

Creating Curb Appeal



By creating curb appeal for your home, you are improving the first impression that potential buyers will make about your house. Sometimes, the curb appeal can mean the difference between a buyer wanting to see inside or leaving before even viewing the home.

A good exercise to help you figure out what your home's curb appeal is like to other people, is to step back and view it like a stranger would. Be critical. What are the best parts of your home and lawn? How can you emphasize these areas? What are the worst parts? How can you improve these areas?

Here are a few ways you can make your home and lawn look its best:

Clean Up

A messy yard and home exterior is the first thing people notice when looking at your property from the street. You will need to do a thorough cleaning of the outside area, which may involve killing any mold or mildew you find, stashing garden tools and clutter, cleaning windows and gutters, and pressure-washing dirty siding or decks.

If your back yard or side areas are visible from other streets or driveways, you should tidy them up too. Potential buyers will sometimes try to view your backyard, so it should be included in the curb appeal.

Lawn Care and Landscaping

After cleaning up, you can spruce up the appearance of your lawn by looking after the landscaping. To do this, you may need to mow and weed the lawn, weed the garden, rake and dispose of plant waste, trim any trees or shrubs, and cover up the dead areas around the trees with mulch.

Sometimes, improving the curb appeal can mean getting rid of some trees or shrubs that block the view of your home, or planting a low-maintenance garden to make the yard look better.

Esthetics

Making a few minor repairs and esthetic changes to your home's exterior will drastically improve its curb appeal. This may include painting trim, windows and doors, replacing old hardware (such as light switches or the mailbox), or putting in new garage doors. If your house has siding that looks old, you might even consider giving it a new coat of paint. It also pays to make sure the outside of your home is well lit. Many people drive by in the evening, so lighting your driveway, sidewalk and porch will allow them to see more of your home.

Sprucing up the outside of your home is as important as staging the inside, when you are trying to sell your home. After all, a potential buyer's first impression is formed before even going inside.