



THE ROAD MAP TO YOUR HOME!

NARROWING THE SEARCH

“If you don’t know where you’re going ... you’ll probably end up somewhere else.” Taken from a book title, this quote conveys a very simple message: **To achieve an objective, create a plan!**

If you plan to buy a home soon, you will need to know “where you are going.” For a most enjoyable home-buying experience, first build a road map to your new home, a list of priorities that will lead you to your objective—a new home!

The first priority is time frame.

Write down the date by which you would like to move in to your new home: _____

Keep in mind that it may take 30-90 days (or more) to locate the right home, secure financing, and complete the home-buying process.

The next priority is to develop a detailed description of the home you hope to find. The following page contains a **Home Search Criteria** form to help you distinguish between “Need to Have” features and “Want to Have” features. Be specific. Include architectural style, number of bedrooms and baths, location, lot size, and other special requirements. Number your preferences in order of greatest importance to you.

This form, along with the information you share during your initial consultation, will enable your real estate agent to narrow your home search. He or she will take this information and enter your requirements into the Multiple Listing Service (MLS) system, and then use personal market knowledge to come up with a list of homes that best meet your needs and wants.

During the home search, your real estate agent will:

- Discuss the benefits and drawbacks of each home in relation to your specific needs.
- Keep you informed on a regular basis.
- Check the MLS database and talk with other brokers regularly for new listings.
- Prepare a list of all homes that best meet your needs and wants.
- Keep you up to date on changing financial conditions that may affect the housing marketing.
- Be available to answer your questions or offer assistance regarding your home purchase.
- Discuss market trends and values relative to properties that interest you.



HOME SEARCH CRITERIA

GENERAL INFORMATION

Name: _____
Current Street Address: _____
City/State/Zip: _____
Home Phone: _____ Business Phone: _____
Email: _____

TIME LINE INFORMATION

Deadline for Locating a Home: _____
Required Move In Date: _____

NEEDS ANALYSIS

Family Size: Adults: _____ Children: _____
Need-to-Have features:

Want-to-Have features:

Area Preferred: _____
Price Range: From: _____ To: _____
Approximate Square Footage: _____

Prefer: _____ Home _____ Condominium _____ Town home _____ Duplex/Triplex
 Other _____
Approximate Age of Home: _____
Style: _____
Bedrooms: _____ Bathrooms: _____ Garage: _____

Important Features:
____ Den _____ Porch
____ Family Room _____ Patio
____ Formal Dining Room _____ Workshop
____ Combination Dining Room _____ Drapes/Blinds
____ Wooded Lot _____ Carpet
____ Air Conditioning _____ Hardwood Floors
____ Swimming Pool _____ Public Transportation
____ Fireplace _____ Utility Room
____ Basement _____ Breakfast Area

Other: _____

SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Elementary School: _____
Middle School: _____
High School: _____

Approximate down payment available: _____
Source of down payment: _____