



## 6 tips when shopping for a neighborhood

A home isn't just the house.

Before you move, learn what to look for in a potential new neighborhood:

1. **Where is it?** The cardinal rule of real estate is location. Whatever your priorities are, ask yourself whether the location is close to schools, jobs, parks, shopping, services or public transportation and which is most important to you.
2. **Keep your budget in mind.** Don't let high-gloss brochures interfere with your bottom line. Luxury neighborhoods are beautiful, but make sure you're financially comfortable in each location before you commit.
3. **Thriving or declining?** Is your dream neighborhood improving, or settling into obsolescence? Look at the number of 'For Rent' signs and see if the neighbors keep up their properties.
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5. **Holding value.** Shopping for a fixer-upper? Remember improving the property beyond the rest of the neighborhood may mean you won't recoup all your hard work and investment when you sell.
6. **Go before you buy.** Explore your new neighborhood and talk to folks nearby, away from open house events. Get the scoop and see whether the streets are usually full of cars or the next door neighbors make too much noise.

You need not search for your dream house on your own! **Call to set up an appointment with me today!**