

## 6 Tricks For Really Decluttering Your Home When Selling

Tackle one of the hardest aspects of selling your home with my help through this FREE guide.

Are you ready to get out from under your home? I know; you want to sell, but it's so hard figuring out what is fact and fiction in the real estate world. With this FREE report, you will be given a factual, easy to digest guide for one of the most important steps you must take when putting your home on the market: decluttering.

This report is completely FREE, and you'll learn a myriad of tips and tricks from a knowledgeable professional, such as:

- ✓ The importance of decluttering
- ✓ How to use a systematic process while decluttering to avoid burn out
- ✓ The difference between decluttering and depersonalization and why they're both important
- ✓ How to effectively handle sentimental clutter
- ✓ A clear path for donating, selling and trashing what you no longer need or want
- ✓ How to find a safe, affordable storage unit for all that you keep
- ✓ The integral step of organizing your necessities to increase the salability of your home

This is an invaluable guide for those who really are ready to get moving with the sale of their home. If you are one of those folks, all you have to do is fill out the required information and click. There's nothing too personal, just your first name and email address, and this report is yours. Seriously, that's all that's required for you to receive this FREE report!

You'll be able to view it immediately, and even save it for later reference. Print this FREE report to maximize its usage and to have its handy tips, lists and tricks at your fingertips.

Decluttering your home is extremely important when you're trying to sell, but it can also be a very difficult task to take on. Getting rid of the nonessentials may seem easy-peasy at first, but rest assured that the longer you've lived in a home, the more junk you've likely accumulated. What's more is that you may have a sentimental attachment to these innocuous items that you aren't even aware of. This attachment hinders you from really eliminating your problem. That's why this report is so useful to you. All of the tips and tricks that you need to make decluttering as simple and painless as possible are right here.

First off, when you're selling your home decluttering isn't necessarily an optional endeavor. It's a task that you need to jump on before your yard ever sees a sign or you ever take a photo for marketing. Otherwise, you're selling yourself, and your bottom line, short. The process of decluttering, or getting rid of all of that stuff that makes your home appear small, cramped and dingy, can really be the difference between getting or losing a potential sell. Even if you're lucky enough to get an offer without decluttering, it's likely to be far lower than you'd like. Your home's full potential just can't be seen for all of your stuff when decluttering is bypassed.

Let's face facts here. Selling a home is hard work no matter how you look at it. If you're committed to the process, however, this is just one essential step to getting your home gone. Everything in this guide is designed to help you get through all of your stuff in the shortest amount of time, and to help you to know what really needs to go and what doesn't. Those of you with a realtor should have already received this advice, but if you're going For Sale by Owner, this might be news. Just follow along, and this report will greatly help you out of your decluttering funk.

### **Decluttering Trick #1: Get Prepared**

Just jumping into decluttering can be overwhelming and completely disastrous. I highly suggest that you get your mess together *before* you get your mess together. Let me explain. Decluttering is going to be a task, and like with any kind of work, you need the proper tools to make the process as painless as possible. Although everyone goes about this differently, the following is what I suggest you have on hand before you ever begin.

#### *Your Decluttering Toolbox*

- Large boxes
- Garbage bags
- Packing tape
- Tape gun
- [Handyman apron](#)
- Colored sharpies
- Pricing stickers
- Newspaper
- Bubble wrap

- [Hand truck](#)
- Notepad and pen
- Caffeine

Here's what you really need to wrap your head around, and boy, I know it's hard. Your goal is to get half of your belongings out of your home. Yep, you read that correctly. 50% of what you own needs to be removed from your home before you start showing it. While that seems like a bit much, once you get into the process and begin to see the beautiful bones of your house beneath the accumulation of junk, you'll thank me.

Although you're going to want to get at least half of what is currently in your home out of the way, you're not going to be permanently releasing all of it. Some well-loved items will be stored. The rest will either be sold, donated or trashed. This brings us back to our above decluttering toolbox and how you're going to use it.

