

A Top Ten Checklist for Choosing a REALTOR®



Buyer's Agent? Seller's Agent? REALTOR®? Broker?

Deciphering the code can be tricky when choosing the real estate professional that is right for you and your family. Try this handy checklist for picking the perfect person or team:

- Are they market savvy?** Our market is in a constant state of change, so the real estate professional you choose should be knowledgeable, efficient and pro-active about staying ahead of the learning curve.
- Do they data-mine for buyers/sellers?** Tapping into technology is a must for agents who understand that target-marketing to those buyers most likely to purchase your home or to zero in on the homes you are most interested in buying.
- What is their detailed marketing plan?** In today's constantly shifting market, busy professionals leave nothing to chance or questions unanswered for their clients. With a time-tested plan of action, and a clearly defined marketing system, you'll feel more confident in their ability to achieve the results you desire.
- Are they full or part time?** It is important to know up front whether the real estate agent you are speaking to is fully engaged in the listing and selling of homes and all that the profession entails, or if this is a part-time focus for them.
- Are they using advanced technology tools?** Ours is a different world these days and the tools of the trade have changed to meet the times. Ask your potential real estate agent what high-tech tools they use to ensure that your home has the most exposure and the best services available.
- Do they have a network of professionals you can count on?** There is a lot to be said for team players in this business. Choosing an agent who is well connected in all aspects of the industry makes them an all-around great resource. That way whatever your real estate need, from buying and selling, to home improvement specialist or landscaper, they've got you covered!
- What is their experience level?** This is an important factor to weigh. While some agents can offer a long "time" in the business – they may or may not have the "experience" necessary to get the job done. Whether an agent is new or a seasoned veteran, look for enthusiasm, commitment, knowledge and a person who is willing to go the extra mile.

- What is their system for staying in touch?** Communication is a vital component in the sales process. Make sure the real estate agent you choose takes the time to establish a time and method for keeping you in the loop every step of the way! That way, you are always informed and everyone can avoid unwanted “surprises.”
- What is their list-to-sale ratio?** There’s a very real difference between listing and closing. Ask for a track record so that you can determine how effective your agent is at getting sales closed.
- Do they have references?** Most great agents are happy to share their referral information with you. In fact, top agents generate most of their business from their referral base. They consider and treat their clients as the VIPs they are. Ask if they can provide you with a list of names and phone numbers. It’s your right!

When it’s all said and done – it really comes down to trust. Choosing a real estate professional is no exact science, to be sure. What’s important is that you feel comfortable with them as a person, and as a professional. Add to that a comprehensive marketing plan and a set time to communicate and you have the foundation for a great working relationship. Know that making sure you have a resource you can count on and an advocate you can trust is my top priority.

Call me anytime. I’m here to help!