

ENGEL & VÖLKERS

TAMPA DOWNTOWN

A HOMEOWNER PRIVACY GUIDE

Take Your House Off the *Internet*

How to remove the interior photos of your home from the three major real estate sites — in about two minutes each.

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START HERE

Why this matters more than you'd think

When your home was last listed for sale, a photographer walked through and documented every room. Those photos didn't disappear when you got the keys. **They stay published on real estate sites indefinitely** — three years later, ten years later, still there.

On their own, they're just pretty pictures. The problem is what they become when someone pairs them with your address: a floor plan. Every door, every window, where the cameras are mounted, which rooms sit where.

And addresses aren't hard to find. A back-to-school photo on the porch. A house number in the background of a driveway shot. A package delivery story. A public records search. Any one of those closes the gap.

THE GOOD NEWS

You don't need to delete your social media or stop posting your life. You just need to close the other half of the loop — and that part takes a few minutes per site, one time, permanently.

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- 1 Have your home's full address handy
 - 2 Use a desktop or laptop — the mobile apps hide these settings
 - 3 Set aside 15 minutes to do all three sites in one sitting
 - 4 Expect to verify you own the home — that's the point, and it's quick
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Zillow

Roughly two minutes once your ownership is verified.

1 Sign in and open Your Home

Go to [zillow.com](https://www.zillow.com) and sign in. Click your profile icon, then choose **Your Home** from the menu.

2 Find and claim your property

Search your full address and select your home to load its property page. If you haven't claimed it before, follow the prompts to claim it as the owner.

3 Verify that the home is yours

Zillow will ask you to confirm ownership with your name and phone number. This can be instant, but don't panic if it takes a bit — watch your email for the confirmation.

4 Click the edit pencil

On your home's page, look for the **edit pencil** icon and click it. This is the step most people miss — the option isn't visible until you do.

5 Tap Edit Photos

From the editing menu, select **Edit Photos**.

6 Check the box to hide photos

Tick **Hide photos**. That removes them from public view on your home's Zillow page.

7 Save your changes

Click **Save Changes**. Nothing sticks until you do.

IF IT STALLS OR THE OPTION IS MISSING

Stuck on a loading screen? Try again in a desktop browser with ad blockers and privacy extensions turned off — they're the usual culprit.

No edit option at all? For some off-market homes, editing isn't available because the data is pulled from the last for-sale listing. Submit a ticket to Zillow's customer support team and they'll remove the photos for you.

Redfin

The simplest of the three — a single checkbox does it.

1 Sign in or create a free account

Head to redfin.com. An account is required, but it's free and takes a minute.

2 Claim your home first

Search your address and follow the steps to claim the property as the owner. Nothing else unlocks until this is done.

3 Go to your profile and select My Homes

Open your **profile** menu, then choose **My Homes**.

4 Click your home, then Edit Photos

Select your property from the list and tap **Edit Photos**.

5 Check "Hide listing photos" and save

Tick the box, then **Save**. Your interior photos are gone from public view.

WORTH KNOWING

Redfin hides the photos rather than deleting the underlying listing history. That's fine — the goal is that no one browsing your address can walk through your house room by room.

Realtor.com

A few taps, once you've claimed the home.

1 Go to realtor.com/myhome

Create an account if you don't have one. This is the owner-side portal, separate from the normal home search.

2 Search your address and claim it

Look up your home, then follow the site's steps to prove you own it.

3 Go to My Home

Once you're verified, open the My Home section of your account.

4 Tap the edit pencil on your home's photo

Look for the edit pencil directly on the photo of your home and tap it.

5 Remove all photos and confirm

Choose **Remove all photos**, then confirm when it asks. Done.

IF YOU GET STUCK

Realtor.com has a support form at support.realtor.com/s/contactsupport — submit a ticket and ask them to remove the listing photos for your address.

THE ROOT OF THE PROBLEM

All of these sites pull their photos from the MLS — the database agents use to list homes. Removing them site by site handles what the public sees, but the photos still live in the original listing feed. You can ask the agent who listed the home to request that the MLS remove them at the source. Some MLSs will do it, some won't. It costs you one email to find out.

Hi I'm

Tatiana Tavlan

A Tampa native, REALTOR® with Engel & Völkers Tampa Downtown, interior designer, and Airbnb expert with nearly a decade of experience. I believe taking care of my clients goes beyond buying or selling a home—it also means helping you protect it. Your privacy, security, and peace of mind matter to me long after closing.

Have a real estate question or need a trusted local resource? I'm always here to help.

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