



Ask the Realtor: Curb Appeal Counts

Imagine finding the perfect house online, every room just what you imagined. You drive up to your showing and the grass is non-existent, broken fence, peeling paint and trash in the yard. So much for the perfect home.

When you are selling your home, the outside matters just as much as the inside. You can't undo a first impression. Here are some helpful hints to make that first impression a great one.

A Healthy Lawn: Green is great. Water and mow your lawn but don't cut it too short. You can get bald spots.

Fences: Inspect your fence. Is it sturdy? Missing any spots? Is it upright? Does it need a coat of paint? Fences may make good neighbors but they have to work. While you're at it, check out your windows, siding or shingles.

Pathway to the House: Create a path to your front door. Use brick, stone or pavers. It's a great way to say welcome home.

Overgrown bushes/plants: Trim back that rhododendron or evergreen. We all get haircuts and our plants should too.

Mulch: If you have any flower beds or plantings, consider mulching.

Clean up the Clutter: Leftover wood from a previous project, broken chairs, kids bikes, whatever it may be, clean up the yard.

Clean the Outside: Get your house power washed. The sides and any decking you may have. And don't forget to check on the roof. If you have mold/algae its' best to call a professional in to clean it.

If you are considering buying or selling, let's work together and make it a realty reality.

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Swimming Pool Safety

Summer time is finally here and hanging out with family and friends pool side is a great way to beat the heat. But with all the fun that comes with it, you need to follow some safety rules. Drowning is the 4th leading cause of accidental death in the United States claiming 4,000 lives annually. Approximately one third is children under the age of 14. And a child can drown in the time it takes to answer a phone. Take some of the following precautions:

Swimming lessons: If you know how to swim you are at a significantly lower risk of drowning. And you can start teaching babies to swim at 6 months.

Supervise: Always make sure there is at least one set of responsible eyes when children are at the pool.

Learn CPR: Check with the Red Cross or your local fire department for lessons.

No goggles: While you might think you need them to keep the chlorine out of your eyes, but your children should learn to swim without them. If they ever fall in the pool, they should open their eyes and swim up. If they keep their eyes closed, they have no sense of direction.

Pool Alarm: Even though there is a fence around your pool, your kids (or the neighborhood kids) will figure out how to "jump the fence". A pool safety alarm will notify you when someone or something enters your pool.

Setup and Enforce Safety Rules: Wet cement and tile can be slippery. No running on the pool deck and no diving in the shallow end of the pool. Thunder and lightning? Get out of the pool. These are just a few to start with.

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