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Most Popular Home-Staging Suggestions

In a slow market, it's particularly important to get a house ready to sell quickly. What can be done to get your home in prime shape for showings?

Beverly Tracy of Beverly Tracy Home Design in Saratoga Springs, N.Y., knows what needs to be done to get her clients' homes looking their best. Here are some of her most frequently made suggestions:

- Fix any visible problems that might be a red flag for potential buyers, including repainting stained walls.
- Cover damaged kitchen or bathroom floors with inexpensive peel-and-stick vinyl floor tiles — if a more expensive change seems out of the question.
- Repaint public rooms that will garner a lot of a buyer's attention, including the kitchen, dining room, and living room.
- Clean up the exterior of the house, added potted plants, repair damaged walkways, and put a fresh coat of paint on the front door.
- Rent a storage unit and get rid of about half the furniture and most of the personal items.
- When showing the property, turn on every light in the house and tune radios on each floor to the same classical music station.
- Suggest that the owners refrain from doing much cooking (baking sweets is a good idea, however) and put good-smelling soaps in all the bathrooms.

Source: *Albany Times Union, Stephanie Earls (04/05/07)*

