



THE VALUQ HOMEOWNER SERIES

# The Decluttering Checklist

Pre-listing decluttering, ordered by visual impact. One room at a time, designed to clear in a weekend.

## THE RULE

# Three-pile system

Set up three labelled containers in every room. Sort every item into one as you go. No item gets put back without a decision.

- Keep.**  
In active use. Stays in the house. Goes in a drawer or cupboard, not on display.

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- Store.**  
Sentimental or seasonal. Goes into a labelled box in the loft, garage, or storage unit.

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- Remove.**  
Donate, sell, or bin. The hardest pile and the most important.

## WHY THIS WORKS

Buyers do not see clean. Buyers see empty space. Empty surfaces and half-empty cupboards make any room feel larger and any home feel better maintained.

## SECTION 1

# Living spaces

- Clear every flat surface to three deliberate items.**  
Coffee table, side tables, shelves, mantelpiece.

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- Remove family-photo clusters.**  
One framed photo per shelf is human. Twelve reads as crowded.

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- Pack away books and magazines you have read.**  
A few well-chosen books on a shelf is fine. A stack on every surface is not.

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- Hide TV remotes, chargers, and visible cables.**

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- Pack away children's toys not in daily use.**

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- Remove or rotate clutter from open shelves.**  
Aim for 30 percent empty space on any open shelving.
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- Remove rugs that hide the floor's true size.**

## SECTION 2

# Kitchen

- Clear counters to a kettle, a fruit bowl, and one or two intentional items.**
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- Empty the fridge front and any whiteboard.**  
Magnets, takeaway menus, kid drawings. All into a drawer.
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- Sort and discard expired food.**
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- Pack away appliances you use less than weekly.**  
Bread maker, slow cooker, juicer, ice cream maker.
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- Empty 20 percent of every cupboard.**  
Full cupboards read as not big enough.
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- Pare down mugs and glasses on display.**  
Six is plenty.
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- Sort the junk drawer.**  
Every house has one. Buyers will open it.

## SECTION 3

# Bedrooms

- Clear bedside tables to a lamp and one book.**
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- Empty wardrobes by 20 to 30 percent.**  
Move out-of-season clothes to storage.
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- Sort under-bed storage.**  
Reduce to one or two labelled boxes.
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- Pack away decor that does not fit the room.**  
Children's posters, exercise equipment, hobby clutter.
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- Hide laundry baskets out of sight.**
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- Pack away the off-season bedding.**

#### SECTION 4

## Bathrooms

- Clear all toiletries from sight.**  
Bath edge, sink, shower shelves. Into a basket or drawer.
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- Pare down towels on display to a matching set of two or three.**
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- Empty the medicine cabinet of expired items.**
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- Hide cleaning products.**
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- Remove bathmats that have seen better days.**

#### SECTION 5

## Hallway, stairs, landings

- Clear hallway floor space.**  
Shoes, bags, sports kit, deliveries. Out of sight.
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- Reduce coats on hooks to two or three.**
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- Remove stair-step storage piles.**  
The thing you mean to take upstairs next time.
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- Clear landings to walking space only.**

#### SECTION 6

# Garage, shed, loft

- Reduce contents to organised, walkable, photographable.**

Buyers will open these spaces.

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- Pack into matching labelled boxes.**

Visual coherence reads as well-maintained.

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- Throw away broken tools, expired chemicals, dead electronics.**
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- Sort garden equipment.**

One mower, one set of shears, one box of pots.

# Find out what your tidied home is worth

Once the house is decluttered, see what competing local agents value it at. ValuQ shows multiple valuations side by side, anonymously.

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