HOUSE HUNTING CHECKLIST

Prioritize your wants and needs

The home features you want aren't always the same as the ones you need. Use this checklist to help separate needs from wants. And consider how you'll live in the house today and in years to come as you accommodate growing children or elderly parents.

N: Need
W: Want
DW: Don't want

TYPE
- Single-family
- Townhome
- Condo
- New
- Existing

LOCATION
- Central city
- Suburbs
- Outlying
- Away from heavy traffic

Near
- Job
- Schools
- Parks
- Public transportation
- Airport
- Expressway
- Neighborhood shopping
- Regional mall
- Entertainment/ restaurants/theaters

CONDITION
- Well kept
- Fixer-upper
- Needs minor work

STYLE
- Traditional
- Contemporary
- Ranch
- Two-story
- Tudor
- Victorian
- Split-level
- Colonial
- Other _____

EXTERIOR
- Brick
- Stucco
- Aluminum siding
- Vinyl siding
- Wood frame

SYSTEMS
- Boiler, furnace, oil tank (circle preferred system)
- Central air conditioning
- Security
- Internet/cable ready

FLOOR PLAN
- Basement
- Finished basement
- Attic
- Formal foyer
- Formal living room
- Great room
- Family room
- Formal dining room
- Office
- Media room/rec room
- Mud room/laundry room

BATHROOMS
- Number: _____
- Shower
- Tub
- Double sinks
- Dressing area

BEDROOMS
- Number: _____
- Master suite
- First-floor master suite
- Rooms for future children/ elderly relatives

KITCHEN
- Countertop materials: _____
- Newer appliances
- Eating area
- Desk area
- Pantry
- Center island

GARAGE/PARKING
- Size _____
- Street parking
- Paved driveway
- Reserved or deeded spot (for condos)

SPECIAL FEATURES

Interior
- Fireplace
- Vaulted ceilings
- High ceilings
- Wood floors
- Built-in cabinets
- Big closets
- Extra storage space
- Whirlpool/hot tub
- First/second-floor laundry

Exterior
- Good view
- Natural light
- Backyard
- Garden
- Play area
- Screened porch
- Patio/deck
- Barbecue area
- Outdoor lighting
- Fenced yard
- Mature trees
- Mature shrubs
- Maintenance provided by a homeowners association

Community/ neighborhood
- Highly-rated schools
- Swimming pool
- Tennis courts
- Golf course
- Parks
- Park programs/activities
- Health club
- Sidewalks
- Local college

Lifestyle
- Kid-friendly spaces
- Room for older parents
- Sport/basketball court
- Room for guests/ entertaining

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