



HIGH COUNTRY HOMESTEADS

Volume 6, Issue 4

June, 2019

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# High Country Highlights

## Spring Cleaning and Getting Ready to Sell your Home

The 2019 Selling season has begun. If you are a Seller, get used to living in a home that is over the top clean and probably not how you usually live. Not Selling? Its also Spring cleaning season, here are some things to focus on during your once a year cleaning ritual.

First, assume you will have a showing every day. Even if you have requested a two-hour notice for a showing hoping you will have time to run around the house and pick-up and wipe off things, when an agent has an interested buyer, all bets are off. They will be clamoring to get inside and see your home. If you want to sell your home, you will be expected to be flexible when it comes to showings.

To keep the panic to a minimum, **clean as you go**. As you finish a meal or a project, clean up everything and put everything in its place. Make it look like you were never there. Yes, it takes a few more minutes but it will lower the stress.

**Use only one bathroom** (if possible). Buyers are usually particular about the cleanliness of the bathrooms. It can often indicate how much care was given to the rest of the home. After using the bathroom, wipe surfaces clean, squeegee the shower, clean the toilet, wash the floor and empty



waste baskets. By using one bathroom, you only have to clean one toilet and sink before someone shows up.

**Organize frequently used items** that typically clutter your counter tops and tables into clear plastic bins. It will look neater and will help you to locate frequently used items quickly. You can take them with you when a buyer shows up.

Don't leave laundry in the laundry basket or piled on top of the washer. If its laundry day, **take the laundry with you**. Fold and hang items as you empty the dryer and put them away.

If you have children, **organize toys and books** into bins. Rotate the bins. Establish the rule that the

children can only play with items in one bin at a time and put the rest of the bins in the closet.

**Manage odors every day.** Start with a deep clean that includes stinky drains, musty basements, greasy surfaces, etc.. Then, do a daily disinfectant sweep of your home's stinkiest spots:

- Wash your trash cans every time you take out a bag. Vacuum under furniture.
- Wipe down baseboards and window sills (where dust — thus, smells — get trapped).
- Do a careful cleaning of your stove and surrounding cupboards after you cook so tonight's



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### Special points of interest:

- Spring Cleaning Tips
- Eliminating Pet Smells
- Summer Events kickoff
- Cleaning Hacks:
  1. Deep Clean the shower-head by filling a Ziploc with vinegar and attach it to the shower head with a rubberband for an hour.
  2. Two liters of Coke for 30 minutes eliminates Rust in a toilet
  3. Dawn Dish Soap and Vinegar cleans water spots and scum off of shower doors
  4. Apply Rain-X or Invisible Shield to a clean shower door to minimize cleaning



## Spring Clean and Prepping a home for sale (Continued)

dinner doesn't become tomorrow's turnoff for buyers.

Use charcoal to absorb odors.

If you own Pets, houses that smell of pets or look like there are pets are harder to sell. You live with your pet so you may be nose blind to the familiar smells.

Start by **steam cleaning all fabrics** in your home before you put it on the market. Pets rub against the drapes and furniture, lay on the rugs and carpets leaving their oils and fur on all of the soft fabrics.

**Have your pet professionally groomed.** This will reduce the amount of hair and dander they will shed in the home.

**Clean all tile grout.** Grout absorbs odors. Steam clean to remove all pet stains and odors.

**Get rid of scratch marks** from scurrying paws. Use wood fill pens or light steel wool with mineral spirits and polyurethane.

**Use enzymatic cleaners** for their specific uses (urine, vomit, etc). They have specific bacteria which eat the residue and associated odors.

Once you have prepped the house, then **spot clean after your pet every day.** Cover cleaned furniture with covers and wash them once a week. Take them off for the showing. Vacuum rugs and furniture every day. Wipe down the couch with rubber gloves before a showing to pick up any stray hairs.

**Add an air purifier tower with a HEPA filter;** it pulls hair and dander out of the air before they even reach your HVAC. Most air ducts don't need to be cleaned, especially if you change filters regularly. But if dander and fur seem to be taking over, hire a duct-cleaning company before putting your home on the market.

**Brush your pet outside every day.** The less hair that gets into the house, the less cleanup you'll have to do before a showing.

If you don't have time to do all of this pet maintenance every day, consider **sending your pet on a vacation** to visit a friend or family member while your house is on the market. Whenever possible, take your pet with you when you leave the house for a showing.

Sources: "HouseLogic" by REALTORS and Pinterest