

Prep for Pictures Checklist

General

- Thoroughly clean whole house, vacuum carpet, mop hard floors, clean countertops, clean windows
- Turn all overhead lights and lamps on
- Replace all burned out light bulbs
- Use bulbs of same temperatures. For best lighting try to have all incandescent or all fluorescent
- Turn ceiling fans off
- Turn all screens off
- Close closet doors
- Open blinds/windows to let in natural light
- Depersonalize your home to a certain degree. Remove personal photographs, any potentially offensive art or personal items, etc.
- Remove floor rugs to reveal actual flooring
- Remove any seasonal/holiday decorations as these can outdate your photos or be offensive to some
- General tidiness, ensure there is no food, clothes, toys, shoes or any clutter in any of the photos

Kitchen

- Clear countertops completely
- Leave out max of one appliance (ex. Coffee maker)
- Clear outside of fridge completely
- A bowl of fresh fruit
- Hide garbage cans
- Make sure countertops and sink are clean, all dishes accounted for

Dining Room

- Clear and clean/polish table
- Use decorative place setting if possible
- Have centerpiece on table like flowers
- Straighten chairs
- Remove booster seats

Family Room

- Declutter magazines, paper, mail, etc.
- Clean/declutter fireplace
- Fluff and arrange furniture pillows

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- Remove any toys
- Bedrooms**
- Make bed, use decorative pillows/covers if available
- Press bed linens
- Clear nightstands of any personal items and/or clutter
- Clean under bed
- Organize your closets
- Remove any personalized names, stickers, posters, etc. from walls

Bathrooms

- Clear countertops completely, no toothbrushes, deodorant etc.
- Put toilet seat down
- Remove any shampoo/soap etc. from showers and tubs
- Remove dirty towels, only use new unused towels
- Remove floor mats

Exterior

- Close garage doors
- Hide any personalized “cute” yard decorations
- Open umbrellas on patio sets
- Wipe down furniture and make sure cushions are clean
- Uncover grills as necessary
- Consider adding splashes of bright colored flowers
- Remove cars from driveway and front of home
- Clean up landscaping as necessary
 - Trim bushes and trees
 - Pull Weeds
- Make sure gutters, corners, eaves, and door frames are clear of cobwebs, leaves, or other messes
- Remove toys, soccer goals, basketball hoops as necessary
- Tidy up porch – sweep porch, deck, or patio
- Make sure lawn is mowed and in good shape
 - Rake Leaves
- Clean pool
- Turn on pool fountains/water features if applicable
- Remove trash cans
- Remove water hoses

Pets

- Place food or water bowls out of sight in pantry or closet
- Use lint roller on furniture
- Clear backyard of pet waste/toys
- Remove litter box
- Secure pets in hidden crate or outside while photographer is present

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Photographer Will Not...

- Move or rearrange furniture
- Tidy up the yard or home by picking up toys, debris, cleaning supplies, personal items, etc.
- Use Photoshop to be dishonest in any way

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