

THE SIX BEST DIY TIPS TO

PREP YOUR HOME FOR SALE

1. PRETEND TO BE A BUYER AND PULL UP TO YOUR HOUSE

Imagine you're seeing your home for the first time. Make sure it looks clean and inviting by clearing the sidewalks, and trimming or updating the landscaping.

Pro Tip: Buyers are naturally drawn to unique front doors, so consider painting yours a complementary, fresh color like teal, red or yellow.

2. POWERWASH THE EXTERIOR

Instead of repainting your home, try powerwashing it to freshen the exterior. Paint the trim (preferably white) to give it an extra pop.

Exception: If your home is red or brown, you may want to consider repainting it. Those are the least popular colors for potential buyers. The most popular home exterior colors are white and yellow.

3. PAINT ONLY WHAT'S NEEDED INSIDE

Try to avoid repainting every room, if you can. Focus on touching up the areas with scuffs or holes from previous wall hangings.



Exception: It's important that your wall colors be neutral so buyers can see your home as a clean slate. If you have bold or unique walls, repaint the rooms so they don't stand out. And yes, this includes kids' rooms.

4. WASH YOUR WINDOWS

Buyers "love" light and there's no easier way to add light to a room than to make sure the windows are clean. Be sure to wash both inside and outside, and consider hiring a professional if you have hard-to-reach windows.

Pro Tip: You'll save money and see less streaking when you use newspaper instead of paper towels.



5. QUICK KITCHEN UPDATES

Buyers love an updated kitchen, but it's not worth your money to gut the whole thing. If you have old wooden cabinets, consider painting them white, and adding new hardware and a chic backsplash.

If your lighting fixtures scream mid-90's, replace them with inexpensive modern versions.

Pro Tip: The cheapest way to create a modern look in an outdated kitchen is to replace your countertops with — gasp! —

laminate. While your current laminate is probably outdated, a variety of fresh laminate countertop options are available at a fraction of the cost of marble or granite.

6. THE GARAGE IS NOT A DUMPING ZONE!

The last thing you want potential buyers to think is that you don't have enough storage in your home. If need be, rent a storage unit for any furniture or boxes that don't fit easily in your home and garage. Buyers may need a certain number of garage spaces for their vehicles or even a boat, so it's important they see each stall ready for use.

PLUS: WHAT'S NOT WORTH FIXING?

Unless you're planning to stay in your home for a few years, don't bother with an addition or attic upgrade, home office revamp, swimming pool or full kitchen remodel. These projects will cost more than they'll earn you back upon resale.