### *Using Your Decluttering Toolbox*

- You'll need to have at least four boxes per room, and you'll label each of these with one of the following: donations, yard sale, trash, keepers.
- I suggest having a collection of large boxes available. Go ahead and purchase moving boxes from [Lowes](#) or [The Home Depot](#) for your *keepers*. They're consistent sizes, sturdy and ideal for moving. Feel free to pick up old boxes from your local grocery or dollar store cost free for everything else.
- The trash bags are handy for more than just collecting garbage. Save room and cash by putting old clothes in trash bags, as well.
- The bubble wrap is for your *keeper* items that you don't want damaged.
- The newspaper is for the items that are going to donations or in your yard sale.
- As you go through your rooms, you'll use the sharpies for labeling prices on the stickers for your yard sale items, and you'll also use them for marking boxes.
- I suggest that you use a variety of colored Sharpies. Assign each room in your home a different color. For example, everything that goes in the kitchen *keepers* boxes will be inscribed with a green marker. Your daughter's boxes are pink, while your son's sport red. That way, when you actually move, distribution to rooms will be easier; the color on the box will tell you everything you need to know.
- A tape gun is essential when you're making up as many boxes as will be needed when decluttering. Trust me; it'll make your life a world easier.
- Buying good packing tape is very important because the last thing you want is for the bottoms to start falling out of your boxes. Your toes will be oh, so happy that you got the good stuff.
- Using a handyman apron to hold extra garbage bags, your tape gun, stickers and markers will simply keep you from covering up what you need as you go and keep everything in reach.
- I suggest taking a little notepad around in your apron, as well. That way, you can make notes of minor improvements that need to be made along the way. Anything to simplify the home

selling process is a good idea, and this will keep you from covering the same ground over and over.

*Example Notes:*

- Crack in plaster in Julie's room
  - Serious 'stinky shoe' problem in hall closet
  - Don't forget: repair doorknob on guest bath
  - Replace light bulbs in lamps
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- I highly suggest ample amounts of caffeine, but hey, my liquid courage is strong coffee. I suppose you can substitute your preferred 'go juice' for my personal caffeine fix preference. You're definitely going to want your favorite beverage on hand, and easy snacks wouldn't be a bad idea either.

Once you have all of your goodies together, you're ready to move on to my next step. Pat yourself on the back, because you're about to get some serious work done, my friend.

## **Tip #2: Start Slowly and Build Momentum**

Alright now, drumroll, please. You got your stuff, you got your caffeine fix and you're ready to dive on in! Whoa, down boy. I know you're excited to get this show on the road and all, but you really need to be strategic about pursuing the decluttering objective or you are at serious risk of burning out.

With that in mind, I suggest that you choose the smallest and cleanest room in your home to begin. That way you can get your momentum rolling instead of overwhelming yourself in, say, you're toddler's tornado-struck bedroom. Heaven forbid you start in the kitchen. A guest bath or bedroom may be a good idea.

- Now that you've chosen your room, you're going to approach this whole thing systematically.
- Move all of your supplies into your chosen room.
- Choose a corner – any corner will do.
- Now, look up. You're going to work from left to right and top to bottom for this project.
- You'll inspect every item in your home, and consider it for removal. Seriously, think about every single thing from knick knacks to curtains to decorations and photographs.
- Let's just say that you're beginning in a corner that has a bookshelf with an assortment of items on it. Begin on the top.
  - That notebook full of 1983's finances can go in the trash.
  - Your family heirloom, a silver rattle, is definitely a keeper. However, it's not essential to the functioning of your household, so wrap it up with bubble wrap and place it gently in the keeper's box.
  - You're to the next shelf where your son's math book resides. Leave it for now. You'll put it away later.
  - No one in your house is ever going to use those Disney VHS tapes again. Throw them in the yard sale pile after pricing each appropriately.

- Feel free to donate those worn books that your kids have outgrown.
- That stinky, fermented sock, which you found hidden behind those old books, can definitely be trashed. It's never going to come clean anyway.

