

## ENHANCING YOUR HOME'S CURB APPEAL

First impressions are everything—at least when it comes to selling your home. The home's exterior serves as a snapshot of what's to come when potential buyers enter your home. Read on to learn new ways you can wow homebuyers from the curb.



**Be a buyer.** Walk around your entire home's exterior with a notepad and pen. Take notes on what looks "off" and needs repairing, replacing or cleaning. Get in your car and drive by slowly from both directions during the day and night. You might see something you've never noticed before.

**Look up.** The roof is an important curb appeal item that buyers do notice. A good cleaning or, if necessary, a roof replacement will up your home's curb appeal factor tremendously. Give your gutters a good cleaning and repair any signs of damage. Be sure to also check for cobwebs on the front porch.

**Apply some pressure.** Rent a pressure washer at your local hardware or home improvement store and thoroughly clean the home's exterior including siding, foundation, patio, walkways, driveways, stairs, decks and porches.

**Plant some color.** Choose annual plants that bloom year round for that added pop of color. Use blue, purple, light pink and white flowers and blooms to make your yard stand out. Keep the plants simple to avoid added yard work over the winter months. A few inches of dark mulch will brighten up the beds without screaming, "fake".

**Layer of mulch.** A fresh layer of mulch is a cheap way to improve the look of a yard. Mulch can restore color to your yard that was taken away by sunlight and harsh weather. Using darker mulch will add nice contrast to your yard, so steer clear of light colored mulch.

**Focus on the front door.** Painting the front door, trim and shutters is a great way to refresh the look of your home. Updating your door's handle and

deadbolt set is a great visual upgrade. Clean off any dirty spots around the knob, and use metal polish on the door fixtures. Consider replacing house numbers to create a harmonious or contrasting effect to the style of your house.

**Second opinion.** A new set of eyes can help prioritize what needs to be fixed and cleaned up. Ask your real estate agent, trusted friends and family to give you an honest opinion and look for certain defects that you might have gotten used to or overlooked.