

Tips for Staging Your Kitchen



The kitchen is often a home's main focal point and the room that entices potential buyers. Although many sellers choose to complete a basic remodel before listing, a little paint, cleaning and properly placed dining items can make it look like new. Here are eight things you can do to make your kitchen inviting to potential buyers without paying for a costly renovation.

- 1 Do a thorough cleaning.** Wipe down and thoroughly clean the baseboards, ceiling fans, appliances, sink, back splash, and floors until they're spotless. Get into every nook and cranny to remove all the grime that may linger after years of cooking and entertaining.
- 2 Remove personal items.** Take down photos and family effects from the counter and refrigerator to help buyers imagine themselves using the kitchen.
- 3 Paint the walls.** A fresh coat of paint in a muted or neutral color can revitalize the entire look and feel of a room for much less than the cost of a remodel.
- 4 Brighten up.** Use brighter light bulbs and remove heavy curtains so natural light can stream through and create a feeling of spaciousness.
- 5 Maximize the space you have.** With the right combination of furniture and accessories, you can highlight the kitchen's features while minimizing its limitations.
- 6 Polish chrome fixtures, hardware and stove knobs.** If these items are dated or worn, consider replacing them. Otherwise, a rag and polish will make these features shine like new.
- 7 Keep surfaces clean and clutter free.** Store cleaning products and small appliances in the cabinets. Don't leave your dishes in the sink, drying rack or dishwasher. When you put them away, make sure that plates are stacked by size and mugs are aligned.
- 8 Help the kitchen appear warm and inviting.** Place a few cookbooks, arranged in size order, on the counter or bookshelves. To add a splash of color, place fruit in a large bowl or houseplants in colorful pots on the counter.

