

## Do Open Houses Still Work?

Buyers are using the internet to search for properties more than ever before. In some cases, they can even go on a “virtual” tour of a home using their smartphone or desktop computer. So, you might be wondering if the old-fashioned Open House still works these days?

The answer is yes. Otherwise, you wouldn't see them advertised. If Open Houses didn't work, no one would be doing them!

No matter how good the internet gets, it can't compete with a buyer being able to visit a property in person, walk through the rooms, stand in the backyard and imagine himself BBQ-ing with his family, stroll the area, and meet neighbours.

An Open House makes it easy for buyers to do just that.

It's an open invitation for them to come by at a specific date and time, to see the property and chat with the REALTOR®. It's a casual environment, which many buyers prefer. Some buyers, in fact, are more comfortable going to an Open House *before* scheduling a private viewing.

Will you need an Open House to sell your home?

That depends on a lot of factors. When I work with clients, I put together a marketing plan



designed to sell the property quickly and for the best price possible. Depending on the circumstances, that may or may not include an Open House.

If you have questions about what would be involved in a quick and successful sale of your home, contact me. I'd be happy to chat and answer your questions.

## Common Household Items that Can Cause a Fire

You never want to smell smoke in your home and realize there's a fire. That's why it is important to be diligent about fire safety. Experts recommend that homeowners be especially careful with the following common household items:

- Portable heaters. Never leave one in a room unattended. Make sure paper and other combustible materials are well away from these units.
- Electronics chargers. We all want our computers, tablets and smartphones to charge quickly. The price we pay for that convenience is chargers that pull in a lot of power, making them very hot. Keep them away from combustible material, as well as other wiring.
- Smoking materials. Be careful with cigarettes, pipes, cigars and other such items. Bedding and upholstery, which burn slowly and dangerously, are the source of 75% of smoking-related fires.
- Candles. Never leave candles unattended for any reason. If you must leave the room, extinguish them.
- Flammable liquids. These can include paints, thinners and some brands of cleaning products. Read labels carefully and follow the safety instructions.

To paraphrase a famous expression: An ounce of prevention is worth not having to deal with a house fire.

## Think, Act... Live!

“There is little success where there is little laughter.” *Andrew Carnegie*

“Setting goals is the first step in turning the invisible into the visible.” *Tony Robbins*

“Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure.” *Marianne Williamson*