

EASY WAYS TO CREATE CURB APPEAL



A first impression is powerful — any realtor will tell you that curb appeal is an important selling feature. Make this work for you by improving the look and feel of the outside of your home. It's easy and doesn't need to cost a lot if you follow these handy tips

EVALUATE YOUR HOME

- Relocate or prune any large plants that are blocking a full view of your home
- Check that the driveway is in good shape
- Clean all the windows
- Eliminate any mold or mildew on or around your home
- Tidy your yard

HOME IMPROVEMENTS

- Wash the siding to remove moss, mold and mildew
- Clean both sides of the windows, including hard-to-reach corners
- Wipe down screens
- Replace an old mailbox
- Repaint, replace or add accessories to your front door such as a new knobs or knocker

LANDSCAPING IMPROVEMENTS

- Remove crabgrass and weeds
- Add a new layer of mulch
- Add gravel in between walkway cracks
- Tidy edges or plant flowers along your walkway
- Patch or fill cracks in your driveway
- Plant evergreen shrubs or trees for privacy
- Create a focal point with accessories, such as a bench, birdbath or shed
- Place window boxes along the railings of your deck
- Make sure the façade is well-lit for prospective buyers who may view it at night



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PACK THE PERFECT BOX

- **Choose a box:** Consider what you're packing and try to control box weight. If you're doing books, use a small box. If you're working on sweaters, a larger box can be used.
- **Prepare the box:** Tape the bottom, then line it with crumpled tissue paper or newspaper. Stack and fill in the box with your stuff, then top it with more tissue.
- **Wrap fragile items:** Use cardboard dividers, tissue paper or bubble wrap. To prevent small items from being thrown out accidentally, wrap them in brightly colored tissue paper or a labeled plastic bag.
- **Seal and label:** Tape the top and mark it with a descriptive label. You can print the name of the room the box belongs to or give more description to help with the unpacking process.

USING A HUMP STRAP

- A hump strap (essentially a 16-foot long nylon strap available at moving equipment stores) is a great tool for one person to more easily lift tall boxes or several boxes at once.
- Set the box on top: Try this technique to carry a tall box or several boxes at once. Lay the hump strap on the floor and place the box on top with the strap in the center. The stack should be near shoulder height; a smaller stack will not work.
- Tie a knot: Wrap the strap around the box and tie a knot just below the top front edge of the box. The knot should be comfortable to hold.
- Lift and carry: Back into the box, bend your knees, and grab the knot behind your neck with one hand. Slowly straighten your legs. Start walking when you feel comfortable, with the load resting on your slightly bent back.