You'll keep moving in this manner throughout the room. Leave only what you and your family really need. Remove knick knacks, unsightly and outdated décor and anything that you'd consider miscellaneous.

Once you've finished one whole room, take a little break. You'll want to move all of your boxes and bags out of the way, perhaps to the garage or storage shed until you can get them to their permanent destinations. This is the part where you realize the hidden beauty and grace of a hand truck.

Now, go on to your next room and repeat until the house is complete. Unless you have a really small and fairly clutter-free home, this process is going to take more than a couple of hours. I'd at least dedicate one whole weekend to the cause, and maybe more according to your own personal needs.

Handy Tip:

Okay, I'll be perfectly honest, here. Taking every single knick knack, photograph and decoration out of your home is a little depressing. Usually, a framed photo of your significant other on the night table isn't going to break a sale. However, 20 framed 8X10 photos on the console may make a negative impact. Leave your home comfortable, but predominately clutter free.

Another great thing about decluttering is there is less to clean up because there is less to be misplaced. Your cleaning time will be cut tremendously, and that'll help a lot when you start showing your home to potential buyers.

### **Tip #3: Dealing with Sentimental Decluttering**

Decluttering is difficult in general, but trying to declutter the sentimental items in your life can be downright nerve-racking. Don't feel bad. Just about everybody has this issue, and it usually stems from misplaced guilt. There are some ways that you can help yourself get a better perspective on your sentimental attachments.

Certainly, some items are truly meaningful to you and yours, and I wouldn't dream of telling you to get rid of those pieces permanently. On the other hand, most sentimental clutter actually means more to the owner's mom, sister or second cousin twice removed than it does to the person holding on to it. Avoiding hurt feelings is usually the number one reason the clutter is kept around in the first place. Sound familiar? Keep reading, and I'll help you out of this sentimental junk nightmare.

#### *Handling Your Photos*

No one wants to throw out their great photos, and that's okay. However, they can't really be enjoyed if they're hanging around in junk drawers with coffee rings on them. It's time to get those photos together.

Consider using a digital photo service for your prints, even the ones that are damaged. Places like [DigMyPics.com](http://DigMyPics.com) will scan your photos, videos or negatives and make them digital for you. In other words, your pics are preserved on a DVD. Plus, this only costs around \$.16 or so sent per image. Often, your damaged photos can be restored for an additional fee.

If you balk at the idea of throwing out your prints even though you've had them scanned and put on DVD, it's time to get organized. Albums are great, but sometimes there are just too many pics to memorialize this way. Get an inexpensive [storage file box](#), and file those bad boys by year.

Now, take a moment and consider your actual photos as you're sorting through them. Do you seriously need to keep that blurred picture of your husband's big toe just because your toddler took it by accident? Surely no one actually wants that appendage memorialized. I give you permission to toss it. You're welcome.

### *How to Sort Your Kiddie Stuff*

We all love our children. It can be hard to toss out all of those little hand-scribbled, mis-spelled notes and stick figure pictures they've created. The homemade Christmas ornaments and macaroni necklaces are even harder to let go of. But, there does come a time when that mountain of kiddie paraphernalia must be gone through. Else, it will literally take over the house. Here are a few suggestions.

Designate one kitchen drawer to school work. Put all of that homework, reports and smiley face art in that drawer every afternoon. Each time your child brings home a report card, go through that drawer. Keep only the absolute best examples of your child's growth. Toss the rest, but by all means, don't let them see it. Major meltdowns will ensue if you do.

Take the items you kept and put them in an [expanding file](#), which can be easily found at your dollar store or Walmart. Think of a coupon sorter, but bigger, and you've your expanding file. At the end of the school year, go back through each folder and keep your absolute favorite things for the scrapbook. Again, hide the rest in the very bottom of the garbage can immediately.

Here's the trick. Whatever you choose to keep from your children's young years, whether it be baby teeth, dried flowers picked by little hands or sentimental Mother's Day cards, preserve them well. Choose your absolute favorite items, and take really great care of these things. Then you won't feel the need to hang on to every little item, because the items you have will be precious to you and to them.

