

Location, location, location

Where you buy not only affects the home's current and future value, but it also affects your lifestyle. Your agent will be able to conduct a more targeted home search if you outline your preferences in neighborhoods and nearby amenities. Here's a checklist of items you should consider and communicate to your chosen real estate agent.

- * Urban, suburban or rural
- * Commute time
- * School districts
- * Desirable neighborhoods
- * Proximity to the airport
- * Proximity to restaurants and retail
- * Access to major highways and thoroughfares
- * Access to public transportation
- * Health care facilities
- * Parks and recreation
- * Length of time you plan to live in the home (Your agent should be knowledgeable about growth trends and projections that could affect your investment.)