

Using A Property Checklist

When searching for a home, it's easy to get overwhelmed with information and to forget the details of each particular home you've viewed - that's why I've created this list to help you keep track of all the information you need to help you in this important decision.

When you view a home, keep in mind this checklist:

- Is there enough room for both the present and the future?
- Are there enough bedrooms and bathrooms?
- Is the house structurally sound?
- Do the mechanical systems and appliances work?
- Is the yard big enough?
- Do you like the floor plan?
- Will my furniture fit in the space? Is there enough storage space? (Bring a tape measure to better answer these questions.)
- Does anything need to be repaired or replaced? Will the seller repair or replace the items?
- Imagine the house in good weather and bad, and in each season. Will you be happy with it year 'round?
- Take your time and think carefully about each house you see. Ask your agent to point out the pros and cons of each home from a professional standpoint.
- There isn't a set number of houses you should see before you decide. Just be sure to communicate often with your agent about everything you're looking for. It will help focus the search.
- Take detailed notes, take pictures, and make a video – anything to help you remember as much as you can. (Be sure to first secure the permission of the owner before photographing or taking video, though.)
- If the owner or the owner's agent is present during your viewing of the home, don't say too much about your likes or dislikes.
- Which items require ongoing maintenance (paint, roof, heating and air conditioning systems, appliances, carpet)?
- What about the neighborhood and the quality of life it affords?
- Does the home's style, features and amenities conform to the neighborhood?
- Are there any potential problems with the home's electrical or mechanical systems?
- Does the home appear to have any structural problems?
- Does the home appear to have any drainage or foundation problems?