

Photo Shoot Preparation

Outdoors:

- Spruce up your garden and lawn; trim shrubbery, remove dead growth, and rake leaves if necessary.
- Yard and patio should be neat; outdoor furniture should be clean and in good shape... or stowed out of sight.
- Mow the lawn; make sure the driveway & entryway are free of vehicles and clutter (toys, bikes, hoses, etc.)
- Wait to place any 'for sale' signs until after the photo shoot...or remove them prior.

Living Areas:

- Remove clutter and tidy up the shelves. Stow away all personal photographs/portraits.
- Move excess furniture out of rooms. You want the space clean, open, and clutter-free (no dog crates, tray tables, etc.). Hide electrical, phone and TV cords/cables, unplug if necessary.
- Replace any burnt out light bulbs and take care to use identical types/wattages in each area. A missing/out light bulb, or a fluorescent beside an incandescent really take away from your scene.

Kitchen:

- Clear kitchen countertops; remove any clutter and small appliances, salt/pepper shakers, utensils, etc.
- Low décor...fruit bowl, flowers, dish arrangement can conceal most of those pesky outlets left behind.
- Make sure sink is clean and dirty/clean dishes are put away. Stow cleaning supplies out of sight.
- Empty the garbage can, hide or remove if possible.
- Remove all dish towels and scatter rugs.

Bathrooms:

- Clear countertops and tubs/showers of all clutter and personal items.
- Put essential items used daily in a small box that can be stored away quickly.
- Close toilet lid and supply toilet paper holders. Empty the garbage, hide trash cans.
- Clean mirrors & glass surfaces. Close all closet doors.
- Hang clean towels neatly from towel bar.

Overall/General:

- Table decor should be of appropriate size and short/low. Place taller arrangements near walls or corners.
- Check the basics around the house (indoors & out). It takes just a minute to make sure the house is clutter-free and all is in order. Close closet/cabinet doors and furniture drawers. Put all clothing away.
- Contain all pets and eliminate all visible evidence...bowls, crates, beds, toys, litter boxes etc.
- Turn on as many lights as you can prior to photographer's arrival. This includes all table lamps and exterior lights. Be prepared to leave all of them on until the photographer is completely finished, inside and out.
- Windows should be clean. Removal of screens provides a clearer view. Open all drapes and raise blinds to capture views through windows. Use discretion...if something unwanted is in view, conceal instead. Completely close all windows. Blinds should be made level with each another and strings straight and/or concealed. Curtains should be arranged neatly.
- Try not to be in the room while the photographer is photographing as you may end up in the photo. We use ultra wide angle lenses and even when not looking through the camera, may be shooting a scene.
- Try not to interrupt the photographer(s), we want to utilize your photo shoot time as efficiently as possible.

***The photographer cannot move furniture, clean or dust, move garbage, pickup/move clutter (toys, clothes and shoes, dirty dishes, pet evidence, etc.) . If needed, pre-arranged staging services are available at our creative hourly rate.

***The home MUST be ready for the photographer when he/she arrives. Upon arrival our photographers can wait no longer than 15 minutes for additional home preparations. If a wait longer than this occurs we will have to move on to our next scheduled appointment and a cancellation fee of \$50 will apply. The photography session will then need to be rescheduled.