### *Heirlooms and Pieces that are Passed Down to You*

This is hard one, and I totally understand how difficult it can be to let go of items that belonged to loved ones who have passed on. However, it is virtually impossible to keep every single item that a person ever had.

Honestly, most of the time, the only reason you're keeping your great grandfather's favorite chair is because your mom would be furious if you let it go. In these instances, where you're only keeping an item to save someone else's feelings, you should happily give it to that person right away.

Realize that holding onto things isn't a way of replacing a person. Keep what really, really means something to you – your favorite dress that your mother made for you by hand, for instance – and let the rest go. If you just can't do it, see about having someone use the fabric from the dresses to make a quilt. That way, you still have your dresses but in a useful way that will forever memorialize your mother's love. Use these kinds of creative ideas to hold on to truly loved pieces, but without using up all of your spare space. You're going to need all of the space you can get in your storage building.

Ultimately, the guide to decluttering the sentimental is whether something actually means something to you or not. Don't let guilt keep you from selling an item that you're only holding onto because you're 'supposed to.' At the same time, don't feel pressured to get rid of every single item you've kept if it really is precious to you. Do, however, try your best to be reasonable and get these beloved pieces out of your house and into a safe storage before showing your home.

#### **Tip #4: Depersonalizing and Decluttering Go Hand in Hand**

Although depersonalizing and decluttering isn't exactly the same thing, they certainly do go hand in hand. Decluttering is drastically paring down on all of the brick-a-brack and non-necessities in your home. Depersonalizing your home is making a neutral territory so that viewers can see themselves residing there. This includes getting rid of 'out there' paint colors, flooring and fixtures – you know, the things in your home designed specifically to your taste but that others may not love so much. However, an integral part of depersonalizing, and the one I'm more concerned with here, also includes taking down framed photos, putting away memorabilia and removing all of the artwork from the fridge.

Some people breeze right through this part of the decluttering process, while others feel a tremendous sense of loss as they pack away their favorite and most treasured items, not knowing when they might be able to get them back out of storage.

Congratulations to you if you are one of those folks who has a sunshiny smile while taking down those photos because you figure this is just one step closer to the next big move in your life. On the other hand, I've got some extra help for those of you who are struggling with the mere thought of putting away your kid's bronzed baby shoes.

1. First off, don't beat yourself up for feeling upset about this. Selling a home is a long and difficult process. While you may be struggling a bit with this part of the process, there's a really good chance that you're going to sprint through other daunting tasks. It's okay, and even normal, to simultaneously feel both good and bad about all of the ins and outs of selling your home.
2. Put things into perspective about this whole situation. The primary reason you are likely to be selling your home is to benefit both yourself and your family. Keep that in mind that while it's tough on all of you to see your personal items go into bubble wrap and storage, it's a necessary step in the right direction.
3. Imagine placing your precious keepsakes in your new home!
4. Make sure that you do store them well, with plenty of cushion and in sturdy boxes, and then put them into a safe place where you can trust they'll be kept in perfect condition. This will keep you from worrying about them in the meantime, and 'out of sight, out of mind' can take over.

5. Think about the fact that you'll likely be able to sell your home faster without all of this stuff around. Depersonalizing allows your home viewers to really see it as one that they could make their own. Allow your mind to mentally give them the keys to their new place, and know in your heart that you're doing someone a great service.

### **Tip #5: Rent a Storage Building**

Now that you're finished with decluttering and depersonalizing, you're probably amazed at all of the stuff you have boxed and bagged up. Luckily for you, you aren't keeping it all! However, there is likely a sizable amount of boxes that are *keepers*, and you definitely don't want to leave those hanging around the house. After all, that's clutter, too. That's why you need to go ahead and rent a storage building.

I'll be honest here. Some storage buildings are super cheap, but it isn't necessarily advisable to go with the thriftiest one. Don't get me wrong; I want you to save all of the money that you can. I also want the items you found precious enough to keep safe.

