

Will an Open House Help Sell your Home?

You've probably seen signs around the area for Open Houses. You may have even attended a few. These are open invitations for potential buyers to drop by on a certain day and time, to check out the property and get more information.

When you're listing your home for sale, you might wonder whether you'll need to have an Open House.

To answer that question, you'll need to consider the pros and cons. Planning and hosting an open house isn't as easy as it may seem. There's a lot of preparation involved. In addition, you'll likely spend hours making your property look its best and you'll need to be away from your home for a good part of that day.

That being said, an Open House has many advantages.

- It helps showcase features of your property that may not come across well in advertisements and listing descriptions.
- It attracts potential buyers who, for any number of reasons, might not otherwise call to view the home.
- It generates a buzz and publicity about your listing.

However, an Open House might *not* be necessary if there is high demand for properties like yours and you're likely to get multiple offers.



Your Exit Plan in Case of a Fire

In almost every movie featuring a house on fire, the actors seem to be able to move around the house and see just fine, while beating back flames with a shirt or coat. Of course, that's not what happens in real fires.

When there's fire in a home, there is typically complete darkness (because the power goes out) and a cloud of spreading thick, black smoke makes it difficult to see and breathe.

That's why knowing how to get out of

your house — fast — is crucial.

Experts recommend rehearsing what to do in case there's a fire. Make sure everyone in the family has an exit plan. Each should know exactly how to get out, including primary and secondary exits, and where the family will meet once safely outside.

Never attempt to take anything with you. It may seem like you have plenty of time to grab a coat or purse, but the characteristics of a fire can

change in seconds.

As a failsafe, in case you can't exit through a door, you should determine in advance which window has the safest exit. Make sure that the window opens easily and everyone knows how to remove the screen or any other obstruction.

Finally, don't call the fire department from inside your house. Get out first, then make the call.

Think, Act... Live!

"Please think about your legacy, because you're writing it every day." [Gary Vaynerchuck](#)

"The difference between ordinary and extraordinary is that little extra." [Jimmy Johnson](#)

"There are no shortcuts to any place worth going." [Beverly Sills](#)