



# THE ROAD MAP TO YOUR HOME!

## NARROWING THE SEARCH

“If you don’t know where you’re going ... you’ll probably end up somewhere else.” Taken from a book title, this quote conveys a very simple message: **To achieve an objective, create a plan!**

If you plan to buy a home soon, you will need to know “where you are going.” For a most enjoyable home-buying experience, first build a road map to your new home, a list of priorities that will lead you to your objective—a new home!

The first priority is time frame.

Write down the date by which you would like to move in to your new home: \_\_\_\_\_

Keep in mind that it may take 30-90 days (or more) to locate the right home, secure financing, and complete the home-buying process.

The next priority is to develop a detailed description of the home you hope to find. The following page contains a **Home Search Criteria** form to help you distinguish between “Need to Have” features and “Want to Have” features. Be specific. Include architectural style, number of bedrooms and baths, location, lot size, and other special requirements. Number your preferences in order of greatest importance to you.

This form, along with the information you share during your initial consultation, will enable your real estate agent to narrow your home search. He or she will take this information and enter your requirements into the Multiple Listing Service (MLS) system, and then use personal market knowledge to come up with a list of homes that best meet your needs and wants.

During the home search, your real estate agent will:

- Discuss the benefits and drawbacks of each home in relation to your specific needs.
- Keep you informed on a regular basis.
- Check the MLS database and talk with other brokers regularly for new listings.
- Prepare a list of all homes that best meet your needs and wants.
- Keep you up to date on changing financial conditions that may affect the housing marketing.
- Be available to answer your questions or offer assistance regarding your home purchase.
- Discuss market trends and values relative to properties that interest you.



# HOME SEARCH CRITERIA

## GENERAL INFORMATION

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Current Street Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
City/State/Zip: \_\_\_\_\_  
Home Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Business Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Email: \_\_\_\_\_

## TIME LINE INFORMATION

Deadline for Locating a Home: \_\_\_\_\_  
Required Move In Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## NEEDS ANALYSIS

Family Size: Adults: \_\_\_\_\_ Children: \_\_\_\_\_  
Need-to-Have features: \_\_\_\_\_

Want-to-Have features: \_\_\_\_\_

Area Preferred: \_\_\_\_\_  
Price Range: From: \_\_\_\_\_ To: \_\_\_\_\_  
Approximate Square Footage: \_\_\_\_\_

Prefer: \_\_\_\_\_ Home \_\_\_\_\_ Condominium \_\_\_\_\_ Town home \_\_\_\_\_ Duplex/Triplex  
Other \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate Age of Home: \_\_\_\_\_

Style: \_\_\_\_\_

Bedrooms: \_\_\_\_\_ Bathrooms: \_\_\_\_\_ Garage: \_\_\_\_\_

Important Features:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Den                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Porch                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Family Room             | <input type="checkbox"/> Patio                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Formal Dining Room      | <input type="checkbox"/> Workshop              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Combination Dining Room | <input type="checkbox"/> Drapes/Blinds         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Wooded Lot              | <input type="checkbox"/> Carpet                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Air Conditioning        | <input type="checkbox"/> Hardwood Floors       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Swimming Pool           | <input type="checkbox"/> Public Transportation |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fireplace               | <input type="checkbox"/> Utility Room          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Basement                | <input type="checkbox"/> Breakfast Area        |

Other: \_\_\_\_\_

## SCHOOL REQUIREMENTS

Elementary School: \_\_\_\_\_

Middle School: \_\_\_\_\_

High School: \_\_\_\_\_

Approximate down payment available: \_\_\_\_\_

Source of down payment: \_\_\_\_\_