AKARI MEDIA

Prepare your home for photos

Twenty minutes of preparation makes more difference than any edit. Work through this list the day before and the morning of the shoot.

Whole house

- [ ] Turn on every light and replace burnt-out bulbs, ideally all the same color.
- [ ] Open blinds and curtains; turn off ceiling fans and TVs.
- [ ] Put away personal photos, mail, keys, chargers and paperwork.
- [ ] Vacuum, dust and wipe mirrors and glass.

Kitchen

- [ ] Clear the counters except one or two decorative pieces.
- [ ] Hide dish soap, sponges, towels and the trash can.
- [ ] Clear everything off the front of the refrigerator.

Bathrooms

- [ ] Put toilet lids down and clear toiletries off counters and showers.
- [ ] Hang fresh, matching towels, folded neatly.
- [ ] Straighten shower curtains and remove bath mats.

Bedrooms and living areas

- [ ] Make beds and smooth the covers.
- [ ] Clear nightstands, coffee tables and floors.
- [ ] Plump pillows and hide remotes, cords and pet beds.

Outside

- [ ] Move cars out of the driveway and away from the front of the house.
- [ ] Close the garage doors and put trash bins out of sight.
- [ ] Mow, sweep the porch and coil up hoses; put away toys and tools.

On the day

- [ ] Make sure I can get in at the booked time: lockbox, code or a person.
- [ ] Plan for pets to be out or contained, with bowls and beds put away.
- [ ] Leave the lights on when you go.