

Home Matters from **CRAZY HOUSE**

## Rooms for Improvement

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When you think of that phone call from your realtor letting you that there is to be a showing, what gut reaction does that conjure up? Are you filled with warm, fuzzy feelings and excitement by the imminent arrival of the buyers, nonchalantly plumping up nearby pillows and putting fresh water in the flower vases? Or will you be the first to turn out the lights, lie down on your living room floor (and ordering everyone else in the house to do so: including the unsuspecting gasman), and pretend no one is in?

You want your home picture perfect and ready for a showing at the drop of a hat (just remember to pick it up), so the first thing you usually ask prior to listing, is what can I buy? For most of us, the problem isn't having enough; it's having too much of the wrong stuff. When you look at your home for sale, does it look warm and inviting, organized and tidy? If not, then clutter may be a central issue.

Keep in mind, that clutter-free does not mean compulsive. You want to organize your life, not hide all signs of it.

Keeping every issue of National Geographic ever published (I know, it's an outstanding collection) or holding on to that 3-year-old Chatelaine because you will make the recipe on Page 127. Some night. By the way, now that the 70's have come and gone twice already, do you really have to hang on to the Neil Diamond 8-tracks? And really, those new black pumps look uncommonly similar to your four other pairs.

Storage galore won't help if buyers have things falling on their head when they open the door.

Take clothes closets, for instance. Most of us wear 20% of our clothes 80% of the time. And it usually also means that the vast majority of your closet is filled with farrago—children's art projects, photographs you never want to see the light of day, high school yearbooks...

So get a leg up on the competition. Organize those closets with matching hangers and baskets. Color block the clothes. It's an efficient, non-traumatic way to prepare your home for first place.

Sort your shoes by type—running shoes, sensible pumps, boots, sandals and so on. Then give yourself a ratio. Let's say it's 10-to-1. For every 10 you keep, get rid of one pair. Five-to-one, if you're brave. Three-to-one if you're a true pioneer.

Most of us disregard the obvious. Wasted space. A good rule of thumb is to store objects one deep in appropriately sized areas. Two feet is ideal for blankets, two inches is perfect for Q-tips.

*Karyn*

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Karyn Elliott is the owner of **Albertine Design**, an interior design firm that specializes in "making the most of what you already have" by organizing, rearranging and transforming your spaces resulting in enhanced and harmonious living. Karyn's greatest gift is the passion she has for her work and the understanding of the symbiosis between the beauty and function that is encompassed by a well designed home. Karyn fosters clients' individual tastes by working closely with each client and accounting for their tastes, budgets, and needs. A division of Albertine Design, **CRAZY HOUSE**, specializes in Home Staging - the Art of Professionally Preparing a House for Sale.

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