

How to Be a Savvy Home Viewer



If you're planning on finding your next dream home, then you're probably going to view several homes on the market that meet your criteria.

You will want to make the right purchasing decision for you and your family. So, it's wise to be savvy when viewing properties for sale. Here are some ideas on how to do that.

- **Bring a notepad.** Take notes, not only of the home's characteristics, but also of how you feel. For example, can you imagine yourself happily cooking up a storm in the kitchen? Do you see yourself entertaining family on the back deck?
- **Bring a measuring tape.** Will the furniture you plan to bring fit? Your dining room suite? Your home fitness equipment?
- **Ask about maintenance.** Is the property in a good state of repair? Will anything need to be replaced soon, such as the windows?
- **Bring a camera.** Take lots of pictures of the home's exterior features. Don't make the mistake of thinking you'll remember how everything looked.
- **Check out the area.** Do other homeowners take good care of their properties? This shows pride of ownership. How is the noise level? Is there a playground, or another area feature nearby?
- **Make a list of compromises.** For example, are there only two bathrooms instead of three and, if so, can you live with that?
- **Make a list of bonuses.** What features does the home have that, are not a necessity, but would be nice to have? For example, an entertainment bar in the basement recreation room.
- **Remember your budget.** Is the price within your range? Can you afford to buy this home?

The savvier you are when viewing properties on the market, the more likely you will be to find your next dream home.

Magnificent Makeovers on a Budget



Have you ever watched those TV shows where some lucky homeowner gets a room redecorated by a professional? To have something similar done in your own home you would have to make a serious investment, or become a TV show guest!

However, there are ways to re-decorate a room and make it look great – even spectacular – on a budget.

Say, for example, you want a living room makeover. If your sofa is worn you can buy a fitted sofa cover that will make it look almost new. Table cloths on worn end-tables and other

surfaces can have a similar affect.

Don't forget the most economical redecorating trick of them all: Paint! A fresh coat of paint can bring a room to life!

Hanging a few new pictures can also have a dramatic impact on the look of a room. You don't have to buy a Rembrandt. Attractive, simply framed pictures will also add interest and colour.

With a little imagination, it's amazing how much you can improve a room on a little or even no budget.

Think, Act... Live!

"Identify your problems but give your power and energy to solutions." **Tony Robbins**

"Things work best for those who make the best of how things work out." **John Wooden**

"As long as you're going to be thinking anyway, think big." **Donald Trump**