

10



DEADLY MISTAKES

BUYERS MAKE WHEN PURCHASING A HOME

Protect yourself from these ten common pitfalls:

MISTAKE NO. 1

Choosing a real estate agent who is not committed to forming a strong business relationship with you.

HOW TO AVOID IT:

Making a connection with the right real estate agent is crucial. Choose a professional who is dedicated to serving your needs—before, during and after the sale.

MISTAKE NO. 2

Making an offer on a home without being pre-qualified.

HOW TO AVOID IT:

Pre-qualification will make your life easier—take the time to talk with bank or mortgage representatives. Their specific questions with regard to income, debt and other factors will help you determine the price range that you can afford. It is one of the most important steps on the path to homeownership.

MISTAKE NO. 3

Not knowing the total costs involved.

HOW TO AVOID IT:

Early in the buying process, ask your real estate agent or mortgage representative for an estimate of closing costs. Title insurance and lawyer fees should also be considered. Pre-pay responsibilities, such as homeowner's association fees and insurance, must also be taken into account. Remember to examine your settlement statement prior to closing.



MISTAKE NO. 4

Limiting your search to open houses, ads or the Internet.

HOW TO AVOID IT:

Many of the homes listed in magazines or on the Internet have already been sold. Your best course of action is to contact a real estate agent. They have up-to-date information that is unavailable to the general public, and they are the best resource to help you find the home you want.



MISTAKE NO. 5

Thinking that there is only one perfect home out there.

HOW TO AVOID IT:

Buying a home is a process of elimination, not selection. New properties arrive on the market daily, so be open to all possibilities. Ask your real estate agent for a comparative market analysis. This compares similar homes that have recently sold or are still for sale.



MISTAKE NO. 6

Not considering long-term needs.

HOW TO AVOID IT:

It is important to think ahead. Will your home suit your needs 3–5 years from now? How about in 5–10 years?

MISTAKE NO. 7

Not following through on due diligence.

HOW TO AVOID IT:

Make a list of any concerns you have relating to issues such as crime rates, schools, power lines, neighbors, environmental conditions, etc. Ask the important questions before you make an offer on a home. Addressing these concerns ahead of time will give you confidence in your purchase.

MISTAKE NO. 8

Not having a home inspection.

HOW TO AVOID IT:

Trying to save money today can end up costing you tomorrow. A qualified home inspector will detect issues that many buyers may overlook.

MISTAKE NO. 9

Not examining insurance issues.

HOW TO AVOID IT:

Purchase adequate insurance. Advice from an insurance agent can provide you with answers to any concerns you may have.

MISTAKE NO. 10

Not purchasing a home protection plan.

HOW TO AVOID IT:

This is essentially a mini insurance policy that usually lasts one year from the date of sale. It usually covers basic repairs you may encounter and can be purchased for a nominal fee. Contact me to help you find the protection plan you need.

TIPS FOR MAKING THE SELECTION PROCESS EASIER:

Bring a camera to document each home that you visit. Start each tour with a shot of the address plaque so you can easily identify each home later.

Take notes during each home visit, and be sure to write down your first impressions. Record any notable features, architecture and design elements. List what changes you would make and what details really stand out.

Pay attention to the home's surroundings. Generally, avoid the most upgraded home on the block. Is it in a friendly neighborhood? Will parking be an issue? Is it a good area to walk your dog or have an outdoor get together? Is it in a good school district?

Visit homes that you were interested in again a few days later at a different time of the day. You may notice some nuances you missed earlier.

PICK THE RIGHT HOME

