

## 1 Clean and Declutter

Start with a simple spruce up for major impact with minimal effort.

- Keep your lawn mowed and neatly edged.
- Trim overgrown trees and bushes to improve your home's visibility from the street.
- Remove dead or dying plants.
- Weed flowerbeds and remove any debris. Add a fresh layer of mulch.
- Pressure-wash your home's siding, decks, walkways and driveway.
- Clean windows inside and out.
- Remove leaves and debris from gutters and downspouts.
- Store toys, lawn ornaments, garbage bins and other clutter out of sight.
- Park cars in the garage or down the street during showings to keep your driveway clear.

## 2 Make Repairs

Present a well-maintained property by tackling as many of these projects as your time frame and budget allow.

- Fill in bare areas of your lawn, either through seeding or sodding.
- Patch or reseal minor cracks in your driveway and walkways. Hire a contractor for major driveway repairs.
- Check your home for peeling paint and repaint if needed.
- Replace rotted or warped siding boards.
- Replace broken or missing roof shingles. If your roof is nearing the end of its lifespan (typically about 20 years for asphalt shingles), consider replacing it.
- Repair or replace damaged shutters, window screens and awnings.
- Make sure all exterior and landscape lights are in working order. Replace light bulbs as needed.
- Paint or stain your fence and repair loose or broken boards.

## 3 Add the Finishing Touches

Wow homebuyers from the curb with stylish details.

- Plant colorful flowers in your front beds and window boxes. Place a potted plant or two by the front entrance.
- Paint the front door a bright color that stands out from your home's exterior. Paint shutters and trim to match.
- Add a new welcome mat at your front door.
- Replace door hardware, light fixtures and house numbers at your home's entrance. Coordinate these items for a cohesive look.
- Use pavers or plants to create an inviting path from the sidewalk, driveway or road to the front door. Line the path with solar light fixtures.
- Replace or repaint an old mailbox.
- Create inviting seating areas that are visible from the street, such as a bench in the front yard or a table and chairs on the porch.