

HOME BUYERS CHECKLIST

What Are You Looking For?

Ever leave your grocery list at home only to have your mind go blank just as you walk into the store? It's easy to keep some criteria in mind when you are looking for a home only to forget another important item when something in a home you are looking at is unusual or appealing. Be sure you have a written list of the things that are important to you and your lifestyle. (And bringing along a tape measure wouldn't hurt either!)

Do you like to cook? Is the kitchen large enough for more than one cook? Is there plenty of storage room? Are the appliances (or space for them large enough? Is the kitchen laid out well?

Is there enough closet space? Are the closets deep enough? Are there enough closets?

Are there enough bedrooms? Are the bedrooms large enough for your furniture, whether you have it now or plan to get it later? (This is true in all of the rooms.)

Is there enough "growing" room in the children's bedrooms for now and later?

Are there enough bathrooms? Are they large enough? Is there a place to conveniently store extra towels, etc.?

Is the storage space easily accessible? Does the attic have a large enough opening?

Is the basement dry? Do either have climate control for special items?

Does the house flow well? Are there a lot of small rooms, or a few large rooms that interconnect?

How will *your* furniture look in this home? If you have large pieces make sure they will fit. Have the dimensions of large items such as the entertainment center written down.

Don't forget the yard! Is it high or low maintenance? Do you need room for children to play? Is the deck/patio large enough or can it be easily expanded to fit your lifestyle?

How Many Homes Should You See?

There is only one answer to that question: It depends. If you find a house that you like and it meets your criteria, you are through looking. Sometimes it seems as if you have looked at every available house and still can't find something suitable.

Don't pressure yourself into buying anything doesn't meet your criteria just

because you feel you have been looking too long. You can always reassess your criteria; but don't compromise on anything that is really important to you.

Convenience

Now that you've found *the* house, what about its location? (Yes, location, location, location!) Will the commute be one you can live with? (Test drive your commute during the morning/evening rush.) Will your needs of shopping, transportation, schools, etc. be met? Are there activities you enjoy close by? If the answer to any of these questions is no, then look in another area. Even if you think you have found your dream house, there will be another one and it will meet all of your needs.

Purchasing a new home is stressful; no matter how many times you've done it. It is the biggest investment a person makes, not only financially but emotionally. Working with the right Real Estate Agent can reduce some of the stress of relocating. Remember that *your* Agent works for *you*, and represents *your* best interests.

I hope this information has been helpful. There are a lot of good articles on the internet with more information and home buying tips. The Agents of Ann Bell & Company want you to have the best home buying experience possible.