

AGENT

36 useful items for real estate agents to keep in the car trunk

Things you might need for listings, open houses, marketing -- or for yourself

BY AMBER TAUFEN ★

JUN 28 

180
SHARES



Key Takeaways

- A real estate agent's day can be full of unexpected (and sometimes messy) surprises. Be prepared to tackle any situation with the right tools.

The real estate event of the summer

Connect with other top producing agents at Connect SF, Aug 7-11, 2017

[LEARN MORE](#)

Between the listing appointments, buyer showings, open house events, home inspections and office meetings, [real estate agents](#) tend to spend a lot of hours in their vehicles.

And when you're accustomed to all that windshield time, your car becomes a stash spot for important items — things that help you do your job and essentials you simply can't live without.

Last time, we named [11 tools you should keep in your trunk](#), but this time we're offering even more suggestions for how to stock your car wisely. (Maybe it's time to think about a bigger ride.)

Tools

1. Flashlight

You can't count on any listing to have enough light to see all the things you need to see — especially if that listing is vacant or if there have been issues with upkeep.

Bonus: A heavy-duty flashlight can also do double duty as a weapon.



SPONSORED CONTENT

[6 ways to win business from millennial homebuyers](#)



4. **WD-40 or graphite**

Sticky locks get annoying fast. WD-40 or liquid graphite will make short work of them, though.



5. Rubber mallet and tent spike

Pound a sign into the ground like a pro. You'll need something to make the sign hole (tent spike), and the rubber mallet keeps things from getting out of hand.



6. Other assorted tools

Some agents like to bring even more tools with them in their cars, like screwdrivers, hammers or pliers. Only you know whether one of those multi-tool keychain fobs will do the trick or whether you need better resources than that.

7. Box/bag for containment

You probably don't want all this stuff rolling around in your truck, so use a box or bag to organize and contain your treasures.

Marketing items or important documents

8. Signs

It never hurts to be prepared when it comes to letting everyone know that you just landed a listing. Take those signs with you (after all, that's what the rubber mallet and tent spike are for!)



Andy Dean Photography / Shutterstock

9. Blank documents

Imagine how impressed your prospects will be when you can produce a listing agreement or buyer's agent contract on



10. **Black Sharpie or other permanent marker**

You never know when you might need to make a little change to one of those contracts or something else. This will help.



11. **Dog treats**

These will not only spread goodwill with your clients with fur babies, but if you [go the route of Daniel Gale agent Tina McGowan](#), the biscuits themselves can be an advertisement for your services.



The whale of a dog biscuit that Tina McGowan gives to clients.

12. Business cards

These are so small that putting an extra five or so in your glove compartment is barely noticeable — but you'll be happy you have them if your regular stash runs out.

For the open house

13. Toilet paper

Nobody wants to be stuck in a bathroom without the proper resources. And you don't want anyone at your open house in that scenario, either.



14. Shoe covers

New carpeting or a seller who can't abide muddy floors? Put these at the door for potential buyers to slip on.



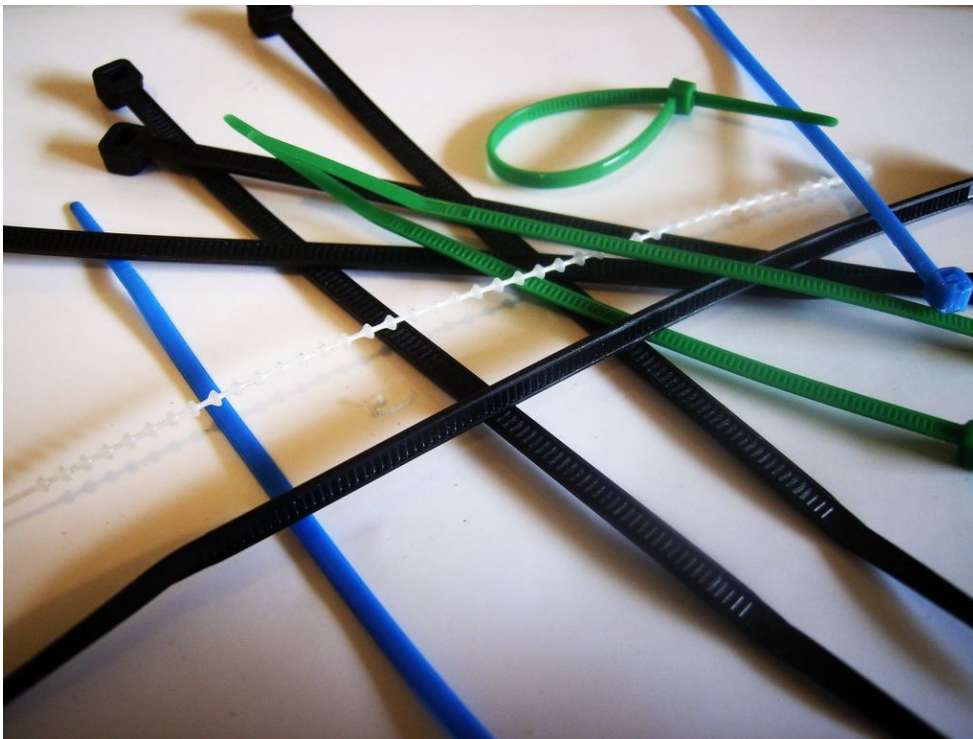
15. Hand broom/dustpan

Handy for sweeping up entry areas, decks or anywhere else that might need a little polish.



16. Zip ties

There are oh, so many uses for these little devils — hanging signs is probably the most common (and least creative) way agents use them.



