

Should You Move or Renovate?

Determining if you should buy a new home or fix up your current one isn't easy. In fact, the decision can be steeped in so much drama they make reality TV shows about it!

So if you're considering whether to move or improve, here are three things to consider.

1. Will a renovation truly fix what you don't like about your property?

If you're tired of a small kitchen, for example, it might not be possible, given the layout, to make it any bigger. On the other hand, if you're craving a spacious rec room with a cosy fireplace then a renovation could make that happen.

Of course, there are some things you may want that aren't specific to your house, such as an easier commute or nearby park. Those are features you may only be able to get by moving.

2. How much will a renovation cost? How does that compare to the cost of moving to a new home?

It's important to get accurate estimates of each so you can make a smart decision. This is where a good REALTOR® can help.

Keep in mind that renovations have a habit of costing more than you originally anticipate. As mentioned earlier, the final result should be a home you want to stay in for quite some time.



3. Beware of compromising versus settling.

Whichever decision you make — renovate or sell — you can expect to have to make at least some compromises. That's normal.

For example, consider adding an extension to your house. That's a major renovation. Is it the ideal way to get the extra room you want? Do the benefits of renovating outweigh the benefits of finding a new larger home designed to include the space you need?

Yes, it's a tough decision. If you're in the midst of making it, call today, to get the facts you need to make the best choice for you.

How to Reduce the Chance of a Burglary by 90%

No one wants to deal with a burglary. How do you reduce the chances of one happening?

Fortunately, burglaries are a well-studied phenomenon — especially by law enforcement. These studies have identified specific things you can do to cut the risk dramatically. Here are some ideas:

- 34% of home break-ins occur through the front door. Experts recommend investing in a door with a top-quality locking mechanism. (The best are those that lock at three points of contact.)
- 50% of burglars will be deterred if your home has some sort of video monitoring system. A thief doesn't want his face on YouTube!
- Unfortunately, signs and window stickers warning of an alarm system do not deter thieves. However, 62% of burglars will immediately run away when an alarm goes off. Always turn on your alarm system when you're not home!
- 22% of burglaries occur through a sliding glass door or patio door. Make sure it's locked and also use a solid metal jammer.
- Some thieves use frequency scanners to gain access to garages. Police recommend changing your remote entry code regularly and putting blinds or curtains on garage windows so thieves can't see (and be tempted by) any valuables inside.

As you can see, there are many simple things you can do to reduce your chances of a burglary dramatically. The effort is worth it.

Think, Act... Live!

"Before anything else, getting ready is the secret to success." [Henry Ford](#)

"Since everything is in our heads, we better not lose them." [Coco Chanel](#)

"Perseverance is failing nineteen times and succeeding the twentieth." [Julie Andrews](#)