Guidelines for Tracking a Professional Sounding Record

1) The metronome is the most efficient and easiest way to achieve a tight and professional sounding record. Choosing the right tempo for your songs ahead of time will save a lot of time and headaches while in the studio.

2) A solid performance will undoubtedly translate into a great sounding record. While technology has come a long way in helping us create music, it is paramount to understand that the most important step in the chain is the musical performance that is being captured. Please have your songs well rehearsed, and well memorized. It will pay off significantly.

3) Service your instruments before coming to the studio.
    i. New Resonant Skins for drums
    ii. New Guitar and New Bass Strings
    iii. Make sure the input jacks are working properly
    iv. Fresh 9V Batteries where applicable
    v. Make sure pedals are working properly
    vi. Make sure cables and patch cords are in good condition

4) Being prepared for tracking a record is the best and easiest way to make a long and tedious process enjoyable and fun. It will also be the biggest money saver. Here are some guidelines that can help you achieve an adequate level of preparedness:
    i. Complete your pre-production ahead of time
    ii. Everyone in the band should know the songs front to back
    iii. Practice your songs to a metronome, both as a band and individually. This will make your performance much tighter and professional sounding
    iv. For Drummers: Hard, solid hits and rim shots will translate into a big & punchy drum sound
    v. For Guitar and Bass players: Practice using a practice amp. It is important to develop a tone in your hands.
    vi. For vocals: While isolated tracks will almost never sound to our liking, it is of great help to practice while listening to isolated takes.

5) Strive for excellence, not perfection. Most musicians (myself included) are perfectionists and almost always dislike everything we do. While it is great to have high standards and ambition, it is important to understand that we are only human and perfection is virtually impossible. Even our all-time favourite records have mistakes in them and the human element makes them sound the way they do.