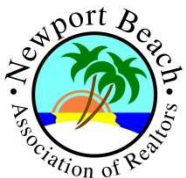




7 Tips to Guide Your Home Search

1. **Research before you look.** Decide what features you most want to have in a home, what neighborhoods you prefer, and how much you are able to spend each month for housing.
2. **Be realistic.** Don't be unrealistic with your expectations, there's no such thing as a perfect home. Use your list of priorities as a guide to evaluate each property.
3. **Get your finances in order.** Review your credit report and be sure you have the money to cover your down payment and closing costs. Then, talk to a lender and get prequalified for a mortgage. This will save you the heartache later of missing the home you want due to tight market.
4. **Don't ask too many people for opinions.** It will drive you crazy. Select one or two people to turn to if you feel you need a second opinion, but be ready to quickly make the final decision on your own.
5. **Think long term.** Are you looking for a starter house with plans to move up in a few years, or do you hope to stay in this home for a longer period? This decision may dictate what type of home you'll buy as well as the type of mortgage terms that will best suit you.
6. **Insist on a home inspection.** If possible, get a warranty from the seller to cover unforeseen defects for one year.
7. **Get help from a REALTOR®.** Hire a REALTOR® who specializes in the area you want to buy in. Your agent will be able to keep you informed of homes as they become available.



If you are a property owner or want to be a resident of Costa Mesa or Newport Beach, you should be represented by a REALTOR® member of the local board. For a current Member Directory and a list of events, visit www.nbaor.com.

The Newport Beach Association of REALTORS® proudly serves the communities of Costa Mesa and Newport Beach.