

34 Tips to Prepare a Home For Professional Photography

Help your clients get ready for a professional photo shoot with this list of ideas and tips from Better Homes & Garden Real Estate.

Inside the Home

1. **De-clutter** as much as possible. Put away toys, clothing, dishes, towels, shoes etc. It's a lot cheaper to put these things away before the photo shoot than to pay to have the photos "photoshopped".
2. **Depersonalized** to a certain degree. Photos of young children and any potentially offensive art (believe me, I've seen it all!) should be put away.
3. Remove any **seasonal/holiday** decorations that can quickly outdate your photos.
4. **Dust and vacuum.**
5. Make all the **beds**, fluff all the pillows, and check the bed skirts.
6. Clean the **kitchen sink** and put away all the dishes.
7. Clear all **kitchen counter tops** and put away toasters, can openers, etc.
8. Clear all **bathroom counter tops** and put away all personal items.
9. Remove all **shampoos, conditioners, body-washes**, etc. from the shower.
10. Put out the **guest towels** and hide all the others.
11. Hide all **trash cans**.
12. Remove all **magnets and decorations** from the refrigerator.
13. If there are **pets**, hide all food/water bowls, pet beds, and pet toys.
14. Put all **toilet seats** and lids down.
15. Replace all burned out **light bulbs**.
16. Consider decorating the tables with your prettiest **place settings**.
17. Consider putting out vases of **fresh flowers**.

Outside the Home

1. Have the **lawn trimmed**, leaves raked, bushes and trees pruned.
2. Clean up after any **animal**
3. Put away all garbage **cans**, hoses, garden tools, toys, bikes etc.
4. Hide any “cute” **yard decorations**.
5. In snowy climates, **shovel snow** from walkways, driveways, patios, decks when necessary.
6. If there is a **pool, hot tub, or spa**, take any security gate down, uncover, and clean.
7. If there will be any twilight photos taken, **replace any broken lighting** on the home, around the landscape, and in the pool.
8. Open the **umbrellas** on any patio sets.
9. When in season, **uncover grills**.
10. Remove any **seasonal/holiday** decorations.
11. Consider adding splashes of **bright colored flowers** to the landscape and in pots.

Right Before the Photographer Arrives

1. Turn on ALL interior lights – even lights in furniture cabinets.
2. Turn OFF all ceiling fans.
3. Light fireplaces and candles.
4. Open all blinds, shades, and curtains.
5. Clear all cars and vehicles from the driveway and the street in front of the home.
6. Please secure any potentially aggressive animals in a safe location, away from all rooms being photographed.

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