

A man in a dark jacket, plaid scarf, and blue jeans stands in the snow, holding a red shovel. In the background, a large, two-story house with a snow-covered roof and a 'FOR SALE' sign is visible. The scene is set in a winter landscape with snow-covered trees and a clear blue sky.

How to Sell Your Home This Winter

Regardless of the time of year, there are always buyers on the hunt for a home of their own. Take advantage of the drop in temperature to improve your home's marketability by enhancing its warm and cozy ambiance.

Set the stage to sell your home this winter

Maintain your walkways. Shovel and sand/salt your walkway and driveway to prevent potential buyers from slipping on their way to view your home.

If you live in an area that receives lots of snow, build a snowman to greet your prospective buyers as they pull up to your home.

Clean the clutter. Move boots, shoes, coats and any unnecessary items from the entryway and into a closet. Place paper booties near the door for guests to slip over their shoes to prevent them from tracking mud and slush through your home.

Make it cozy. The holidays are a great time to showcase the warm and inviting qualities of your home. Hang an evergreen wreath on the door, and fold a thick throw over the back of an armchair or couch.

Turn the focus to the fireplace. You don't have to keep a fire burning; just arrange a few logs to make the space look ready to light.

Turn on the lights. It gets dark earlier in the winter, so make sure that the inside of your home is well lit. Turn on every light in the house, and be sure that your blinds and drapes are clean and open.

...and turn up the heat. It's cold outside, so adjust the thermostat to a warmer temperature. However, keep in mind that many people will keep their coats on, so try not to sweat them out.



4 benefits of selling a home in the winter

- 1. Less competition.** There are usually fewer homes on the market at this time of year. Many people will wait to list their homes until the spring. Use this to your advantage; fewer homes for sale means that your home will stand out.
- 2. Buyers are more motivated to close.** While there may be fewer buyers in the winter, the ones who are in the market want to close quickly. These are the folks who want to buy a home, and they want to buy it now.
- 3. Your home may show better.** The cozy ambiance that defines winter can help potential buyers imagine living there.
- 4. You can take advantage of the holiday season.** Decorating with festive wreaths and lighting can also make your home appear more inviting.

3 reasons to buy a home in the winter

- 1. Your lender is less busy.** Typically there are fewer buyers in the winter, so you may be able to have your loan processed quicker.
- 2. You can take advantage of deals,** including the post-holiday sales on home appliances, hardware and decorative items.
- 3. You're more likely to see homes at their best.** Since many people have friends and family visit over the holidays, chances are the home will be clean, organized and adorned with festive decorations.