

How to Prepare for the Open House

- **Advertise your open house.** Ideally you should advertise both the weekend before and the weekend of the open house. Check with the local paper to see when their ad closing deadlines are.
- **Create a property summary sheet.** This sheet gives prospective buyers an overview of your home. Include dimensions for each room, copies of a property survey, summaries of utility costs and property taxes, and a list of when capital items such as roofs and furnace were added.
- **Develop a sign-in form for prospects' addresses.** You'll ideally want both phone numbers and e-mail addresses to follow up with prospective buyers.
- **Put up signs.** One or two days before the open house, place directional signs at major intersections within three to four blocks of your house. Be sure you check on anti-sign regulations in your area.
- **Get your house ready.** Remove clutter, clean your house, wash your windows, add flowers, turn on lights, open draperies and blinds, remove valuables and breakables, confine pets, turn on soft music, and set up a table for your property fact sheet near the entrance.
- **Develop a follow-up sheet.** Getting feedback on your home from prospects who attended your open house will give you a better understanding of how to make your home more appealing to buyers.