*When Renting a Storage Building, Look For...*

- You definitely want to look around in your immediate area. Hauling boxes and large furniture is tough work and you just might have to make more than one trip. Getting a place close by will help save you time, energy and gas money.
- Make sure the place is as safe as possible. Many storage rental facilities have both climate controlled and non-climate controlled units. Many also often have units only accessible through a couple of entrances. Usually, the safest option is the indoor style. However, this can pose a problem if you have excessively large pieces that need to be stored, if you need to move your items when office staff isn't available to unlock the outside doors or if they're just too darn expensive for your budget.
- In the even that you aren't able to get an indoor unit, all is not lost. You still have safe options available to you. Ensure that your storage facility is well-lighted, so that if you need to make after-hour visits, you can still be easily seen. This also means that your unit is lit well at all times and thwarts break-ins.
- Another important factor to consider when renting a storage unit is whether or not the area is fenced in. Some are, while others aren't. Naturally, having a fence is preferable, but still not a deal breaker.

### **Let's Talk About Locks**

No matter where you choose to rent, one integral factor to keeping your keepers safe is the type of lock that you choose. Some people run to the dollar store, grab a cheap padlock and call it good. Don't do this. Burglars are looking for easy ways to break in, and a cheap lock is just the invitation they need to pay your unit a visit. Check out these [pointers](#) for lock options.

The very best case scenario is to have a storage building with a built-in lock. However, this is not always an option. Invest in a higher end lock, or maybe two, if you can't get a unit with already existing locking



mechanism. Two locks take a much longer time to get through than one. Additionally, the higher end lock takes a good bit of time to weld through and can't be broken easily with bolt cutters. Burglars will avoid two of them like the plague, assuming that you followed my advice and chose a unit with a well-lit area.

### *Think Like the Bad Guys*

Think like a crook for just a minute. If you had your choice between a well-lit unit with two, durable locks that must be welded through to open or a dark unit with a generic padlock, which would you choose?

A thief is going to want to break in, grab as much as they can and be out of the area before anyone notices. They're going to go for the darkest storage areas, and aren't likely going to want to explore the inside of an indoor facility. They certainly aren't going to want to scale a fence with their loot. Furthermore, it works against them to face a serious lock or two.

Another good point to make here is that it doesn't make a hill of beans how many locks you have in place if a burglar sees you alone at your unit with the door open in the middle of the night. Many a burglar wouldn't think twice about clonking you in the head to get at your stuff, so be wary and street smart.

- Try to visit your unit only in daylight, and either take another adult or let someone know where you're at.
- Keep an eye on your surroundings.
- Don't ignore your intuition if something feels amiss. Just leave and come back later.

### *How to Actually Choose*

The more measures taken to prevent burglary at a storage facility, the better off you are. However, there are many reasons that going high end security might not be an option for you. If you live in a small town, there's a really fantastic chance that these types of units aren't near you. Even if there are tons of them, they may not be in your price range.

It's okay if you can't get top of the line, but try to be smart about what you do go with. I suggest getting the most secure unit you can easily afford, purchase two really good locks and always be careful of the times that you go to your unit and consider not going alone.

### **Tip #5: What to do With Your Non-Keepers**

Now that you have all of your *keepers* safe and sound in your new storage unit, it's time to do something with the rest of your stuff. You should be down to three stacks; a yard sale pile, a donation pile and a trash pile. You can tackle this in whatever order you wish, but I highly suggest going with the trash pile first.

### *The Garbage*

Depending on how long you've been living your home and your propensity to be a pack rat, you could have a little or a whole heap of garbage waiting to be disposed of. Those with a little might be able to use their regular means of discarding trash, and I applaud you if that is the case. However, most folks will have a whole lot more to toss than just a little, and you might even be clueless as to what to do with it all. It sure isn't going to fit in the garbage can, so what do you do with it?

