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THE VIEW FROM THE STREET

Just what is curb appeal?

In reality it is that certain something about your home that first catches the eye of the passer-by and makes them want to take a much closer look.

The question is does you home have it?

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Creating Curb Appeal

If you are selling your home curb appeal can be the key to quickly drawing in a prospective buyer. Without it, however, buyers may simply chose to pass you by thereby missing out on what might have been the perfect home for them.

Here are a few suggestions that may help you to make that first impression really count.

Keep your lawns neatly trimmed and edged. Trim trees and shrubbery to get rid of overhanging branches that might obscure a potentially good view of your home, or pathway leading to the front door. Turn over the soil in your flowerbeds. If there's little color in your front garden, make a splash with a display of inexpensive annuals, flower boxes and wooden tubs. Clay and plastic posts can also be filled with flowers and small shrubs and displayed in the yard or by the front entrance to give the feel of a warm welcome.

Birdhouses and feeders, dried flower wreaths and hanging baskets on the front porch can give your home countryside curb appeal. Keep your porch, driveway and front yard clutter free. Remove garbage bins as soon as possible after pick-up, and avoid any build-up of junk mail.

Repair or replace broken steps or walkways. You might be used to the uneven paving or rickety stairs outside your home, but they could be hazardous to visitors, as well as unsightly. Your home's roof, chimney and exterior should look sound and well-cared for. Freshly painted woodwork is often well worth the time and money invested in it.

A good spruce-up can make a big difference. If painting is unnecessary, your home will still benefit from a good spruce-up. Wash down window frames and clean your windows to make them sparkle. Scrub the front door and polish the house numbers, letterbox, doorknob and knocker. Open blinds, curtains or shutters to give your home an inviting, welcoming look.

These are just a sample of some of the ways you can create curb appeal that might help to set your home apart from the rest when viewed from the street and enhance the likelihood of selling your home.