

Preparing Your Home For Winter Showings



There is no doubt about it! Even if the weather is relatively pleasant, your home won't show as well in the winter as it would in the summer, especially from the outside. Fortunately, there are many ways to make your home look more attractive and appealing to buyers during the winter season.

First, before showing your home to a potential buyer, clear your front walkway. Make sure fence doors and gates open freely. Also, clear off the backyard deck or patio area. You want buyers to be able to explore around your property without any obstructions.

In short, do everything you can to make the experience of walking up to your front door and around your property as pleasant as possible.

Second, clear away any boots, shoes and other outerwear from the front foyer. You want buyers to focus on your beautiful home, not a cluttered entranceway. Also, have mats on both the outside and inside of your main entranceway. This will give buyers – as well as you and your family – a chance to wipe their boots and shoes.

Next, adjust your thermostat. You want your home to feel warm, cozy and comfortable for potential buyers.

Finally, remember that in the winter, homes show much better during the day. In the evening, it may be too dark to fully appreciate your property. So work with your REALTOR® to schedule viewings during the day whenever possible. If you can, also have pictures of your property available that showcase what it looks like in the summer. That takes planning. So if you're even just casually thinking of the possibility of selling your home, take some good "summer" pictures.

Want more advice on how to sell your home in the winter? Call today.

Reducing the damage of drafts



Can a draft through a window or door cause damage? It can. Damage to your bank account! A single, seemingly minor, draft through a window can increase your energy bill by as much as 3%. In addition, a damp draft can make a room feel colder than it really is, while a dry draft can cause dry throats and skin.

So it pays to pay attention to drafts in your home. Drafts are most commonly found at windows and doors, but they can also occur through walls with poor or old insulation.

Ideally, a draft should be eliminated through a repair or renovation (such as replacing old windows.) When that's not possible, there are a variety of products available that will help you stop drafts in the short term – such as replacement insulation strips for doors.

Visit your local home improvement centre. They can recommend products and solutions that can help your particular issues.

Think, Act... Live!

"Congratulations. Today is the day. You're off to great places. You're on your way!" **Dr. Seuss**

"Don't mistake activity with achievement." **John Wooden**

"Doing the best in the moment puts you in the best place for the next moment." **Oprah Winfrey**