

# 5 Curb Appeal Mistakes to Avoid, According to Realtors

Don't do this at home.



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First impressions go a long way—and real estate is no exception. When prospective buyers are canvassing a neighborhood, or searching listings on real estate websites or apps, curb appeal is one of the most important factors that can grab the interest of homebuyers.

We've reached out to realtors throughout the country and asked them to share some common curb appeal mistakes that can turn buyers away. According to the pros, here are the curb appeal mistakes to avoid so you can

sell your home at the best possible price.

## Disheveled Landscaping

[Martha Thorn](#), a realtor with Coldwell Banker Realty in Belleair Bluffs, Florida, says the first impression of the home is critical; it sets the tone for the entire presentation. "That is where the buyer's attitude begins," Thorn says. If the landscaping, for example, is unkempt then the buyer assumes that the house has not been maintained. "The lawn needs to be green and neat, no overgrown bushes and very neatly trimmed hedges," she adds. "All edges leading to the front door need to be clean."

Also, related to landscaping: skip artificial flowers in pots by the door and artificial flowers on the front door, she cautions. [Easy-to-maintain, live plants](#) are best.

## Exterior Eyesores

Sometimes homeowners may overlook minor details that accumulate over time when they have lived in a property for an extended period, says [Bill Lublin](#), a realtor with Century 21 Advantage Gold in Southampton, Pennsylvania. "These details could include missing shutters, mismatched colors due to repainting, or a missing top or dead bulb in an exterior light fixture," Lublin explains. He recommends addressing these issues as these imperfections can potentially turn off potential buyers.

## Front-Yard Forgetfulness

Homebuyers can be turned off by front-yard disarray such as abandoned toys scattered around the patio, or unpleasant aesthetics such as bald spots on the lawn where the family pet may have dug or "watered," explains Lublin. "While the sellers may not notice these gradual accumulations, a potential buyer of the house would be concerned about the accumulation of minor details that seem to have been overlooked," he says.

Some fixes are quite simple, Lublin says, so you can DIY things like cleaning up the scattered toys, tossing rusty lawn furniture, planting grass seeds, and changing bulbs. Other tasks such as trimming bushes, replacing shutters, and installing a new mailbox may require professional help. "It's important to get these things done to ensure that the property is in good condition and attractive to potential buyers," he adds.

## Controversial Color Choices

[Lilli Schipper](#), a broker associate with LoKation Real Estate in Hollywood, Florida, says simple is always best regarding curb appeal. She recommends sellers create a pleasant and attractive setting. "You want people to approach your house thinking they could live there," Schipper says. "If you don't have the money to repaint your house a neutral color, at least make the current color look like it was done well." Or if you currently have a vibrant front door, consider repainting it one of these [home-value-boosting hues](#). Other ideas from Schipper include putting down fresh mulch, getting a few bright flower pots, and installing some walkway entrance lights.

## Lackluster Porch Decor

The front porch is truly the gateway to a new home. "Pay particular attention to the front porch/entry where the buyers will be waiting while their agent allows access," says [Frank D. Isoldi](#), broker sales associate at Coldwell Banker Realty in Westfield, New Jersey. "Make sure light fixtures are clean and working and the doormat is new."

Another misstep could be very worn or broken front-porch furnishings. "Make sure not to overcrowd the front porch with broken, old furniture," cautions [Rose Sklar](#), a sales associate with Coldwell Banker Realty in Weston, Florida. "Better to remove it altogether or stop by your local discount store and pick up some new porch furniture." She also suggests adding new fresh pillows for a pop of color.