

Home Buyer's Evaluation Worksheet

Learn all this and more about each of the homes you are considering.

Address _____

Home Type _____ Price _____

Real Estate Taxes _____ Homeowners Assn. or Condo Fees _____

Location

Consider proximity to employment for you and your spouse. Become knowledgeable about traffic patterns that exist now or that might exist in the future. A good real estate agent can alert you to new development in the area that might affect the value of the home, positively or negatively.

School District

Check into the quality of the school district. If you have children, this will have a personal impact on you. If you have no children, this will still affect you in terms of the resale value of the home.

Resale

How old is the home? If it was built before 1978, look into the possible presence of lead-based paint in the home. Your realtor will ensure that your rights as a home buyer are protected, whether related to lead-based paint or other environmental issues.

New Construction

If you are working directly with a sales agent for the builder instead of a real estate agent, check your state consumer protection division so that you know your rights as a buyer. Also, check into the reputation of the builder.

Structural Issues

Ensure that the home meets your space requirements for bedrooms, bathrooms, dining, kitchen, den/study, family, living, laundry, finished basement, deck/patio, garage, etc. Also, be alert to other structural issues, including the condition of the roof, exterior, foundation, and other potentially expensive structural aspects of the home.

Cosmetic Issues

Include landscaping, interior paint/wallpaper, etc. Take into consideration how much you would spend in redecorating.

Heat/Fuel

Make note of whether the home has forced-air or radiator heat, and whether the fuel used is electric, heat pump, natural gas, or oil. These factors affect your monthly expenses.

Community Amenities

What are the benefits of living in the community—are there neighborhood pools, recreation facilities, nearby library, good transportation system, convenient shopping?

Other/Extras

Most homes you see will have other distinctive features or extras that might appeal to you. Make note of air conditioning, alarm system, condition of driveway and garage, ceiling fans, fireplace, appliances (refrigerator, stove, dishwasher, washer, dryer), porch or deck, pool, storage space, or other features that make this home special to you.