



FRAMEWORK.



NEEDS VS WANTS

The Home Shopping Checklist



How do you make sure you buy the right home?

Between the home itself, the all-important location, and the limitations of your budget, there are a lot of variables to consider. Our simple home shopping checklist will help you nail the balancing act.

Note: If you're buying with a spouse or partner, you might fill out the checklist separately and then compare. Each section even has a little space at the bottom for custom notes.

May the home shopping gods be on your side!

TYPE OF HOME



	NEED	BIG WANT	SMALL WANT	DON'T CARE
Single family detached				
Duplex				
Multifamily with rental unit(s)				
Condo				
Co-op apartment				
Loft / mixed use				
Single story / no stairs				
Architectural style:				

NOTES

NEARBY



	NEED	BIG WANT	SMALL WANT	DON'T CARE
Employment				
Schools				
Public transportation				
Airport				
Bike paths				
Shops and restaurants				
Cultural & arts opportunities				
Community center				
Recreation, parks, playgrounds				

NOTES

LOCATION



	NEED	BIG WANT	SMALL WANT	DON'T CARE
Urban city center				
Suburb				
Suburb with acreage				
Rural				
Water access				

NOTES

PARKING



	NEED	BIG WANT	SMALL WANT	DON'T CARE
Garage				
Carport				
Driveway / off-street				

NOTES

BEDROOMS



	NEED	BIG WANT	SMALL WANT	DON'T CARE
Studio				
1				
2				
3				
4+				

NOTES

BATHROOMS



	NEED	BIG WANT	SMALL WANT	DON'T CARE
1				
2				
2.5 - 3				
4+				

NOTES

ROOM FEATURES



	NEED	BIG WANT	SMALL WANT	DON'T CARE
Open plan				
Great room				
Formal living room				
Formal dining room				
Eat-in kitchen				
Master suite with bath				
Walk-in closets				
Home office				
Attic				
Finished basement				
Laundry room				
Screened porch				

NOTES

KITCHEN



	NEED	BIG WANT	SMALL WANT	DON'T CARE
Eat-in				
Breakfast bar				
Island				
New appliances				
Stone countertops				
New / remodeled cabinetry				
Pantry				

NOTES

FLOORING



	NEED	BIG WANT	SMALL WANT	DON'T CARE
Hardwood				
Manufactured wood				
Cork or bamboo				
Laminate				
Wall-to-wall carpet				
Tile				
Stone				

NOTES

EXTERIOR



	NEED	BIG WANT	SMALL WANT	DON'T CARE
Brick				
Wood				
Shingle				
Stone				
Stucco				
Low maintenance				

NOTES

HEATING / COOLING



	NEED	BIG WANT	SMALL WANT	DON'T CARE
Electric				
Natural gas / propane				
Radiant heat				
Central Air				
Fireplace				
Fireplace with insert				
Wood or pellet stove				

NOTES

ENERGY EFFICIENCY



	NEED	BIG WANT	SMALL WANT	DON'T CARE
Insulation and air sealing				
Solar panels				
Solar ready				
Tankless water heater				
Heat-pump water heater				
Dual- or triple-pane windows				
Low-flow toilets				
Energy Star appliances				
Programmable thermostats				

NOTES

OUTDOOR SPACE



	NEED	BIG WANT	SMALL WANT	DON'T CARE
Yard				
Fenced yard				
Trees / landscaping / gardens				
Automatic sprinklers				
Deck				
Patio				
Covered porch				
Courtyard				
Pool				
Outbuildings:				

NOTES

**UNIVERSAL DESIGN
FEATURES**



	NEED	BIG WANT	SMALL WANT	DON'T CARE
Extra-wide doorways				
Ramp				
Elevator				
Grab bars				
Accessible kitchen				
Walk-in tub / shower				

NOTES