Well, there's always recycling. Depending on your particular area, there is likely a free recycling center where you can take large items like old televisions, dilapidated outdoor furniture and mattresses. You may have the need of a landfill, however. The good news is that they are all over the place. The bad news is that you have to pay to drop off your trash. Using a landfill isn't usually overly expensive though, and it's a good way to drop off a bunch of garbage at once.

One other option for some people, although I advise extreme caution here, is to burn some items like old bills and boxes. However, this is unlawful in some areas. At various times, fire hazard advisories change, as well. That means that even if you live in an area that allows this type of burning, if you have experienced a drought, you might be prohibited from disposing of anything in this fashion regardless.

While burning some things is easier, it's best to check your local laws and advisories before attempting this. Also, you should never attempt to burn a large amount of anything if you don't know how to control a blaze and if you don't have plenty of water nearby. Seriously, it's probably just best to use the landfill, but I want you to know your options.

### *Giving Away Your Donations*

There are many ways to go about this, and some are even able to be written off on your taxes. For instance, donating to a [Goodwill](#) or [Salvation Army](#) can be a great way to ease your IRS burdens. The folks who work at these places will give you an estimated value for all that you've brought in on a receipt. Keep it, and when it's tax time, just make sure you take them all to your tax preparer. Find more information on this at the [IRS website](#).

You might be one of those folks, however, that doesn't really care about the tax write off and would rather help someone firsthand. After all, the people who shop at the Goodwill and Salvation Army still have to pay for their stuff, and that cash can be hard to come by for some.

If you would like to reach out to your local community, you could put out a posting on [Craigslist](#) or [Facebook](#) advertising a curb alert. Simply put the things you're giving away on the curb, and people will come get it. Trust me; if you put it out there, they will come. You do lose some of your control like this, though. Who's to say a thrifty fixer upper doesn't come by, get your stuff, shape it up and then sell it? That would defeat the purpose of what you're shooting for.

Reach out to your local social services, churches, school systems and other non-profit organizations for guidance. Often, they can take your giveaways and place them directly in the hands of those who need them most.

### *Putting Together a Yard Sale*

Believe it or not, putting together a yard sale is difficult work. Hopefully, you followed my sound advice and priced as you went through your stuff. Previously pricing your goods, in and of itself, cuts down on your current workload.

*Setting the date:* The first thing you need to do now that you have your stuff ready is to set a date. You don't absolutely have to set it at the very first of the month, but I would. The truth of the matter is that many people get paid around this time of the month, including people with state and federal aid. They'll all have money to spend at yard sales that first weekend that they won't have by the third week.

I think it goes without saying to choose a date on a weekend, preferably Saturday. However, some people have really good luck with selling for two days, like a Friday and Saturday or Saturday and Sunday, as well. Oh, and by the way, if you have a garage, go with a garage sale so you can keep to your schedule even if the weather goes haywire.

*Start advertising:* Once you've set a date, start advertising. Newspapers are still great ways to advertise yard sales, and social media is another great method to get the word out. Many areas have local pages where this type of announcement is welcome. Also, make sure you have excellent signs all over the place with your specific address, sale date and time.

#### *Miscellaneous Yard Sale Tips:*

- Fold and hang your clothes neatly and by size. Nobody wants to look at messy clothes for 500 years while trying to find their size. Make it easy to find so you can sell!
- Put like items together, much as how you find them a store. For instance, put all of the bathroom items in one area, all of the boys clothes in one place, kids toys in another, tools in another and so on.
- Start saving old grocery and shopping sacks instead of recycling or trashing them. You'll need bags for folks to carry their stuff off in, and these work well. After all, they're free.
- Be prepared to haggle. Yardsalers are notorious for wanting a deal (obviously, or they wouldn't be at a yard sale) so be ready to talk money. Put a higher price on large items, such as furniture, than you actually want to get. Don't go astronomically high, but a little. That way, if someone offers you \$10 or \$20 less, you're still making what you want. What's more, they get their deal, and everybody's happy. Then again, you might get exactly what you're asking and make more than you expected. Cha-ching.
- Make sure that you have plenty of change, and keep all of your money in a lock box, apron or money pouch. You don't want to keep too much on you either, so make routine trips inside to lock money away in the house while someone monitors the selling.
- If you have kids, one great way to get them into to selling their stuff (which they hate to do, even if they haven't played with something in years or if it's literally falling apart) is to allow them to keep the money from their exchanges. Maybe throw the yard sale money at a weekend trip for the family, and let the kids keep their proceeds for spending cash on the trip.
- Don't let folks leave without making that deal. For instance, this guy comes up to you and offers you \$20 for that \$75 curio. You obviously aren't going to take that. It's okay, he's just feeling

