

How To Prepare Your Home For Photography

Realtors and Homeowners: Please read and follow these instructions before your appointment. To ensure our photos do justice to your beautiful home and to avoid the inconvenience and expense of a re-shoot, it's important that you do your part to prepare. Please be aware that the more effort you put into making your house and property presentable, the better your photos will turn out. Here is a checklist of things to do:

GENERAL PREP

- BE READY.** Cleaning and staging must be done in advance and should be completed the day before the shoot. **NOTE:** The photographer will not have time to move things around or wait for rooms to be readied; furniture must in position ahead of time. The garage is not usually photographed, so it can be used for temporary storage.
- SECURE OR REMOVE PETS.** We love animals, but they can't be present during the photo shoot. Dogs must be secured or moved off-property to ensure the safety of the photographer and his equipment. (Many dog owners find it convenient to have their pets groomed on the day of the shoot.) Cats should be secured too, but they typically hide out of sight. Please remove bedding, food and water bowls.
- PLAN NOT TO BE SEEN.** If occupants are present, they must remain in areas where they can't be seen. Be aware that you can cast shadows and reflections even while trying to stay out of camera view.
- SIGNAGE:** For Sale, Realtor, alarm company signage, etc. should be removed.

OUTSIDE

- Remove all vehicles from the driveway and street in front of the house.
- If driveways, patios, and sidewalks are heavily mildewed, have them power washed. (Complete this at least one day before the shoot so those surfaces have time to dry.)
- Store garden hoses out of sight. (Do this before the day of the shoot to avoid puddles on driveways, patios, and sidewalks.)
- Turn off sprinklers the day before the shoot (grass should be dry).
- Mow lawn, trim bushes and shrubs, remove clippings and leaves.
- Pick up pet droppings.

- Hide garbage cans and recycling bins.
- Pool and Spa: Have them cleaned, within days before the shoot. Remove pool covers, pool cleaners, toys, and accessories.

INSIDE (ALL AREAS)

- Clean windows, inside and out. (Consider hiring a window cleaning service.)
- Turn on all light fixtures and replace burned out bulbs.
- Make sure all bulbs in each fixture are the same color temperature.
- Turn off ceiling fans.
- Open all curtains; set blinds to halfway open.
- Minimize electrical cords, if possible.
- Turn off TV and computer screens; hide remote controls.
- NOTE: Touch-up paint must match, otherwise it will show in the photos.
- Optional: Remove holiday decorations.

KITCHEN

- De-clutter counter tops.
- Hide cleaning supplies (soaps, sponges, brushes, etc.).
- Optional: Remove fridge magnets.
- Optional: Remove throw rugs.

BATHROOMS

- Clean shower, shower doors, bathtub, sink, toilet, and counter tops.
- Clean mirrors; remove water spots.
- Carefully arrange towels on racks (or remove them).
- Remove toothbrushes, soap, shampoo, and other personal items.
- Optional: Remove throw rugs.

LAUNDRY

- Remove clothes, hampers, baskets, and other personal items.

BEDROOMS

- Make the beds and pick up the floors.

TWILIGHT

- Turn on all interior and exterior lights; replace burned out bulbs.
- Make sure all bulbs in each fixture are the same color temperature.
- Open all curtains; set blinds to halfway open.
- Pool and Spa: Turn on the facilities and the lights.
- Fountains, waterfalls, other: Turn on, and their lights.
- Turn off sprinklers the day before the shoot (grass should be dry).

Thank you for your time and due diligence in going through this checklist! If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call Duane at 281-382-5269.