

## Finding a New Home when You're Busy, Busy, Busy!

Imagine you have a major project at work, you have to deal with home schooling and you still need to deal with groceries, laundry and dinner. Whoa! That's a busy life.

Can you still find and buy a new home with such a tight schedule? The good news is, you can. In fact, there's plenty you can do to save time.

Consider these tips:

- *Get specific about the home you want to buy.* Think about property type (for example, "two story, detached"), number of bedrooms and bathrooms, special features, etc.
- *Target areas you'd like to live in.* That will avoid trips to see listings in areas that aren't a good fit for you.
- *Get the financing arranged.* You'll be able to shop for a new home with more confidence when you have a pre-arranged mortgage. It will also make your offers stronger.
- *Make seeing homes a priority by putting it on your schedule.* Look at pictures and watch virtual tours carefully to help narrow down the number of homes you need to visit. Try to block time on the weekend, and ideally one or two evenings a week, to view homes without other distractions.



- *Get all the information you need when viewing a property.* Take notes. Ask questions. Thoroughly explore the home, yard, and neighbourhood. Get enough information to make a decision without needing to see the home a second time.

While these time-saving tips can help, the best way to find a home on a busy schedule is to work with a good real estate agent.

Want more advice on buying your next dream home? Call today.

## Cleaning Tips for Instantly Improving Curb Appeal

As you may know, curb appeal refers to how your property looks from the street, where potential buyers first see it. Your home's curb appeal can have a big impact on the sale of your property. In fact, it's not uncommon for a buyer to drive by a listing, rather than stop, because they don't like what they see.

So, how can you improve your home's curb appeal quickly? One way is to do some outside cleaning.

Start with the main entryway. Wash down the front door and sweep (or power wash) the front steps. It only takes a few minutes but

you'd be surprised by the impact it can have. Sweep or power wash your walkway too and you'll improve the overall look of your home — sometimes dramatically.

Clean your front windows to brighten the look of your home's facade. It doesn't have to be an arduous chore. In fact, there are washing products available that attach to your garden hose. You don't even need a ladder! Ask your local home improvement retailer for recommendations.

If you have hedges and scrubs, give them a trim. To keep your trimming level, use a wide

board, or even a piece of cardboard, then cut to the desired height. Pull off any dead leaves or branches. Of course, also mow the lawn!

Finally, inspect your property from the street. Can you see anything else you can do to quickly improve the look? Do you notice anything that is unsightly or distracting, such as garbage bins that could be relocated?

One final tip: When a viewing is scheduled, remove your vehicles from the driveway. Buyers like to see an empty driveway because it helps them imagine themselves living there. It also gives them a convenient place to park!

## Think, Act... Live!

"What you're thinking is what you're becoming." *Muhammad Ali*

"Whatever fear I have inside of me, my desire to win is always stronger." *Selena Williams*

"Named must your fear be before banish it you can." *Yoda of Star Wars*