

YOUR HOME

AUGUST
2013

TIPS AND TRENDS FOR HOMEOWNERS, BUYERS AND SELLERS

KID-FRIENDLY MOVING TIPS

Planning a move is often difficult, but planning one with children is even harder. Kids and teenagers aren't thrilled by the prospect of moving to a new home, especially in a new location away from their friends, but these steps you help ease the transition, say experts at Parents.com and TLC.

Start by getting the kids involved in the house-hunting process. Take them to see the homes you are considering buying, or show them photos or a virtual tour. Learn as much as you can about the community and the neighborhood.

Get the kids involved in de-cluttering the home. Go through the house, room by room, and have them identify what items they want to discard and what they want to keep.

Let kids map out their new room, and choose the colors to decorate it. If they want, let them help arrange and decorate other rooms in the house. For teenagers, set a budget and let them pick out colors, linens, rugs and furniture, and encourage them to shop at thrift stores for knick knacks.

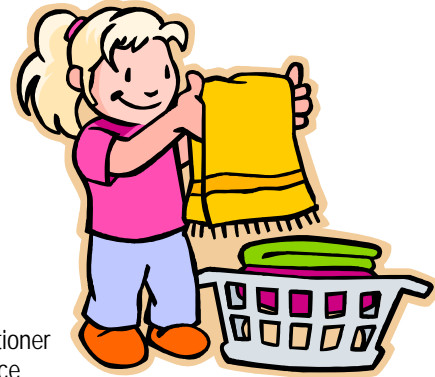
Once you have moved, plan a welcome party and invite a few neighbors with kids to get acquainted. Tour the new neighborhood to locate places of interest to children, such as a playground, school, library, and movie theater.

Moving is never easy for kids, but these ideas can help them look forward to their new home.



BREATHE EASY

Outdoor pollution and smog can wreak havoc on your health, but contaminants inside the home can be just as harmful. Experts at WebMD offer these suggestions for improving indoor air quality.



Dust mites and mold love moisture. Use a dehumidifier (and an air conditioner during summer months) to help reduce moisture and control allergens. When cooking, running the dishwasher or bathing, turn on an exhaust fan or open a window to remove excess moisture. Be sure the clothes dryer is vented to the outside, and fix plumbing leaks to prevent mold from forming.

Make your home a no-smoking zone. Secondhand cigarette smoke contains more than 4,000 chemicals and can increase the risk of respiratory infections, asthma, cancer and sudden infant death syndrome in children. If entertaining guests who smoke, request that they do so outdoors.

Test your home for radon. This colorless, odorless gas is produced from the natural decay of uranium found in soil and seeps into the house through cracks and holes in the foundation. A radon test is easy and inexpensive to use, and can help you find the source of radon.

Replace laundry products and soaps containing synthetic fragrances with scent-free or naturally-scented laundry products and mild cleansers. Refrain from using aerosol sprays, such as furniture polish, hair sprays and air fresheners. Open the windows and let in fresh air so toxic chemicals don't build up in your home, and use an air conditioner to keep rooms well ventilated.

Taking these simple steps will help you and your family breathe easier.

fast fact >> >>

27 percent of garages contain space for three or more vehicles.

Source: 2011 American Housing Survey, published July 2013, U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development



MY GENERATION



Younger buyers are more satisfied with their recent home purchase than older buyers, according to a recent survey by the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®. A majority of younger buyers under age 32 (85 percent) considered their home purchase to be a good financial investment compared to 80 percent of all other home buyers.

Nearly two-thirds of Millennials (65 percent) rented an apartment or house before buying a home and 22 percent lived with their parents, relatives or friends. Meanwhile, more than half of baby boomers and Silent Generation buyers owned their previous residence.

Younger buyers typically bought older homes built around 1986 in an urban or central city location, usually within 10 miles of their previous

residence, and they generally purchased a home because they wanted a place of their own. When choosing a neighborhood, younger buyers cited convenience to jobs, affordability of homes and quality schools. A majority of them found their new through the Internet.

Meanwhile, older buyers bought newer homes built around 1996 and moved distances of more than 20 miles from their previous residence. They usually purchased a home to be closer to family and friends, and looked for a location with easy access to health care facilities. Older buyers learned about the home they purchased from their real estate agent.

Say Yes to CRS

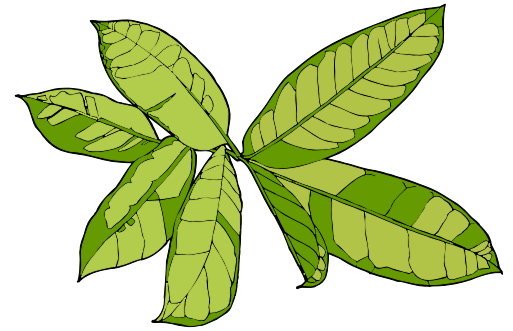
Buying a home is one of the biggest and most emotional decisions you will ever make. So it's important to work with someone who can provide sound advice and a steady, guiding hand when you need it. That's why a CRS agent is the best person for the job.

A Certified Residential Specialist (CRS) is among the top 3 percent of all agents in the country. CRS agents have achieved a high volume of transactions and advanced training in areas such as business planning, real estate investing, marketing and technology. They must also maintain membership in the NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® and abide by its Code of Ethics. Why work with anyone else when you can work with a CRS agent?



Certified
Residential Specialist
The Proven Path To Success

DID YOU KNOW?



Indoor plants act as living air purifiers; the foliage and roots work in tandem to absorb chemical pollutants in the air.

Source: WebMD



Do you know someone who is thinking about buying or selling a home? Please mention my name.

This newsletter is for informational purposes only and should not be substituted for legal or financial advice. If you are currently working with another real estate agent or broker, it is not a solicitation for business.