17. Dog leash

Maybe your seller's dog is in a kennel or perfectly well-behaved, but you never know when you might need to lead a stray elsewhere.



18. Light bulbs

A flashlight is fine when it's just you, but if you're hoping to show this place to prospective buyers, *they* need to be able to see everything, too. Technology these days is so amazing that you can even buy portable light bulbs to stick on the wall if you're not sure about the wiring.



For your new listing

19. Lockboxes

No time like the present to get that new listing set up for viewing — and you can't do that without a lockbox.



Olivier Le Queinec / Shutterstock.com

20. Window cleaner

Pro tip: Window cleaner doesn't just clean windows. (Still, please always check the bottles to make sure the surface you want to clean is suitable for what you're using.)



Photo from Flickr.

21. Paper towels

You'll need something to wipe around that window cleaner, naturally, and a roll of paper towels is both portable and disposable.



Photo from [Flickr](#)

22. Plastic trash bags

Heavy-duty ones are best — you really never know what you might need to bag up until you get there.



23. Scissors

You used the zip ties to put a sign up, and if you need to take it down, you'll probably need a pair of scissors to do it. (There are plenty of other uses for a pair, too.)



24. Face masks



Surgical face mask

If you live in an area with damp weather (and basements) during part or most of the year — and especially if you work with properties that might not have been kept up for a while — then you may want to pack a disposable face mask to protect your lungs from whatever is in the air at that listing.

25. Old towels for wet floors or spills

Sometimes paper towels just won't cut it. A towel or two that's fit for the dogs can make cleanup easier if there's a big spill.

26. Batteries

Is there anything more annoying than a smoke detector that won't stop beeping? If you carry some batteries on you, though, it's no big deal.



27. Wasp spray

This likely doesn't apply to every agent in every climate — but if it applies to you, trust us: If a time comes when you really need it, you will regret not making room for the wasp spray.



For you

28. Water

If you're not comfortable leaving plastic bottles in your car, pick a brand that uses glass instead.



29. Snacks

Getting caught somewhere between meals — or skipping a meal entirely — is something agents are all too familiar with. Stash some snacks (preferably snacks that could serve as an actual meal in a pinch) to alleviate the problem.



30. Change of shoes

Messes happen, and you might have somewhere to be after they do. At least you can swap out your shoes (or put on the



31. Hand wipes

When you can't wash your hands, every parents knows that the next best thing isn't sanitizer, it's wipes — which are also ideal for eliminating sticky messes.



[A Flickr photo.](#)

32. First aid kit

If you can't bring yourself to pack a whole kit — we realize this list is getting long — then at least make sure you have Band-Aids on you.



This can be controversial, but it bears mentioning: You might want to keep some safety items in your car (though probably not in your trunk), like the weapon-type of safety item. Whether that means a gun or pepper spray or investing in some self-defense lessons, always know what you're packing and where it is.

We know this list is by no means comprehensive. What would you add to it?

[Email Amber Taufen](#)

[Like me on Facebook!](#) | [Follow me on Twitter!](#)

Article image credited to Africa Studio / Shutterstock.com

MOST READ

11 reasons for sale by owner is a terrible idea

BY CHRIS REDIGER | JUN 10

Zillow mania: \$1.7B value boost, 27K haters

BY BRAD INMAN ★ | JUN 23



36 useful items for real estate agents to keep in the trunk

BY AMBER TAUFEN ★ | JUN 28



Blogger fighting back in Zillow listing photo battle

Pirelli Cinturato P7 Run
Flat (H-...



\$169.15

Tire Rack



Pirelli Cinturato P7 Run Flat (H-...



\$169.15

Tire Rack



[Hide Comments](#)

COMMENTS

3 Comments

Sort by [Oldest](#) ▼



Add a comment...



Philip Unger · Real Estate Agent/Broker at Coldwell Banker Cheshire CT

Pliers for pulling up carpet to check for wood

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · [1](#) · Jun 28, 2017 5:35am



Lisa Mutschler · Real Estate Broker at The Mutschler-Bozeman Group / Keller Williams Avenues Realty

We're not supposed to pull up carpet...

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · 1 hr



Linda Goldfarb · Founder, Managing Member at LSG Consulting Services, llc

I have 3/4 of these things in my car. I live in Florida, I have to watch what I store. Always have a mini cooler in the car.

[Like](#) · [Reply](#) · Jun 28, 2017 7:38am



Susan Tokarz-Krauss · Owner/Designer at Real Estate Designed To Sell

Great list! For Realtor Events I have put together baskets with many of these items and they have been a huge hit for Realtors

RELATED ARTICLES

31 unexpected encounters in home sales

BY AMBER TAUFEN ★ | JUN 5



Could you work a regular 9-to-5 job after real estate?

BY AMBER TAUFEN ★ | MAY 30



Quality over quantity? How to shift your lead-gen mindset

BY AMBER TAUFEN ★ | MAY 24



Inman

[About](#)
[Contact](#)
[Advertise](#)
[Sponsor Connect](#)
[Careers](#)
[Code of Conduct](#)
[Privacy](#)
[Terms of Use](#)

Community

[Inman Facebook group](#)
[Agent War Room](#)
[Broker War Room](#)
[Vendor Exchange](#)
[Contributor submissions](#)
[Image submissions](#)

Products

[Select](#)
[Inman Pro](#)
[Market Intel](#)

Awards

[Inman 101](#)
[Inman Innovators](#)
[Inman Influencers](#)

