

Tried & True Tips to Improve the Value of Your Home... **Eliminate the Clutter!**

By Dana Green



If you are thinking about selling your home or, if you simply would like to enjoy the home you have, the very first thing to attack is clutter! Ask yourself a few common questions: Are your closets crammed with items you haven't worn in years? Have you simply shut the doors to your children's rooms and given up? Do you have random items stacked in corners of every room? What do the surfaces of your dressers, counters and refrigerator look like? Before you begin to honestly answer these

questions, take a deep breath and call in help.

Gather your family (or a professional organizer) and re-enter your house with a new set of eyes. Carry a clip-board for note taking and have some fun identifying the piles in each room. Together create a plan of attack that involves one room at a time. The garage is always a great place to start as it is often the dumping ground for families. It may seem like a daunting task but a few days of cleaning could rid your garage of many use-

less items. Sort through what you don't need and hold a garage sale. This is a great task for kids and can provide a wonderful learning experience. Or, if time is short, donate items to charity and make sure to get a receipt for your tax returns! Place everything you are keeping into labeled plastic bins. Viola, a clean and clear garage!

After cleaning out the garage, continue the journey inside. Remember to tackle one room at a time so you don't get overwhelmed. Do what you can to throw away or donate what you don't need. Straighten and organize what you do need and be patient with the process. The journey alone will be rewarding for everyone involved!



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