

What You Should Look For At A Property Showing

- The most important thing is to not look at a house emotionally, but practically: inspect all its positives and negatives. Don't allow a broker to get you caught up in any drama.
- Explore every nook and cranny. Pick up rugs to examine the floor. Open closets and smell them. Do whatever is necessary to find out everything about the house's basic structure.
- Try to ignore any furnishings that don't come with the house. They won't help you make a sound decision.
- On your first showing you should look for a house that meets your basic requirements:
 - Is it in the right location?
 - Does it have enough bed and bathrooms?
 - Is there enough storage space?
 - Is there parking?
 - Is it in a safe area?
- If the house meets your basic requirements, start looking to fulfill your wish list:
 - Is there an extra bed or bathroom?
 - Is there a double vanity in the second bathroom?
 - Is there a garden or deck?
 - Is there a separate laundry room?
 - Is there a basement or crawl space?
 - Is the garage attached?
 - Can the kids walk to school?
 - Is there a wood-burning fireplace or a gas fireplace?
 - What is the condition of the house - its appliances, roof, foundation, walls, mechanicals, wiring, etc.?
 - Start with the general, and then move on to the specific.
- If you're still having trouble deciding, you might want to apply a simple rating system, such as assigning points according to the items most important to you. This should help you objectively differentiate among your choices.