

# American Chronicle

## 5 Steps to a Successful Open House

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Steve Yapp, franchise owner of PODS (Portable On Demand Storage) in San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura County offered the following tips to preparing and hosting a successful open house.



Showing a home for sale is not as easy as it seems with many logistics to consider when placing it on the market. The goal, after all, is to make the move as smooth as possible. A fairly new company called PODS, Inc. that services Ventura and Santa Barbara counties, can help eliminate any clutter by safely storing belongings in a secure PODS warehouse.

Potential buyers have a tendency to look in every nook and cranny – in closets, cabinets, and under beds. Staging the home, and making it clutter-free, is now easier than ever with PODS. Follow these 5 steps to achieve home-showing success!

### 1. Create more space.

The bottom line when selling a home is to create the illusion that living areas are more spacious. Since buyers often envision their own furniture in homes they visit, showing plenty of floor and wall space to make the home feel bigger is a priority. You may love those two overstuffed recliners near the fireplace, but how does placement effect floor space? Place any large, bulky furniture in a PODS container for safekeeping during this interim process.

### 2. Spic and span.

Clean the house from top to bottom and clear the clutter from countertops. It may be worthwhile to hire a cleaning company and keep your focus on other parts of the moving process. Are hallways filled with hanging picture frames? Keep a select few to highlight and pack the others carefully in a box for retrieval at a later date. Minimize items on display in other areas of the home as well – in the bedroom, bathroom, kitchen and living areas.

### 3. Don't forget the garage.

While women tend to look at a kitchen first, men will head for the garage. Essentially another room, do not neglect cleaning up and de-cluttering the garage. Load all of the sports gear, motorcycles, bikes and seasonal décor in a PODS container until needed again.

4. Make an outstanding first impression.

Lawns should be freshly cut, gardens weeded out and landscaping neatly manicured. It is always a bonus to have bright flowers or plants near the front door and fresh-cut flowers in vases around in rooms on open-house day.

5. Let there be light.

Light equals space. Open curtains and blinds and clean windows, screens and skylights. Remove large furniture or wall units that block window views to a PODS container and make sure all light fixtures have new, brightly burning bulbs.

For more information, or to reserve a PODS container, call (805) 644-6503 or visit the websites:

<http://www.pods.com/ventura.aspx>, or <http://www.pods.com/santabarbara.aspx>, or <http://www.pods.com/sanluisobispo.aspx>.

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