

5 Signs a Home Is the Right Fit

Today's buyers know that a home's "property fit" is less about price and square footage and more about meeting their needs now and for years to come.

1. There's room for change

Put on your visionary hat and think about the space you might need in the next 7-10 years. Consider how these life events could influence your needs:

- Marriage or moving in together
- Having or adopting kids and animals
- Kids leaving for college or their own homes
- Adult kids or other family moving in

2. The upkeep won't break you

The cost of owning a home can vary greatly based on a home's location, condition, construction date and other factors. Before you buy, talk to your real-estate agent about the average maintenance costs of homes in the neighborhoods you're interested in.

3. You really want to tackle repairs

Get firm estimates of the time, effort and dollars involved in turning your potential home into your dream space. Also, ask your agent about home warranties that can minimize your exposure to future repair costs.

4. It offers lifestyle-friendly fees

Ownership association fees can be a great investment if the benefits have value to you. For example, if you hate routine lawn maintenance, a monthly fee is a small price to pay to avoid it.

5. It works with your commute

Factor in all the places you frequent, including work, schools and grocery stores. Check walkability scores on Zillow and Trulia by entering the property's address and looking at nearby points of interest.



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