

# COLDWELL BANKER'S "DO AND DON'T LIST" FOR HOMEBUYERS



*When it comes to making the biggest investment in your life, follow this list of tips to ensure the process is easy and stress-free.*

**DO** use the free online tools to learn as much as you can – visit [ColdwellBankerMoves.com](http://ColdwellBankerMoves.com).

**DO** take time to access, review and analyze your credit score – A strong credit score and record of financial responsibility results in the best mortgage interest rates. Check your credit record and correct anything you can in advance. Get pre-approved for a mortgage with Coldwell Banker Home Loans.

**DO** organize your all-star team of real estate professionals – contact your local Coldwell Banker office and start working with a Realtor® to make your home buying experience a rewarding success. They can also assist you with the team of full service professionals you will need, including mortgage lender, title agency and closing specialist.

**DO** anticipate your future needs and buy for your lifestyle – determine how long you expect to live in your next home and try to anticipate your family's major lifestyle changes in advance.

**DO** prioritize your housing requirements – before you start looking at homes, decide which features are “must-haves” and which are “nice-to-haves” so you’ll know where you can compromise to meet your budget.

**DON'T** fall in love with the first house or neighborhood you see – keep an open mind and consider all possibilities to be sure you find the home that best suits your needs and budget.

**DON'T** buy beyond what you can afford – you may “want it all” but be sure the down payment, closing costs, monthly expenses and taxes are truly within your income and savings range before you sign on the dotted line.

**DON'T** treat your home like a stock portfolio – it's unrealistic to expect your housing investment to appreciate as quickly as your high-risk bonds. Buying to suit your lifestyle, rather than hoping for a quick profit, will ensure you are viewing home ownership in the right context.

**DON'T** try to time the market – by the time most consumers sense a major market shift, the tables have already turned. Focus on your own lifestyle and buy a home when the time is right for you, rather than hoping to spot an illusive window of opportunity.

**DON'T** jump into an exotic or confusing mortgage – if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is. Read every aspect of the proposed agreement to be sure you understand it. Arm yourself with information and don't be afraid to ask questions.

**DON'T** underestimate the value of a trustworthy real estate agent's expertise – do your own research and work with a local expert who has years of experience in finding the perfect home, negotiating and closing the deal.

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*Contact your Coldwell Banker Sales Associate for more information.*

