

De-Cluttering Checklist

Living Room/Family Room

Carpets	Clean professionally. Leave no spots. If they're worn, replace them with a light, neutral color.
Curio Cabinets	Remove.
Drapes/Blinds	It may be best to remove draperies. They can make rooms look smaller and darker. If you keep them, they need to be clean and pressed.
End Tables	One lamp and a couple smaller items, no framed photos or large figurines. Groups of three work well. Situate the table with a couple chairs for example.
Furniture	Remove everything but a couch, loveseat, one or two end tables with lamps and an upholstered chair. If it's a small room, remove everything but the couch or loveseat and table.
Hand Railings	High profile items. Make sure the finish is in great shape.
Mantels	Clear them off, clean and replace a few small items to avoid starkness.
Pictures & Photos	Leave one or two that blend with the décor.
Plants	Leave only a few. Make sure they are robustly healthy. Nothing too big.
Trophies	Bye-Bye.

Kitchen

Cabinet Tops	Remove everything.
Countertops	Everything goes. No appliances, no cookbooks, no crumbs.
Cupboards & Cabinets	Remove absolutely everything but what you need for every day usage. Tidy up spilled cornflakes, opened packages, things like that.
Dining Table	Remove leaves. Keep table clean and clear. Retain only the chairs you need. Add a colorful flower arrangement to the center of the table.
Drawers	Clean and de-crumbs. Retain only the items you absolutely need.
Eating/Dining	Leave only the table and chairs you use. This will make the space look as big as possible.
Hand Railings	High profile items. Make sure the finish is in great shape.
Pantry	Make it neat. Remove everything but the essential minimum you need for daily use. Nearly empty is good.
Plants	Keep plants in the kitchen to a minimum. Make sure they're small and in top condition.
Refrigerator	Remove everything from the door. The goal is appliance showroom good looks.
Under the Sink	Remove everything but absolute essentials. Make sure the area is clean and absent of stains. If the area smells musty, add an air freshener.

Bathroom

Cabinet	Retain only the minimal, absolutely necessary items.
Countertop	Remove all personal items and make sure countertops are spotless.
Kitty Litter Box	It has to go.
Shelves	Remove personal items. Retain a couple knickknacks to add personality to the room.
Shower Curtain	Remove or replace it, especially if it's moldy.
Towel Racks	A couple fluffy, new towels are all you want. More can make the room look smaller.
Tub/Shower	Remove all the soaps, shampoos and additional clutter. Remove soap scum and make it sparkling clean.
Under the Sink	Same as the kitchen, retain only the minimal necessary items. Clean it up.

Bedrooms

Armoire/Wardrobe	Remove.
Bed	Be sure the bed fits the room. The bigger the bed, the smaller the room. Consider renting a smaller bed if necessary.
Bedspread & Pillows	Add zing to the room with good quality, design-complementary new items.
Chairs, Rockers, Other Furniture	Remove.
Closet	They're extremely important, possibly, more so than practically any other space in the home. They need to be emptied of clutter, emptied of all but absolutely necessary articles, made clean and fresh-smelling. You might enjoy a big return on an investment in a closet organizer.
Dresser/Chest of Drawers	Remove them if they crowd the room. Clear and clean the tops.
End Tables	Store them if they crowd the room. Remove everything but a lamp and clock radio.
Kid's Room	They do count. Make sure they're tidy and un-cluttered.
Teen's Room	Posters need to go. Dirty clothes need to be picked up. Good luck.
Window	The room will look bigger without draperies; if it's a larger room that may not matter. Be sure that window treatments are new and crisp.

Garage

Floor	De-stain and degrease. Consider a sealant or an epoxy resin to make it look sharp.
Shelves & Workbench	Remove them; include the pegboards, the hooks and the tools.
Sheetrock	Patch holes. If your garage isn't sheetrocked, consider having it done to match the competition down the street.
Garage Door Opener	Make sure it works flawlessly and quietly.
Windows	Wash them to let in maximum light.