

HOUSE HUNTER'S SCORECARD

Nothing's quite as frustrating as forgetting why you liked two or three particular homes after weeks of looking. With this scorecard, you can keep a record for yourself.

Not only does this list include most of the features you'll be needing in a home, it takes into account the importance of the surrounding community.

Maybe even more important, it allows you to set up a priority list ahead of time, a ranking order of features from the most vital to insignificant. Since most home purchases are compromises, this should help make your decision easier. The priority list can also help a REALTOR® get a better picture of what you are looking for in a house to select those houses available that best meet your requirements. When you are visiting different homes, there's no need to feel embarrassed about pulling out this check list and making notes. After all, you have a big decision to make, and it is in your best interest to take every precaution.

Print this out and take it along with you.

About the House:	Priority	House A	House B	House C
Asking price				
Real estate taxes				
Water bill				
Heating bill				
Electric bill				
Age of house				
One-story				
Two-story				
Wood frame				

About the House:	Priority	House A	House B	House C
Brick and wood frame				

Aluminum siding				
Overall exterior condition				
Storm windows				
Garage (note capacity)				
Gas heat				
Electric heat				
Hot-water heat				
Age of heating plant				
Central air cond./age				
Number of bedrooms				
Living room				
Separate dining room				
Kitchen eating area				
Number of bathrooms				
Closets				
Refrigerator				
Cooking stove				
Disposal				

Dishwasher				
Clothes washer/dryer				
Laundry space				
Adequate water heater				
Basement storage area				

About the House:	Priority	House A	House B	House C
Finished basement				
Attic storage area				
Finished attic				
Number of fireplaces				
Drapes				
Carpeting				
Modern electrical wiring				
Sump pump/drainage				
Overhead sewer system				
Backyard patio				
Fence on lot lines				

Pleasing landscaping				
----------------------	--	--	--	--

About the Neighborhood:	Priority	House A	House B	House C
Streets Clean				
Neighbors' property well-maintained				
Flooding (check local government)				
Loud noises, bad odors				
Nearby train tracks				
Open drainage ditch				
All utilities installed				
Area zoned residential				
Nearby industry				
Proposed special assessments				
Garbage collection				
Street lights				
Streets and alleys well-maintained				
Heavy airplane traffic				
Newspaper stories about community				

The House is Near:	Priority	House A	House B	House C
Public transportation (within walking distance)				
Thoroughfares or expressways (short driving time)				
Convenience shopping				
Schools which the children will attend (check with school officials)				
Parks				

The House is X Minutes From:	Priority	House A	House B	House C
Work				
Downtown				
Convenience shopping				
Elementary school				
High School				
Doctors				
Relatives				
House of worship				