**GETTING YOUR HOME READY**

**Inside**

**Clean! Clean!** Have the carpet shampooed; wax the floors; wash the walls, windows, blinds, drapes, and lighting fixtures. Consider engaging a cleaning service, recognizing that is a justified moving expense.

**Kitchen and Bathrooms** Clear off counter tops. Leave your canisters and little else. Maximize the available counter space. These rooms should be gleaming. If unsightly, have the tub recaulked and remove mineral deposits and grime from the shower walls. Clean the stove, microwave, and refrigerator.

**Primary Storage** Area Like the garage, its time has come to be liberated. Remember, you can do it now and benefit with a more attractive home on the market, or you can do it several months from now, in the process of moving when there is not advantage. Do it now.

**Repairs** Identify and repair dripping faucets, sticking or creaking doors, etc. When people see areas of disrepair they begin to wonder whether there may be other unseen problems.

**Closets** Remove out-of-season clothing. Organize your clothing and the shoes on the floor. Remove all clutter from cabinets and closets.

**Furniture** The less furniture, the larger a room appears to be.

**A Light Appearance** As a rule, do everything to lighten the appearance of the home. Raise the blinds, open the drapes and use light colors. Repaint any room beginning to look shabby.

**Outside**

**The House**  Take a close look as you walk the property. Clean anything that looks unkempt loose, dingy, rusted, or broken. Make sure the door bell works. Replace a tired-looking mailbox; clean the exterior light fixtures and wash the windows. Try to spot hanging or rusty gutters, crooked antenna, loose shingles or shutters.

**Outdoor Furniture** Examine and spot paint your outdoor furniture. If it’s rusty or not repairable, consider disposing of the pieces.

**Front Entry** It’s the first thing your buyers see as they stand and wait for the door to open. It’s worth the extra effort to spruce it up.

**The Garage** The time has come. Discard virtually everything in the garage that hasn’t been used for a year. Wash it down.