

✓ My Checklist To prepare my house for night photography

Please have the property fully prepared prior to the appointment, so the photographer may focus solely on creating great images within the allotted time.

General:

- A picture is worth a thousand words, & a prepared house speaks them eloquently.*
- We will typically arrive approximately 1 hour before sunset. All preparations listed below should be completed by this time. The property may be photographed as-is.
- To achieve a warm glow around the house & from all windows, every interior & exterior light should be turned on.
- As much as possible, use light bulbs with traditional filament elements, rather than CFL bulbs or LED bulbs. Filament bulbs tend to have a better Color Rendering Index than even the newest LED or CFL bulbs.
- Check all interior & exterior lights for function, & replace all non-working bulbs & fixtures.

Exterior:

- Trim grass & shrubs, blow leaves, & place fresh pine straw or mulch
- Park all cars inside a garage or down the street away from the house
- Blow-off hard surfaces including sidewalks, driveways, stairs, porches, patios & decks
- Put away hoses, hose reels, sprinklers, & garbage bins
- Remove covers from well-maintained grills & furniture; Cover or remove neglected ones
- Remove covers, debris, & cleaning tools from swimming pools
- Remove pet "landmines" from the yard
- Turn on all exterior lighting manually. Timers & photo cell activated lighting may not reliably turn on at the best time for the photography.
- Double-check these exterior lighting features for function, & turn on:
 - Landscape lighting
 - Pool lighting
 - Screened porch, patio, & deck lighting
 - Path, driveway & gate lighting
 - Outbuilding or guesthouse lighting
 - Any other exterior accent lighting
- Consider having outdoor fireplaces & fire pits pre-lit or ready to light

Interior:

- Turn on all interior lights, including chandeliers, ceiling lights, sconces, & lamps.
- Double check these often-overlooked areas that sometimes have windows:
 - Closets
 - Bathrooms & water closets within larger bathrooms
 - Garages
 - Pantries
 - Offices
 - Basement living & storage areas
 - Attic storage areas
- Adjust all blinds in the house to a uniformly turned-open position (horizontally) so light will come through.
- Open curtains & remove light-blocking shades
- Move furniture, stored items, or other items that block windows. This is most common in garages, closets, & storage areas.
- Turn off televisions