

## How Much Time Should You Spend Viewing Homes?

Figuring out how much time you should spend viewing properties for sale is a little like asking, “How long should I spend trying on shoes?”

The answer seems obvious: As long as it takes to make a decision!

Buying a home is significantly more complex than purchasing shoes – and the stakes are higher too! You need to make sure you have all the information necessary to confidently make the best decision.

There are basically three stages to viewing a property:

1. Macro
2. Micro
3. Professional

When you view a home on a macro basis, you’re looking at it from an overall perspective. For example, you may do a general walk-through to get a first impression and determine if the property has the basic features you need, such as the number of bedrooms and the size of the backyard.

Macro viewing is often the fastest stage in the viewing process and can sometimes take just a few minutes.

If you like what you see, then it’s onto the micro stage. At this stage you take a closer look at the details of the property. You might, for example, spend extra time in the master bedroom imagining how your furniture would look and fit.



The *micro* stage takes longer simply because the home is now on your shortlist. You’re interested and are considering making an offer.

Finally, the professional stage involves getting a qualified home inspector to go over the property with a fine tooth comb. That typically occurs after you’ve made an offer.

As your REALTOR®, I will guide you through a viewing so you’ll know what to look for and can make a smart, informed decision. Call today.

## Finding an Honest Home Improvement Contractor



You can’t call yourself a dentist unless you have specific hard-earned credentials. Just about anyone, however, can hang a shingle and call himself a home improvement contractor. That’s why

choosing a reputable one is so difficult. Here are some tips:

- Find out if he or she is truly in business full-time. A part-time or occasional contractor may not have the experience necessary to do a great job.
- Ask about licenses and other credentials. Some contractors have accreditations from professional and trade associations.
- Review his or her project portfolio. A reputable contractor will have photos

and other evidence of work completed for similar clients.

- Check online for reviews. If there are more than five poor reviews within the past three years — that’s a red flag.
- Ask for references. Then, call at least one.

Finally, the best contractors are those that get recommended by people you trust.

Looking for a contractor recommendation? Call today.

## Think, Act... Live!

“Only those who will risk going too far can possibly find out how far one can go.” T.S. Eliot

“Reinventing the wheel is sometimes the right thing, when the result is the radial tire.” Jonathan Gilbert

“To go places and do things that have never been done before — that’s what living is all about.” Michael Collins