for how low you're willing to go. Drop the price a little, say to \$60, but not lower than you really want to go. If he still doesn't bite, and starts insulting your furniture, let him breathe and browse a little. But if you see him about to leave, renegotiate with him. Tell him you'll take \$55. If he comes back with \$50, take it, baby. It may be \$5 or \$10 less than you originally had in mind, but that curio is gone and you're \$50 richer. Sounds like a great deal to me.

- When things start winding down, start letting items go for ridiculously low prices. The objective here is to get rid of the junk without you having to haul it off to donations. Some money is better than no money. Let people fill an old grocery sack with clothes for a dollar a bag. Drop all other prices in half, or go on social media and put out an announcement that the next person who shows up with \$50 gets everything that's left. You'd be surprised at how many folks scout yard sales to get stuff for their own high end hobby shops, consignment shops and the like. They'll pay \$50 knowing they'll likely make five or six times that in profit.

### **Tip #6: Organizing What's Left**

Hopefully, you're now at place where half of your stuff is gone, either through donations, selling, trashing or storing. You're almost completely decluttered! Yay and happy day! You're not quite finished, but this is the fun part. It's time to organize what's left in your home so that you can maximize its salability.

At this time you should have your basic household necessities still intact. Towels, the kid's favorite toys, deodorant, the toaster – you know, all of the little things that you need for day to day life. What we want to do at this point is to make these items the most organized and clean looking as possible.

- Use closet organizers to make each one look larger. Also, using the same kinds of hangers makes your closets look more uniformed. Buyers love closets, so work hard on them.
- Put in some inexpensive shelf and drawer organizers so that everything from your spices to your pot lids to your toothpaste looks like it has a definitive place.
- Baskets, cubes and buckets are all great for quickly storing errant toys in each room. They also work well for other innocuous items like remote controls, shoes at the door, blankets, towels and even toilet paper.
- Inexpensive shelving for extra storage also helps. Instead of putting your extra paper towels or 2 liters on the floor of the pantry, add a wire shelf in a utility closet or the laundry room to place them on.
- Don't leave anything out of shape. Everything needs to have a place. So, clean out your junk drawers, cabinets, refrigerator and pantry. Anything attached to your home is fair game for buyers to look in, so make sure it's all neat and tidy.
- You'll notice that putting everything in a proper place is much easier without all of the extra stuff. Dusting will be a breeze, and instead of 200 toys to pick up there will only be 20. It makes a huge difference.

Decluttering actually has many benefits. One of them, of course, is to allow your home viewers to see your house at its best. Junk piled sky high, papers scattered and clothes in heaps won't allow that to

happen. Paring all of that down, and then organizing the essentials really will increase your salability tremendously. On another positive note, decluttering will decrease the amount of time you have to spend keeping everything straight, which is a huge relief when you begin showing your home. Remember, the goal isn't to make your home sterile, but rather to make it fresh, clean and appealing.

I sincerely wish you the best with the selling process. This report can really get your home to a place where you can allow folks to come by without being embarrassed or worried. Plus, following these tips will definitely add to your home's appeal.

I'd love to help you out with any questions you might have. You might be wondering what else you may not know if your realtor hasn't already talked about decluttering with you or if you're going the For Sale by Owner route. Don't hesitate to contact me, no matter what your situation is. Shoot me an email or give me a call, and we'll talk.