Home
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MARKET READY

Q. I have a turntable and a large collection of records. Do I need to remove them before showing my home to buyers?

GETTY IMAGES

A. "When you're preparing an apartment for sale, the goal is to create an inviting and clean environment as much as possible," said Udi Eliasi, a senior vice president at Citi Habitats in Manhattan. "Part of my job is explaining to owners that they have to part from some personal items while the apartment is being shown."

In general, he said, that's because "fewer items will create the impression of more space."

But when it comes to stereos and music collections, "it really depends on the situation," he said. "If you have a 1980s standard Sony from your teenage years, it's just a dust collector." It should probably be moved out along with the record collection.

If you have attractive high-end stereo components from a company like McIntosh, however, they project a kind of status that could be desirable, he said. Your stereo and record collection could probably remain, but care should be taken to minimize cord clutter and to organize the records as neatly as possible.

Roman Alonso, one of the partners at the Los Angeles design firm Commune, agreed that a good-looking turntable and record collection could make a positive statement about the owner's lifestyle. "These days, a record collection is like a book collection," he said. "It's a library."

Mr. Alonso and two of the other partners at his firm have turntables at home, and Commune has put them in the homes of numerous clients, as well as the guest rooms at the Ace Hotel in Palm Springs, Calif. He recommended wireless speakers to cut down on cord clutter and a glossy turntable from a company like Music Hall.

In terms of pulling it all together, he said, "the best way to keep everything organized is to use something that can contain your records, which you can also put your record player on."

In his home, Mr. Alonso uses a series of custom crates that his firm designed. The crates have integrated cleats that allow an endless number of containers to slot together; set on their sides, they hold records while creating a long surface for stereo equipment. But an appropriately sized vintage crate or small table with a shelf underneath would work just as well, he said, and keep the records from looking like clutter. "Everything is digital these days, so you don't need to have records," he said. "You have them because you love them."

And they might just make your living room look more stylish: "It is hip, yes, to have records," Mr. Alonso said.

TIM McKEOUGH

Questions about repairs *or redecorating before putting a home on the market may be sent to marketready@nytimes.com. Unpublished questions cannot be answered individually.*