

Columns

Fall clean-up for your home sale

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SANDRALISE/DREAMSTIME.COM Cleaning up outdoors and making your home look seasonally welcoming will help you sell your house this fall.

As the kids go back to school, the leaves turn and the mercury drops, it's time to think of some things to do to your home to increase its allure for a possible fall sale.

Here are a few simple tips that won't eat up your time or money, so you can still enjoy the season, while making your home look its best:

Start with the exterior

It's important to remember that the exterior of your home is just as important as the interior. After all, it's the first thing buyers see when approaching your home.

The good news is that you don't need to be a professional landscaper to have an attractive front yard this season. By following a few simple guidelines you can elevate your lawn from eye-sore to exquisite in no time!

Make sure that leaves are raked, grass is cut and flowerbeds are tidy. Pull out your garden earlier than usual, clean up all the weeds and add a quick layer of fresh topsoil. This is an easy and inexpensive way to make your home landscaping look its best.

If your patio set looks as though it has been sitting out all summer, give it a quick wipe down and clean the cushions of any dirt and debris. Get rid of the summer flowers that aren't blooming anymore and take advantage of the great price on potted plants at your local greenhouse. This will add some charm and a splash of eye-popping colour which will likely catch the gaze of passersby and attract potential buyers.

Make people feel welcome with a fall display outside your front door. Hang an autumnal wreath and decorate the porch with harvest-themed plants. Rich orange flowers, pumpkins, gourds, corn and bunches of apples will make potential buyers feel welcomed, too.

Once you feel like the exterior is in tip-top shape, pay some attention to the interior of the home as well.

Wow them as they walk in

Strike a positive note with visitors as soon as they walk through the door with the smell of baking from your kitchen.

With the inevitable arrival of fall, it's time to pack away your summer clothes. Box them up and store them at a friend's house if need be. Clean out all of your cupboards (homebuyers often open them up for a look) and ensure that the basic items left behind are tidy and well organized. Get rid of any cobwebs and don't forget to dust off those often-forgotten ceiling fans. A fresh coat of neutral paint and an extra good job of cleaning the carpets makes a world of a difference, too.

Do a deep fall cleaning

This is also a great opportunity for a deep fall cleaning to minimize clutter and get rid of anything you do not need and don't want to take with you to your new home — donate any items that are usable but no longer necessary.

Although selling a home in the fall requires spending a little more time tending to the outdoors (and admitting to yourself that summer is in fact over), we're confident that the extra effort you invest won't go unnoticed.

In fact, don't be surprised if buyers come knocking on your door sooner than you expected.

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