should be down, and lid closed.
- Mirrors should be clean.

The Final Touches

- Contain pets in the garage or out of sight.
- Place all shoes/jackets in closets.