

Top Tips – For Home Buyers

- Work with an experienced buyer broker.
 - This is a free service to you and will help you make better and more informed decisions.
 - We recommend: Glenna Irvine: glennairvine@benchmarkmaine.com, (207) 749-9098
- Before you decide to work with your buyer broker, ‘interview’ them.
 - Ask questions, have them explain the process, get a feel for their style and experience.
- Get pre-approved with at least two qualified local lenders.
 - This is a critical step so you know what price range to look at and what you feel comfortable with for a payment.
 - We recommend: discussing this with your buyer broker.
- Ask questions.
 - If you think of something, ask it. Better to ask now than wait until post-purchase.
- Start looking even if you are unsure exactly what you want.
 - You don’t need to know everything about that ideal home, but when you look it will help you define what you want and don’t want.
- Take your time and look at many homes – if you want.
 - This is one of your largest investments and *you* should decide the timeline.
- When touring homes take notes and pictures.
 - You will likely look at several homes in a day and the details can often slip away after 5-6 homes.
- When you find a potential home, do your homework.
 - Talk with neighbors, drive down the surrounding streets, sit outside of the house on a Friday evening and ask your buyer broker to show you the area sales.
- Start looking and learning online.
 - There are many resources and sites where you can search and learn.
- Ask your broker which real estate apps are best and to set you up with an automated search.
 - We like the Realtor.com app – most up to date information.

Learn more at:

www.benchmarkmaine.com – one of Maine’s top real estate sites, more Top Tips

www.realtor.com – the #1 industry site with the most up to date and trusted information

www.mreis.com – Maine Association of Realtors site – great way to search and learn