

Checklist: What to Investigate Around a House

You should be most concerned about things that cannot be changed or at least not easily changed. Consider the following questions.

- Are there proposed changes in the neighborhood such as a new school, apartment building or shopping complex?
- Do you look out at ugly powerlines from the home? Even if you don't mind them, when you go to sell the home it will become a problem with buyers.
- Is there a bus or transit train stop outside the house that will attract loiterers? My brother's neighbor has a bus stop in front of his home and people waiting there regularly break boards out of his picket fence!
- Do you see into junky neighbor yards when you're inside the home?
- What's next door or down the street that could cause unwanted foot traffic. 7 Eleven? Commercial building? School? Park? My grandmother's home was down the street from a high school and the kids would come smoke in her backyard because it was not allowed on campus!
- If you're in the backyard, does it feel like you're in a "fishbowl" with 2 story neighboring houses looking down at you?
- Are there double yellow lines or speed bumps in the street? That usually means a busy road or occasional speeding traffic.
- How close are neighboring homes? Are you comfortable with the distance from others?
- Is the driveway too steep to navigate easily every day? A driveway sloping toward the home can cause a surprising amount of rainwater to flow into your garage or yard
- Is the garage attached to the home and is that important to you?
- How much noise can you hear inside from highways, neighbors, airplanes, or trains?
- Are you at the end of a street that will cause car headlights to shine into your living room every night?
- Would you want to and be able to walk or bike to stores, restaurants, parks, etc?
- Will you have to fight for street parking?