

HOME Buyer/Seller™ issue 10

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What Buyers Don't Want to See in Your Backyard

When you put your home up for sale, you want it to look its best to potential buyers. That's why you clean, tidy and de-clutter every room.

Some sellers, however, miss the backyard. You need to pay just as much attention to that space as you do to the interior of your home. The backyard is as important a living space as the family room. To some buyers, even more.

Buyers want to see an attractive backyard space, with the grass cut and the hedges trimmed. The more neat and tidy you can make it, the better. Be sure to sweep walkways and wipe down patio furniture.

Also, watch out for the following things that buyers do not want to see:

- Bags of garage and other waste.
- Doggie do-do. (Be sure to stoop and scoop!)
- Rakes and other tools piled in the corner.
- Cluttered and disorganized storage sheds, pool huts and other backyard structures.
- Weeds in the flower beds.
- Items stored underneath the deck.
- Hoses not stowed neatly.
- Electrical outlets and water faucets that don't work.



These are not difficult issues to fix. Doing so will positively impact the impression the buyer gets of your backyard.

Do you have a backyard that shows particularly well in the summer? Here's a tip: Take pictures. Those photos will help buyers be able to appreciate how it looks should you list your home in the winter.

Want more tips on making your home show well so that it sells fast? Call today.

Do You Have "Recalled" Products in Your Home?

You've no doubt noticed the occasional news report about a product being recalled for safety reasons. For example, a car model with a brake problem, or a children's toy that, under some circumstances, may cause injury.

You may not know that these news reports are merely the tip of the iceberg. For each product recall you hear about in the media, there are dozens that get little, if any, publicity.

That means there may be products in

your home that have been recalled — and you don't even know about it. It's a scary thought.

How do you find out about recalled products that may affect you? Here are two tips.

1. Always complete the registration that comes with many products. This is typically done by mailing in a registration card or filling out an online form. When you register, you'll be alerted by the manufacturer if the product is recalled for any reason.

2. Both Canada and the United States have agencies that list recalled products on their websites. In Canada it's the Healthy Canadians website at www.healthycanadians.gc.ca. In the United States it's the Consumer Product Safety Commission at www.CPSP.gov. It's a good habit to check these sites every season.

If you discover that a product in your home has been recalled, contact the manufacturer immediately. Never assume that the reason for the recall won't apply to you.

Think, Act... Live!

"Underpromise and overdeliver." [Tom Peters](#)

"A ship in harbor is safe, but that is not what ships are built for." [John A Shedd](#)

"The indispensable first step to getting the things you want out of life is this: decide what you want." [Ben Stein](#)