# Home selling checklist

## 14 things to do before you list

Get your home ready for buyers with these 14 steps. Check them off as you go, and ask your agent which improvements matter most for your home.

- [ ] **1. Partner with a top real estate agent**
  Get expert guidance on pricing, preparation, and marketing before spending money on improvements.
  Find a top agent: https://www.homelight.com/find-real-estate-agents
- [ ] **2. Declutter and depersonalize each room**
  Remove excess furniture, personal photos, and clutter to help rooms feel spacious and inviting.
- [ ] **3. Secure your valuables**
  Lock away jewelry, medications, important documents, keys, and personal information before showings.
- [ ] **4. Deep clean, then keep it clean**
  Scrub kitchens, bathrooms, appliances, floors, and windows. Keep everything ready for photos and showings.
- [ ] **5. Eliminate odors, not just cover them**
  Address pet, smoke, cooking, or musty odors at the source instead of masking them with fragrances.
- [ ] **6. Make smart repairs**
  Fix noticeable problems such as leaking faucets, loose handles, damaged caulk, and peeling paint.
- [ ] **7. Skip unnecessary home improvements**
  Avoid costly renovations without first discussing whether they're likely to pay off when you sell.
- [ ] **8. Make inexpensive upgrades**
  Consider affordable updates to hardware, fixtures, or lighting that can make your home feel refreshed.
- [ ] **9. Consider a pre-listing home inspection**
  An inspection can help uncover potential problems so you can decide which repairs to address.
- [ ] **10. Prepare for the home appraisal**
  Address obvious maintenance issues, tidy the property, and gather records of recent improvements.
- [ ] **11. Check your home's estimated value**
  Get a preliminary estimate of your home's worth, then review pricing with your agent.
  Get a free home value estimate: https://www.homelight.com/home-value-estimator
- [ ] **12. Consider home staging**
  Arrange furniture to highlight each room's space and purpose. Add simple touches and let in natural light.
- [ ] **13. Boost your curb appeal**
  Tidy landscaping, clean walkways, trim shrubs, and freshen your entryway to make a strong first impression.
- [ ] **14. Refresh paint where it counts**
  Touch up scuffed or faded paint and consider neutral colors that appeal to a wide range of buyers.