



5 TIPS FOR MAKING A GREAT FIRST IMPRESSION

Want your guests to love your home? Showing off your space is all about making a great first impression. It takes less than 30 seconds for the average person to form that impression, so capitalize on those crucial moments with five simple tips for dazzling anyone who walks through your door.

1. A TIDY YARD GOES A LONG WAY

Your chance to make a great impression starts the moment a guest lays eyes on your home. A beautiful garden full of colorful flowers, a freshly cut lawn, and thoughtful touches like solar landscape lights communicate that you care about the property. And simply keeping the walkway to your front door neat and tidy by getting rid of garbage or unnecessary clutter can also greatly increase curb appeal.

2. THE BRIGHTER, THE BETTER

Make sure your home is well lit. Nobody likes a dark and gloomy atmosphere. Prune any tall trees or bushes that block the sun, and open your curtains and blinds to let natural light in. Replace old light bulbs with high wattage ones to ensure maximum brightness. If it's cloudy outside or late in the day, turn on the lights to keep the atmosphere warm, welcoming, and safe.

3. DE-CLUTTER THE FOYER

The first time a guest steps through your front door, you don't want them seeing a cramped, cluttered mess. Nothing makes a home look less appealing than an entryway with shoes all over the place and piles of mail by the door. Make sure your foyer is tidy and organized - the first space people see when they walk in sets the stage for the rest of their visit.

4. MAKE SURE YOUR HOME SMELLS GOOD

Make your home feel more welcoming by baking cookies before your guest shows up (dabbing a little vanilla on a burner and turning it on for a few seconds gives the same impression without the work), lighting a scented candle, or opening up the windows to let the fresh air in. Be careful using things like plug-ins or room sprays - a lot of people are sensitive to strong fragrances.

5. SWEAT THE SMALL STUFF

Be your own home inspector and pretend you're seeing your home for the first time. Are the floors dirty? Do the doors squeak when you open them? Do your light bulbs look a little dim? Does your washroom have all the essentials? If you notice problems, chances are your guests will too. Little details can really affect the way they see your home. Minor fixes like washing the front door or touching up chipped paint can go a long way to make a good impression.

Whether you're hosting a casual dinner, throwing a big bash, or showing your friends around your new place for the first time, you want them to love your home as much as you do. By keeping things neat, organized and feeling fresh, you're sure to impress even the pickiest guest.
