

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 hassle 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 same day as 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.** It's best if occupants are not home during the shoot. If present, however, they must remain in areas where they can't be seen. Be aware that people can cast shadows and reflections even while trying to stay out of sight, and there's a risk to photography equipment that will be moved from room to room.
- SIGNAGE:** For Sale, realtor, alarm company signage, etc. should be removed.
- INSIDE TEMPERATURE:** To prevent fogging of cameras and lenses, AC thermostats should be set to 72-76 degrees. Vacant houses must have power and AC.

OUTSIDE

- 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.
- Remove all vehicles from the driveway and street in front of the house.
- Hide garbage cans and recycling bins.
- Pool and Spa: Have them cleaned, preferably within days of 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 all light fixtures on 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.
- Remove holiday decorations.
- Remove framed family photos, diplomas, etc. from walls.
- IMPORTANT: Touch-up paint must match!

KITCHEN

- De-clutter counter tops.
- Put away cleaning supplies (soaps, sponges, brushes, etc.).
- Remove dish towels, cutting boards, dish racks, and sink strainers.
- Remove fridge magnets.
- Remove throw rugs.

LAUNDRY

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

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.
- Remove throw rugs.
- If possible, tie shower curtains in the middle.

BEDROOMS

- Make up the beds and pick up the floors.
- Hide clothes, toys, magazines, luggage, waste baskets, etc.
- Remove family photos, diplomas, and other personal items.
- Remove names of children from walls or doorways.

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 list! If you have any questions or concerns, please don't hesitate to call Duane at 281-382-5269.