

To prepare to welcome strangers in to your home I offer this Showing Checklist:

- Remove keys, credit cards and cash from view.
- Lock up anything that contains personal information; letters, bills, ID badges, address books, notes and family schedules on bulletin boards or the refrigerator.
- Remove or lock up valuables; jewelry, furs, crystal, small electronics, laptops and valuable collectibles.
- Remove or lock up firearms and ammunition, knives and other weapons including knife blocks on the kitchen counter.
- Lock up all prescription drugs.
- Remove family photos, particularly those of children.
- Repair loose banisters or railings and remove obstacles that could cause a visitor to trip or fall.
- Make arrangements to remove or secure pets during visits from prospective buyers.
- Consider extra security or monitoring for the period the property is on the market. Always let a friend or neighbor know when you are showing your property and have them check in with you during that time period.
- After showing your property double check to make sure all exterior doors and windows are secure and that no items are missing or damaged.
- Don't show your home to walk ups, even if from a real estate agent. Always make sure your showings are scheduled and that a trusted party is aware.
- Warn children against opening the door for strangers.
- Place a "Not for Rent" sign in the window to prevent rental fraud.
- Review your homeowner's insurance property to make sure you are covered for visitor injuries.

Remember, when you put your home on the market you are inviting strangers into your home. Take a few precautions by planning ahead for unwelcome situations. Walk behind visitors as you show your home and always keep an escape route in mind. Stay safe.

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