



# Buyer Etiquette

## **Always make an appointment!**

It is often difficult to know if a home is occupied or not just by looking at it from the outside. Sellers have been caught in attire that they wouldn't want friends, much less strangers, to see them in. And while they want to sell their home, that does not mean that they are prepared 24/7 and that they want people to window peep.

There are also children and pets to consider. Without an appointment you could be intruding upon families with children or subjecting yourself to a pet that is not happy to see a stranger in their yard.

Whether it is a bank owned home, or an estate, or an owner occupied home, the rules of etiquette are essentially the same. The fact is that someone or some entity besides you owns the home! And walking around, peering in windows, or checking for unlocked doors so you can take a quick peek is called trespassing.

**Take off your shoes!** Especially in inclement weather. There are situations where you would not want to take off your shoes, but make that the exception rather than the rule. Sellers go to the trouble to clean their floors and carpets, and would like the home to show well not just for you, but for the next buyer who comes in.

**Be on time!** Appointments are made so that Sellers know when to be out of the house. They may have plans that they have rearranged so you could see the home. That is part of selling a home and something that they have accepted. Showing up during the appointment time is the buyers part of the processes.

**Don't touch personal items.** You are looking at the house, not the seller's personal belongings. Opening closets & kitchen cabinets that stay with the property is one thing; opening dresser drawers and jewelry boxes is another.

**If you simply must use the bathroom, use the main bathroom & flush the toilet.** If the home is vacant, check to make sure that the water is on before using the bathroom. Try to make it to a convenience store, but if you just can't, remember to be courteous.