

# Home Photo Shoot Preparation Checklist

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*“To Do” in the Days/Weeks leading up to the photo shoot:*

## All Rooms

- Replace all missing or burnt out light bulbs. Daylight LED bulbs (5000K) give a nice clean look. Ensure you use the same types of lightbulbs in a room. Move all cords out of sight.
- Remove all personal items you do not want photographed.
- Clean windows, inside and outside
- Clear all clutter, vacuum and clean all shiny surfaces (*i.e. mirrors, wall décor with a glass front*)

## Living Room

- Remove children’s toys, fluff pillows. Remove magazines and remotes.

## Dining Room

- Clear table, dust and polish if needed. Remove all child booster seats. Straighten and space chairs evenly.
- Clear as much clutter as you can from china closets. Remove extra chairs.

## Kitchen

- Remove all small appliances and clutter from kitchen counters, including utensils and knife blocks. Remove trash cans on day of shoot.
- Remove all magnets and personal items off the surface of refrigerator. Remove calendars.
- Remove any boxes and clutter from above kitchen cabinets & refrigerator
- Clean surfaces of refrigerator and stove, especially if they are stainless steel. Fingerprints and smudges will show in picture

## Home Offices

- Clean off desktop. Remove clutter (pictures, staplers, paperclips, and nick-knacks).
- Turn off computer monitor. Try to neaten the cords as much as possible.
- Take down diplomas and items that have your name on them.

## Bathrooms

- Remove toiletry items from the counters (makeup, mirrors, soap, toothbrushes, medicines...)
- Remove all items from the shower/bathtub if you have a glass door, or close the shower curtain.
- Clean mirrors and vanities (streaks and smudges will show).
- Remove clothes, hampers, appliances, trash cans.

## Bedrooms

- Clear all items off bedside tables and dressers (Kleenex, glasses, remotes, clocks, jewelry)
- Avoid hiding items under beds, they could possibly be seen in the photograph. (Stand at the doorway and check) Make sure the mattress is covered from that angle.
- Clear room of all clutter, photos, remotes, chargers
- Make sure all lamps work.

## Exteriors

- Have painting and trim work done prior to the shoot.
- Cut grass and spruce up landscaping before the day of the shoot.
- Remove empty planters and visible water hoses.
- Remove items from underneath deck if it can be seen from the rear of your yard.
- Remove pet waste.
- Hide garbage cans if possible.
- If you have a pool, please vacuum and put all pool toys away. Hide cleaning supplies.
- Arrange deck, patio and front porch nicely. Remove all clutter; decorate with brightly colored flowers if the weather permits. Put out clean pillows and hide the tags.

## *"To Do" the Day of the Photo Shoot:*

- Move cars away from house. Typically you can just park on the road away from the house (not right in front). If you are on a busy street, you could move the car to the end of the driveway near the road. The photographer will arrive about 15 minutes early to shoot the front of the house. Please move cars before then. Make sure garage doors are closed.**
  
- Turn on all lights and lamps
- Turn off all ceiling fans
- Hide all remote controls
- Open window blinds. For louver blinds, do not pull up, just open
- Remove all dishes from the sink and all papers/debris/keys, remotes from kitchen counters, bedside tables, coffee tables, etc.
- Remove soap dispensers, paper towels, and napkins from kitchen.
- Remove any signs you have pets (*crates, food and water bowls, litter boxes, pet beds, etc.*)
- Remove trashcans in every room. Remove Kleenex and soap dispensers from bathrooms.
- Close all toilet lids and close shower curtains.
- Remove dirty towels and robes from back of bathroom or bedroom door.
- Pick up floor mats. Remove soap dispensers and Kleenex boxes.
- Neatly make beds. Remove all Kleenex dispensers.
- Take cover off of BBQ Grill and hot tub, open umbrella on patio table, weather permitting.
  
- Please contain pets in an area of the house that will not be photographed**

**Note:** I typically do not take pictures of the inside of the garage or the inside of storage sheds, so excess items may be stored there.

***Mary Jane Salopek - Photographer/Owner***

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