

Keeping Your Home Safe Before Sale

Beaver County— If you're preparing to sell your home, working with a Realtor® to host an open house and schedule showings will be key to reaching homeselling success. But with potential buyers coming and going frequently, it's important to keep yourself and your home safe.

"Open houses and showings are great ways to present your home for sale in person," said Beaver County Association of REALTORS® President Sara Lowman. "However, it's always better to be safe than sorry and to take some quick precautions before opening your home to potential buyers."

Before an open house or showing, sellers should secure any belongings that are valuable, potentially dangerous and important. This includes jewelry, money, prescription drugs, alcohol, artwork, weapons, small electronics, personal and identifying documents, keys, heirlooms and sentimental items. These belongings can be locked away or moved off the property for the time being.

"While open houses and showings generally run smoothly, it's best not to leave the important things out in plain view," Lowman added. "Thieves are more likely to steal small, valuable items that are easily accessible."

During an open house, potential buyers will come and go frequently throughout the day. Sellers should limit entry and exit to one door, locking all others. This will help keep track of people and limit disorganization, as well as prevent anyone from sneaking in and out where they shouldn't. Keeping all the lights in the home on during the open house or showing can also aid in improving visibility and maintaining awareness.

"Don't forget your pets!" she added. "They should be removed from the home anytime potential buyers are coming and going. This helps keep them safe and avoids issues like allergies, injuries and distractions."

"Once you've secured your home, you're ready to show it off," Lowman concluded. "Your local Realtor® can share more safety tips and help guide you to the closing table, ensuring you get the best price for your home."