

# Tips to finding a great real estate agent

Although many consider buying or selling a home to be an overwhelming process, with the help of a qualified real estate professional, it can actually be an enjoyable experience. A first-rate real estate agent will have an excellent working knowledge of the local real estate market, great customer relations skills and the support of a large real estate company and its services, a priceless resource when you're pondering everything from legal and financial options to curb side appeal. But the question remains, how do you find a good real estate agent?

Just like buying a car, when buying a home, the best way to begin is to know what you're looking for. It is important to work with an agent who is an experienced negotiator who will be able to manage offers and counter-offers. An agent who is familiar with the neighbourhood you are interested in is vital, as he/she can provide you with information about local real estate values, taxes and amenities. Equally important is an agent skilled in the legal and financial options of home purchasing, as well as home inspection and contracting services. This will not only save you in pesky legal fees, but also from the ensuing headaches. Of course, to speed up your home search process, you should work with an agent who understands your needs and wants - this way time will not be wasted viewing homes that do not match your specifications.

A knowledgeable real estate agent is just as important in the home selling process and can assist you in obtaining a competitive price by accounting for neighbourhood real estate values and by establishing a marketing strategy. You are best to work with an agent who is an expert in the home selling process and can advise you on your rights, options and obligations. Similar to buying a home, an agent who can negotiate with the best can assure you of the best possible price.

Once you know what you want from your agent, the next step is to know where to look for one. As always, a good route is to ask friends and



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colleagues for their recommendations. The Yellow Pages and real estate websites are other ways to find an agent - www.royallepage.ca for instance is a site that features user-friendly agent searches in areas throughout Canada. Searching for names on advertising and marketing displays is another option, but don't rely solely on the glitz and glamour. Often, the busiest agent in town isn't necessarily the best choice.

Beyond all the skills a great agent possesses, the most important attribute is ethics. An agent with strong ethics will put your needs first, and do everything to make your home buying and selling experience a wonderful one. Who wouldn't want that?

Every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of this article. However, the information provided is general in nature and those with specific questions should seek professional advice that meets their particular requirements.

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