

PROFESSIONALS NEWS



5 Tips for an Environmentally Friendly Christmas

Home Security for the Holidays



HAPPY HOLIDAYS

Should you Sell your Home over the Holidays?

If you're thinking about selling your home you may be questioning whether or not the Christmas and New Year period is a suitable time to put your property on the market.

Selling at any time of year has its pros and cons, but there are some clear advantages to selling over the Christmas period.

The first advantage is that potential buyers have a bit more time up their sleeves as the end of the school and work year winds up. This means that buyers are more likely to show up to open homes and perhaps even plan to find a property before their holidays are over.

There is also likely to be a bit less selling competition during the holidays as many sellers tend to wait until after the New Year before they put they take any action towards

selling their home. This provides a great opportunity to make your home stand out amongst the few properties that will be on the market.

For those that will be selling over the holidays make sure that you still present your home at its very best during open homes and try not to go overboard with seasonal decorations.

It doesn't hurt to make people feel a little jolly by putting up small decorations such as a tree or a wreath, but if you go overboard with tinsel, banners and fake snow it can be a little distracting for buyers.

Less selling competition during the holidays

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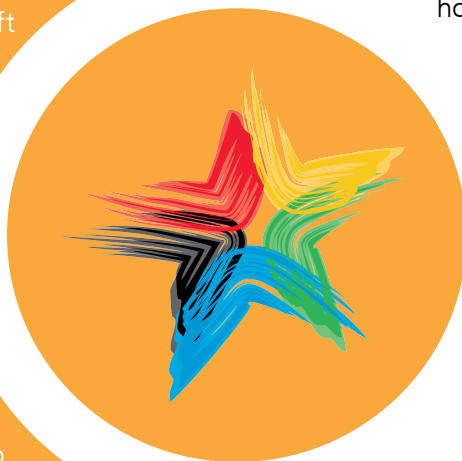
1. Cut down on Christmas cards - If you want to send out Christmas cards this year then look out for ones printed on recycled paper. Alternatively you could start sending out e-cards to your loved ones, which have the same sentiment minus the waste.

2. Conserve energy - Use energy efficient Christmas lights such as LEDs and only put them on for a short amount of time each night, or use a timer if you sometimes forget to turn them off.

3. Rethink gifts - Not all gifts need to be store-bought items. Instead of a physical gift consider buying an experience such as a singing lesson or tickets to a live concert. DIY gifts are popular too, so get crafty or bake your loved ones some yummy treats.

4. Reuse and recycle - If you think outside the box a little there are plenty of things you can find around the home that can be used to wrap Christmas gifts. Old newspapers, maps, comic books or fabric can all be used for wrapping. If you have plain paper already then you can also draw your own festive designs or maybe the kids can get creative. If you receive any gifts that come wrapped then you may be able to save the paper or packaging for future use.

5. Don't waste food - A lot of food tends to get wasted during the festive season. To avoid this, buy what you need, plan your meals and try to use your leftovers in meals the next day.



Home Security for the Holidays



Before you go away on holidays it's a good idea to make sure that you've prepared your property so that it's secure while you're away. Obviously if you leave your property for a few days or longer you'll want to lock all your doors and windows (and don't forget to lock the gates too!) and set up any security system you might have, but it's also worth taking a few more measures to help avoid being a target for a break-in.

Don't leave any obvious signs at your property that could giveaway that fact that nobody's home. If you'll be away for an extended period of time then cancel all your regular deliveries and ask the post office to hold your mail for you. If you're friendly with your neighbours then it's also worth asking them if they can collect your mail, mow your lawn or take out your rubbish bins.

You should also be mindful about posting your holiday plans online, especially if you have a public social media profile, as you don't know who might be reading. If you want to share holiday snaps or stories then post them up when you get home.

Last but not least, make sure that your home and contents insurance is up to date, that way you can rest assured that even if the worst happens while you are away, your items can be replaced.

Have a great holiday!

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