

Five Areas of the Home to Focus on Updating Before Selling

Breaking home improvement tasks down to these five areas of the home to focus your attention on makes the home prep process a little more digestible. Some improvements are low-cost and can be a simple DIY weekend project. Other projects may require a small investment, like refreshing the interior walls with a fresh coat of paint, but the payoff will be well worth the effort.

Main Entryway

The entryway is the first thing visitors will see when they walk into your home for an open house or in listing photos. Make sure that it's welcoming, uncluttered, and updated. If you can only choose one space inside your home to spruce up, make it the entry.

- Lighten the wall color with a fresh coat of neutral paint
- Freshen up the staircase by painting the spindles, banister, treads, or risers
- Replace flooring or carpet on the staircase
- Switch out light fixtures

Main Living Space

The living space can be a bigger time and money investment. But if we think about it, it's where most families spend the majority of their time. Small updates can make a major difference to make the room pop.

- Choose a neutral wall color
- Paint the trim
- Whitewash red brick
- Update aging carpet
- Remove window treatments
- Consider staging instead of using personal furniture and belongings in photos
- Remove any family photos from the space
- Switch out light fixtures



Kitchens

Kitchens tend to be the most expensive investment when renovating or updating a home. Renovating an entire kitchen can be pricey and time consuming, but small tweaks, like updating hardware, can make the room look new.

- Paint the walls
- Paint the cabinets in lieu of replacing with new ones
- Switch out cabinet pulls and faucet hardware
- Update light fixtures
- Add new flooring
- Update appliances
- Remove clutter/small appliances from countertops

Bathrooms

Buyers can fall in love with a bathroom or view it as a dingy space that's on top of their list to tackle when they move in. Give the buyer a reason to love the house even more with a handful of swaps and small tasks in the main bathrooms.

- Paint the bathroom vanity
- Swap out vanity hardware

- Paint the walls
- Update mirrors and vanity lights
- Add a new towel bar, toilet paper holder, and towel ring
- Paint dated-colored tile to neutralize the space
- Remove or replace the shower curtain with a neutral color
- Deep clean the space

Exteriors

Don't forget the outdoors! Curb appeal is important and can be a dealbreaker to some buyers... It's their first impression. Small updates here make all the difference.

- Paint exterior brick
- Paint accent items like shutters, the front door, fascia boards, and garage doors
- Update sconces or other outdoor light fixtures
- Clean up the landscape including trimming bushes, pulling weeds, mowing the lawn, and laying fresh mulch
- Pressure wash sidewalks and the driveway