

# News You Can Use

Brought to you by: The Stoneman Group  
RE/MAX Kelowna

## How to Turn Your Patio Into an Outdoor Room

Whether you are thinking of moving to a new home or just want to improve your living environment, there are many things you can do to turn a drab patio or deck into another room.

If you are putting your house on the market, turning this space into another room will help visitors see the potential of your house.

The key is to make your outdoor room look as inviting as possible. So think about it just as you would any other room in your house.

This means you should invest in furniture that will give a feeling of luxury, turning your patio into a place of relaxation. Group your furniture, just as you would indoors. Invest in comfortable furniture, such as a chaise lounge.

Try to complement the décor inside your house by using similar colors and materials. If, for example, you have a wooden floor inside, try to make it look as if the floor extends outside by using similar materials. Use your choice of furniture to pick up colors you've used inside and bring them outside.

There are many low-cost options for lighting outdoors, such as battery-operated lights or torches. Then you'll be able to extend the use of your outdoor room into the night.

Scrub the paving, perhaps using a power washer, and scrub the decking to make it look like new again.

## Putting Your House Up For Sale? Get These Essential Tips



If you want to get the best price for your house, it's essential to prepare it for sale. Homes that have been "staged" go for a lot more money... and sell much more quickly, too.

To give you a head start, get my free guide, "50 Essential Tips to Prepare Your Home for a Speedy, Top-Price Sale."

Just call me at 250-864-4455 and I'll send it right out to you.

## 6 Valuable Tips for Being Happier at Work

We spend at least a third of our day at work, so it makes sense to try to make each day as happy as possible. Part of the solution is a result of the type of work environment you choose — but there are other things you can do to make any workplace happier.

**Take control.** Good employers know that workers who have some control over their day-to-day tasks are generally happier. So, if you can, choose a job that gives you a lot of say over how you organize your day and how you complete tasks.

**Avoid negativity.** It's easy to get sucked down into the "unhappiness crowd" if you spend too much time moaning about work and criticizing other people.

**Socialize.** Spend time chatting with your coworkers — perhaps go for lunch with them once in a while. You'll build a network of support and resources that will be there for you when you need it.

**Do something you love.** Try to find one part of your job you really love. If you can't do that, maybe it's time to start looking for work elsewhere. There's no point sticking with something that bores you — or that you dislike — when there are other opportunities available.

**Be aware of who you are and what you need.** Get acquainted with your strengths and your weaknesses, and figure out what you really want from work — and from life. That makes a good starting point for fixing the things that need to be fixed and developing your career.

**Choose happiness.** You can focus on the things that make you happy and dismiss those that don't. It's sometimes only a matter of changing your outlook.

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## How to Make your Home Appear Much Bigger

One thing that most buyers are looking for is space. They want to know they're going to have room for everything (and everyone) and they're not going to grow out of their house too quickly.

### Get rid of clutter

This is probably the most important secret to increasing the illusion of space. Remove items you don't need from surfaces, particularly in the kitchen. Keep shelves tidy and not stuffed with books and ornaments.

### Paint the walls

Use white or neutral colors to make rooms appear light and spacious. Use tones of a neutral color such as brown or gray to avoid visual clutter and make your décor feel more harmonious.

### Consider off-site storage

If you're running out of room for your possessions, move some of them into a storage unit while your house is on the market. Alternatively, have a yard sale

to get rid of unwanted items — or donate them to charity. Otherwise, your house might look as if it's not spacious enough for a family.

### Remove some furniture

Potential buyers need to be able to walk around your house without bumping into chairs and tables. Put some furniture into storage until you move. Leave a path through your rooms that buyers can walk through.

### Organize closets

Make sure you've tidied your closets. Invest in an organizing system, if necessary. Remove clothing that you're not likely to wear from your closets.

### Clean up the garage

People want to know they can fit a car (or two) in the garage and still have room for storing their possessions. So clear out your garage and neatly organize everything that must stay in there.

## Wondering How Much Your Home is Worth?

If you're wondering what's happening to prices in your area, or you're thinking about selling your house, I'll be able to help.

Just give my office a call for a no-fuss, professional evaluation.

I won't try to push you into listing with me or waste your time.

I'll just give you the honest facts about your home and its value.

And maybe I'll also give you the "inside scoop" on what's happening in the housing market near where you live!

Just give my cell a call at 250-864-4455 to arrange an appointment.

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