

Drive-Up Appeal: Make Your First Impression Count

In South Surrey and White Rock, buyers often decide how they feel about a home before they step inside. A potential buyer's first impression forms from the street — sometimes while still sitting in their agent's car. Work your way from the outside in.



Compare your yard honestly to the neighbourhood. If it's sparse, add flowering shrubs along the property — but skip trees, as they take too long to mature for a return. If it's overgrown, trim shrubs to below windowsill height, remove ivy from the exterior, and ensure tree limbs are high enough to walk beneath.

Your lawn should be freshly cut, watered, and an even green. Brown patches need attention well before listing — re-sod early and give it time to fill in. Rake leaves and cuttings before every showing.

Flower Power

A flat of mature, colourful flowers — petunias, periwinkles, or geraniums — planted along the walkway or in porch pots is one of the most cost-effective curb appeal upgrades you can make. Buy plants already in bloom, not seeds or bulbs.

If you have a pool, keep it sparkling and leaf-free for every showing.

2 — HOUSE EXTERIOR

Does your home look weathered or faded from across the street? Fresh exterior paint is almost always a sound investment — it dramatically lifts perceived value. Stay with colours that complement the architectural style and fit the neighbourhood. Avoid anything jarring.

Inspect your roof closely. Active leaks must be disclosed to buyers and will likely need to be fixed before closing. If the roof appears sound, wait for the home inspector's assessment before spending on repairs.

3 — FRONT DOOR & PORCH

The front entrance is where first impressions become lasting ones. Even if you paint nothing else, give the front door a fresh coat — a bold teal or deep navy makes a memorable, welcoming statement. Replace a broken doorbell, polish the door hardware until it gleams, wash the mailbox, sweep the porch, and put out a new doormat.

Don't Fumble the Entry

Your agent will open the front door with a key — make sure the lock works smoothly and the key fits properly. The buyer's first up-close experience shouldn't be waiting on the doorstep while the agent wrestles with the lock.