

THE DARBYSHIRE GUIDE

5 Ways to Declutter Your Home Before It Goes on the Market

Elizabeth Darbyshire

Broker of Record | Property Match Realty Ltd.

elizabethdarbyshire.ca

You don't need to renovate. You don't need to stage every room like a magazine spread. But a little strategic decluttering before your home hits the market? That can make a real difference — to how buyers feel when they walk in, and to what they're willing to pay.

These five steps are practical, low-cost, and genuinely effective. Work through them at your own pace. And if you want a hand figuring out where to start — or what to do with the stuff once it's sorted — I'm always happy to talk.

01 Start With the Front Door — First Impressions Are Everything

Buyers form an opinion before they even step inside. Walk up to your own front door like a stranger and look at it honestly. Worn welcome mat? Replace it. Overgrown shrubs? Trim them. Old house numbers or a rusty light fixture? Those are quick, cheap fixes that signal "well cared for" before anyone sees a single room.

**Quick
Tip:**

Quick win: A new doormat and a can of spray paint for the mailbox costs under \$30 and buys you an outsized first impression.

02 Clear the Countertops — Every Single One

Kitchen and bathroom countertops covered in everyday stuff are one of the most common things that make a home feel smaller and more cluttered than it is. Pack it up. The coffee maker, the toaster, the stack of mail, the collection of shampoo bottles. Buyers want to see the surface — because what they're really picturing is their stuff there, not yours.

**Quick
Tip:**

Rule of thumb: If you wouldn't put it in a magazine photo, it shouldn't be on the counter during showings.

03 Edit the Furniture — Less Is More

Most rooms have too much furniture for showing purposes. That doesn't mean your home is crowded to live in — it just means you've made it comfortable for your life. For selling, you want rooms to feel spacious and easy to move through. Pull out one or two pieces from crowded rooms and put them in the garage or storage. You'll be amazed at what a difference it makes in photos and in person.

Quick Tip: Bedrooms especially benefit from this. One nightstand instead of two. Dresser out of the room if it's tight. Create the sense of space.

04 Tackle the Garage, Basement, and Closets

Buyers open everything. They're not being nosy — they're assessing storage. A packed-to-the-ceiling garage or a closet that avalanches when opened tells a story you don't want to tell. You don't need to empty these spaces completely, but organized and half-full reads as "this home has great storage." Stuffed and chaotic reads as "there isn't enough room here."

Quick Tip: Donation pickup services will come to your door. Junk removal companies will take what's left. You don't have to haul anything yourself.

05 Depersonalise Thoughtfully — Help Buyers See Themselves

Family photos, kids' artwork covering the fridge, collections on every shelf — these make a house a home, and that's the point. But for selling, you want buyers to picture themselves in the space, not feel like visitors in yours. Pare back the personal items. Keep a few meaningful touches, but let the rooms breathe. This is especially important in the primary bedroom and living areas.

Quick Tip: This isn't about erasing your life — it's about creating a little neutral space for the buyer's imagination to move in.

Not sure where to start? Have a pile of stuff and no idea what to do with it?
I work with sellers at every stage — including the messy early ones. **Let's talk.**

Elizabeth Darbyshire | Broker of Record

Property Match Realty Ltd. | Durham Region, Ontario

elizabethdarbyshire.ca

Straight talk. Smart moves.

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