



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:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Den | <input type="checkbox"/> Porch |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Room | <input type="checkbox"/> Patio |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Formal Dining Room | <input type="checkbox"/> Workshop |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Combination Dining Room | <input type="checkbox"/> Drapes/Blinds |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wooded Lot | <input type="checkbox"/> Carpet |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Air Conditioning | <input type="checkbox"/> Hardwood Floors |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming Pool | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fireplace | <input type="checkbox"/> Utility Room |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basement | <input type="checkbox"/> Breakfast Area |

Other: _____

SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

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

Approximate down payment available: _____

Source of down payment: _____