

6 Affordable Ways to Boost your Home's Curb Appeal

When buyers come to see your home, the first thing they notice is how your property looks from the curb. That first impression is powerful and lingering. If buyers don't like what they see, it can influence how they judge the rest of your property, regardless of how great it looks on the inside.

You definitely want to do whatever you can to boost curb appeal. Here are six affordable ideas to consider:

- 1. Driveway sealing.** This makes the pavement look darker and less faded. It also helps cover up some of the cracks. Sealing won't give you the "brand new" look of repaving, but it's close — and significantly less expensive.
- 2. Exterior window washing.** Washing the front windows makes them look clean and bright. In fact, the effect can be stunning. There are window washing products that connect to your hose to make this job easier. Check your home improvement retailer.
- 3. Maintaining shrubs, hedges and flower beds.** Trimming the hedges, shrubs and other evergreens can make a big difference in how your property looks from the street. It's like giving them all a haircut! Flowering plants can also brighten up the look.
- 4. Front door painting.** From the curb, a buyer's eye is naturally drawn to your front door. If your entry system looks old and worn, consider a fresh coat of paint. It can make the entrance look almost new.



- 5. Garage door painting.** This is a bigger project that can take a day or two, but the effort might be worth it. For many homes, the garage door is the biggest item in the curb appeal panorama. Making it look better will have a big impact.
- 6. Removing unsightly items.** Look at your home from the street. Are there items in your field of vision that take away from the curb appeal? For example, are there garbage cans and other items stowed along the side of the property and visible from the road? If so, move them.

If you're selling your home, making the best first impression is crucial. You don't want buyers to drive by simply because they don't like what they see from the outside. Use these tips to boost your home's curb appeal.

Beyond Boxes: Packing Materials You May Need for your Move



As you can probably guess, when you're preparing to move, you'll need boxes and tape — and, perhaps some bubble-wrap or old newspapers to use as protective wrapping for delicate items.

But that may not be all you need. Take a look at this list and see if you'll want any of these on hand while you're packing or on

moving day.

- Colour markers for labelling boxes. (Tip: Colour coding boxes by room will make unpacking much easier.)
- Stretch wrap to protect larger items that can't fit into a box.
- Small plastic bags to store dis-assembled parts, such as sofa legs, cabinet hardware, etc. (You don't want to lose them!)
- Moving blankets to protect floors.
- A dolly or hand truck to move heavy items. (You can rent these.)

- Mattress moving bag. This helps prevent stains and tears during your move. You can also buy specialty bags for sofas and tables.
 - Reusable foam furniture sliders, to protect floors when furniture needs to be pushed into place.
 - Foam corner protectors. This prevents furniture with sharp corners from banging and damaging other items during a move.
- Planning ahead and having the right packing materials on hand will make your move less stressful and, hopefully, damage-free!

Think, Act... Live!

"Without a humble but reasonable confidence in your own powers, you cannot be successful or happy." Norman Vincent Peale

"Do not wait. The time will never be 'just right'. Start where you stand." George Herbert

"Don't watch the clock. Do what it does. Keep going!" Sam Levenson