



Essential Tips for Your Home Search

- 1. Prioritize Your Must-Haves:** Research and decide on key home features, preferred neighborhoods, and your monthly housing budget before you start your search.
- 2. Be Realistic:** While it's okay to have preferences, remember there's no perfect home. Use your priority list to evaluate properties realistically.
- 3. Prepare Financially:** Review your credit report, ensure funds for down payments and closing costs, and get prequalified for a mortgage to avoid falling for homes beyond your budget.
- 4. Seek Limited Opinions:** Avoid overwhelming yourself with opinions. Select a couple of trusted individuals for a second opinion, but be ready to make the final decision yourself.
- 5. Plan Your Move:** Determine your moving timeline based on lease expiration, sublet options, and local rental market conditions to schedule your move efficiently.
- 6. Consider Long-Term Goals:** Decide if you're aiming for a starter home or a more permanent residence; this guides both your home choice and the ideal mortgage terms.
- 7. Insist on Inspection:** Prioritize a thorough home inspection and consider negotiating a warranty with the seller covering defects for at least a year.
- 8. Engage a REALTOR®:** Enlist a buyer's agent, dedicated solely to your interests, to navigate the market. They work exclusively for you and bring the calm to a big transaction.