

Home Improvement and Decluttering Checklist



Inspect the following items in your home and decide whether they need attention. Consider renting a small self-storage unit where you can keep things that may make your home look crowded.

Main Entry

Make sure it's completely clutter-free, with space for shoes and coats, depending on the season.

If you have a table with a bowl of keys or other items, clear the table and add a single decorative item (e.g., floral arrangement).

Living Room

Usually, the front door of a home leads into the living room, so this is the first room buyers will see. Ensure the buyer's first impression is fantastic.

Accentuate the unique selling points that make your home different and unique. You may have a fireplace, beautiful hardwood floors, or a stunning view. The television should not be the focal point of this room, and you may want to consider putting it in storage until your home has sold.

Item	Okay	Fix / Change
Repaint/clean walls	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Refinish, wax, or repair hardwood floor (if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Steam clean wall-to-wall carpets (if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Re-caulk the windows (if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clean window exterior	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Replace older window coverings (blinds/curtains/sheers)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Remove decorative items from the tops of cabinets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Remove most items from the tabletops, mantles, ledges, and shelves	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Put away any rugs or carpets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Update light fixtures	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lubricate any squeaky door hinges	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Remove worn furniture or update it with slipcovers in neutral tones	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clear a path so that people touring your home can easily make their way around the room.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Kitchen

You want the kitchen to look and smell clean and fresh. Ideally, you want to have plenty of natural light, and you want to create the appearance of ample storage inside cupboards and closets. The kitchen should look lived-in and functional, but not messy.

Item	Okay	Fix / Change
Repaint/clean walls	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
RegROUT/bleach tile grouting on backsplash and floor (if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Re-caulk the sink	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Remove magnets, photos, and other items attached to the refrigerator	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Remove decorative and kitchen items from the tops of cabinets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Remove most items from the countertops	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Put away any rugs or mats	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Update light fixtures	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deep clean the oven, stove and microwave	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Deep clean refrigerator and garbage to eliminate odours	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Repair any loose or cabinet handles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lubricate any squeaky cabinet or door hinges	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Fix any drawers that don't open smoothly	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Put rarely used dry goods, dinnerware, cookware, and appliances in storage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Replace older window coverings (blinds/curtains/sheers)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Re-caulk the windows (if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clean window exterior	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Bedrooms

A bedroom should feel like the perfect bedtime refuge.

Item	Okay	Fix / Change
Repaint/clean walls	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Refinish, wax, or repair hardwood floor (if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Steam clean wall-to-wall carpets (if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Re-caulk the windows (if applicable)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Clean window exterior	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Replace older window coverings (blinds/curtains/sheers)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Rearrange the bed(s) to face the doorway	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Remove non-essential furniture and items (e.g., heavy dressers, exercise equipment, pet beds, and medical equipment)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Remove personal photos and other personal items	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Remove most items from the tops of vanities, dressers, and bedside tables	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Update light fixtures	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Repair any loose or closet handles	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lubricate any squeaky closet or door hinges	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Put rarely used or off-season clothes and shoes in storage	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

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Home Office

Item	Okay	Fix / Change
Clear all papers from the desktop and cabinets	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Lock up any sensitive information such as tax returns, passwords, confidential work documents, and similar items	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Keep cords out of sight. If necessary, unplug or store items with lots of cables.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Consider putting large office chairs in storage and temporarily using a smaller chair.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Remove clutter and excess furniture.	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

Balcony/Patios

Next, focus on balcony, patio, or deck.

- Make sure outdoor furniture is fresh, clean and ready to use.
- Power wash the patio or balcony to remove any dirt
- If your barbeque occupies too much of the patio space or has seen better days, then put it in storage
- Some decorative plants on the patio/balcony are a plus, but be sure to find out what plants will thrive on your patios considering the sun exposure

House Exterior

For houses, your curb appeal makes a crucial first impression. Healthy grass and simple well-done landscaping can make a significant difference!

Item	Okay	Fix / Change
Power wash or paint the home's exterior walls and trim	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Repaint the house numbers and door knocker (if necessary)	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Trim landscaping and keep the lawn mowed at all times	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Add hanging baskets or potted plants by the front door	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Repair any hazards, such as broken concrete	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Remove toys, equipment and other objects from the yard and driveway	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Inspect sliding door and window handles, locks, sliders, and screens	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>

We recommend you have a professional paint your home and perform the landscaping. Once they've got the exterior looking its best, you should be able to maintain it.

Garage, Laundry Room, Storage Room, Basement

These are lower-priority but ensure that:

- Everything in the garage has a tidy and logical storage location
- Tools and equipment is organized and clean
- There is plenty of room to park your car, and there are no oil stains on the floor of the parking spot
- The washer and dryer are clean
- None of the shelves or storage areas look 'stuffed' or overflowing