

It's easy to feel like everything needs to be fixed.

When you start thinking about selling, the advice comes quickly:

- Paint everything.
- Replace the floors.
- Update the kitchen.
- Fix every small issue.

Before long, it starts to feel like your home isn't "good enough" as it is.

But most of that pressure doesn't come from the market—it comes from assumptions.

The goal isn't to make your home perfect. It's to make it feel clear, cared for, and easy to understand.

Buyers don't need perfection—they need clarity.

You don't have to overprepare to move forward.

Some homes need work.
Most don't need nearly as much as people think.

If it helps, I can give you a simple, honest sense of what actually matters—so you can avoid unnecessary time and expense.

You can also download the Senior Services Guide for help with:

- Decluttering and clean-out
- Minor repairs
- Moving support

www.tomsharprealtor.com/sr-services-download
Or scan the code



You don't need to do everything—just what matters.



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Helping people make thoughtful,
lifelong real estate decisions —
with clarity and confidence.

— Lifelong Living Series —

Preparing Your Home for Sale (Without Overdoing It)

By Tom Sharp

**Lifelong living means making thoughtful decisions—
even in how you prepare to move.**





What Actually Matters to Buyers

Most buyers are trying to answer a few simple questions:

- Has this home been cared for?
- Can I move in without immediate stress?
- Does it feel clean, open, and manageable?

That's it.

They're not walking through your home with a contractor's checklist.

They're reacting to how the home feels. That's why small, focused improvements often matter more than major renovations.

What makes the biggest difference is simple:

- Clean, uncluttered spaces
- A home that feels well maintained
- Fewer distractions during a showing

Buyers don't need perfection—they need clarity.

Buyers aren't looking for perfect—they're looking for a home that feels easy to say yes to.



Where to Focus (and where not to)

What tends to bring a return—and what doesn't

Often worth doing:

- Paint (especially bold or dated colors)
- Minor repairs buyers will notice immediately
- Brighter rooms feel larger and more inviting
- Deep cleaning and decluttering
- Simple landscaping and curb appeal

Often not worth doing (before listing):

- Full kitchen or bathroom remodels
- Major flooring replacement (unless heavily worn)
- Expensive upgrades based on personal taste

Leave what doesn't matter

- Full kitchen remodels
- High-end upgrades before selling
- Perfect finishes or "like new" condition

These improvements often don't return their full cost when selling. Buyers may value them—but not enough to pay dollar-for-dollar.

Smaller updates often return a higher percentage of their cost than major renovations.

**Focus on removing distractions—
not adding upgrades.**



A Steady, Manageable Approach

Most homes don't need a long list of projects.

They need a clear, simple starting point.

A practical way to move forward:

- Start with one room
- Focus on visible spaces first
- Keep your list short
- Get input before spending money
- Stop when the home feels clean, open, and cared for

This process often overlaps with something bigger—simplifying, letting go, and preparing for what's next.

There's no single right pace.

You don't have to do everything—just enough to move forward with confidence.