

# *Preparing your home for photos.*

## **OUTSIDE**

- Remove vehicles, trash cans, recycle bins, etc. from driveway and front of house.
- Sweep driveway, walkways, porches, patios and decks.
- Remove hoses, sprinklers, garden tools, children's/pet's toys.
- Mow the lawn; trim back shrubs/bushes from walkways and doors; remove weeds from flower beds and around shrubs/bushes.

## **INSIDE**

- Open window coverings (curtains, drapes, sheers, blinds) to let in as much natural light as possible.
- Turn off ceiling fans—moving fan blades just look like a blur in the photos.
- If time and budget permits, have windows professionally cleaned. Clean windows let in more light than dirty windows. Consider removing window screens as well.
- Make sure all light fixtures have the proper type of bulbs—do not mix fluorescent and incandescent bulbs. Replace any burnt out bulbs.
- Eliminate as much clutter as possible, including children's toys, clothing, piles of newspapers/magazines. Remove anything from the floor that doesn't belong on the floor.
- Remove toiletries and other personal items from bathroom counters; close toilet lids; remove/replace old or dirty towels, washcloths, etc.
- Make all beds neatly (avoid wrinkles, lumps, etc.); clear dressers of personal items.
- If your child's bedroom has his/her name spelled out on the wall or otherwise visible, you may wish to remove it. If removal isn't feasible, be sure to alert me and I will attempt to edit it out from the final photos.
- At your computer workstations, stow or unplug dangling cables/wires; clear papers. Straighten up and/or remove items from bookcases.
- In the kitchen, remove most, but not all, items from the counters. Items that can be left out might include: decorative canisters, a colorful bowl or platter, no more than one countertop appliance. You want it to be uncluttered, but not sterile. Items to remove or hide from view include: dish towels, pet dishes, trash cans. Remove everything (magnets, pictures, calendars, etc.) from the outside of the refrigerator.
- In the living room or family room, remove remote controls, magazines, stacks of books, toys, etc. Remove any throws from chairs or couches.



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