

Photo-Day Checklist

Melissa Freeman

A camera-ready home feels clean, bright, spacious and easy to imagine living in.

BEFORE THE PHOTOGRAPHER ARRIVES

- ☐ Open every blind and curtain; raise shades evenly
- ☐ Turn on every lamp and overhead light; replace burned-out bulbs
- ☐ Remove cars, trash cans, hoses, toys and tools from the driveway and yard
- ☐ Put away pet bowls, beds, crates, litter boxes and visible pet supplies
- ☐ Secure pets off-site or in a space the photographer will not need
- ☐ Turn off ceiling fans, televisions and computer screens

KITCHEN + DINING

- ☐ Clear countertops except for one or two simple decorative items
- ☐ Remove magnets, notes, calendars and photos from the refrigerator
- ☐ Hide dish racks, soaps, sponges, trash cans and small appliances
- ☐ Straighten bar stools and dining chairs; use simple place settings only
- ☐ Clear the sink, polish appliance fronts and remove floor mats

LIVING SPACES + BEDROOMS

- ☐ Remove remotes, cords, chargers, tissue boxes and personal paperwork
- ☐ Fluff pillows, fold throws and straighten rugs, tables and decor
- ☐ Make every bed neatly; smooth bedding and arrange pillows evenly
- ☐ Clear nightstands and dressers; hide laundry baskets and wastebaskets
- ☐ Open closet doors only if the closet is a feature worth photographing

BATHROOMS

- ☐ Clear every counter, shower ledge and tub surround
- ☐ Hide toothbrushes, toiletries, medications, scales and cleaning products
- ☐ Close toilet lids and remove toilet brushes, plungers and trash cans
- ☐ Hang fresh matching towels; clean mirrors, glass and chrome
- ☐ Remove bath mats unless they are clean, neutral and photograph well

OUTSIDE + FINAL FIVE-MINUTE SWEEP

- ☐ Sweep porches and steps; straighten outdoor furniture and cushions
- ☐ Hide garden tools, hoses, empty planters and seasonal decorations
- ☐ Check every room for clutter visible through doorways or reflections
- ☐ Wipe fingerprints from glass doors, mirrors and stainless surfaces
- ☐ Take one last walk through at camera height - less is more

MELISSA'S QUICK REMINDER

*You do not need a perfect house.
You need a home that photographs clearly.*