

How to Select a Realtor to Help You Find a Home

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(Written and posted as Rebecca Sebek)

Finding and buying a home can be a stressful experience, especially if you're dealing with a 'tight' timeline. Perhaps your spouse/partner is being relocated and you need housing like yesterday. A realtor can assist you in finding the right home within the perfect neighborhood for you and your family. This is why it's important to select the 'right' realtor, one you can develop a relationship with. You never know when you'll need to use your realtor again!

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1. Review a realtor's credentials. How many years experience do they have? How many years have they been with the real estate company? Do they own their own real estate company? Can they provide you with references? What about testimonials? Is their license up-to-date? Become like a detective and investigate real estate agents before you select one.

2. Choose a real estate company and review agents' bios. Really 'tune in' to people when you read their bios. What kind of feeling do you receive? Does your jaw tighten? How about your stomach? Let your intuition guide you to finding the right realtor. You may be surprised how your intuition can help you with this and other areas of your life.

3. Ask for a referral. If you know people who've bought and or sold their home, ask for their realtor's contact information. If family, friends, and co-workers use a specific realtor, you'll be halfway to finding your realtor. Realtors appreciate referrals!

4. Are realtors featured on local morning TV and radio news programs? Sometimes real estate agents will be interviewed on local news programs. Pay attention and copy down their contact information. If they're constantly featured on local programming, you can rest assure they're an expert in their field.

5. Look for real estate signs around your neighborhood. Which company is prominent? What about the realtor? If you notice a realtor who has a lot of listings in the area, they're probably trusted by the community.

6. Watch HGTV! Believe it or not, you can learn a lot from certain television programs. HGTV has a variety of programming that includes helping first time buyers buy their first property as

well as helping sellers sell their homes. You can learn a lot from the real estate agents because they often offer 'tips and tricks' that can help you.

Remember to select the right agent for you; this may take some time. You wouldn't buy the first home you saw, would you? It's the same with a realtor. Interview realtors; you don't want to be stuck with a realtor who doesn't work for you. The bottom line is that they want to earn a commission and will do anything to help you. However, you don't want to deal with a pushy realtor. If that happens run in the other direction and begin your search for a new realtor. Ask tougher questions and really listen to your 'gut' instinct. Once you find the perfect realtor, you're sure to find the 'right' home for you.