

Using Web Sites

The Internet makes it easier than ever to begin shopping for a home online. By searching property listing sites, you can begin to get a better idea about property prices in different neighborhoods and which home features are most and least important to you. This sort of preliminary research can be helpful when you're ready to work with a buyer's rep and begin searching for a home in earnest.

However, when it comes to shopping for a home, the Internet can also feel overwhelming. Given the substantial number of property listing sites, including those sponsored by real estate companies and individual agents, you may quickly feel inundated in information—and notice that each site returns different results when conducting a home search. Many buyers are left wondering where they can go to see a complete picture of what's available in their desired market.



YOUR ABR® CAN HELP

It's important to understand that even the largest listing site, REALTOR.com®, is not an all-inclusive multiple listing service (MLS). Your Accredited Buyer's Representative (ABR®) is still an important source for property information. Because your ABR® has complete access to the local MLS, he or she can share listing information with you faster and easier than any public Web site, including houses that you might not find on your own. Your ABR® can also provide the most current details, such as whether or not a property is under contract, and expert insights on the dynamics impacting prices in local markets.

Recommended Web Sites

Throughout your home search, these real estate sites can provide helpful information on properties, neighborhoods, and other important topics:

REALTOR.COM®

The property listing site of the National Association of REALTORS® and the most extensive online home-search tool, including millions of properties.

HOME FINANCE (LOCATED WITHIN REALTOR.COM®)

Get a mortgage estimate, compare monthly payments and calculate your purchasing power using a variety of online tools. This section of REALTOR.com® also includes helpful information on various types of home loans, the application process, and how to select a lender.

MOVING (LOCATED WITHIN REALTOR.COM®)

Obtain a moving quote and search for moving-related products and services in this special section of REALTOR.com®.

HOUSELOGIC.COM

Once you own a home, this site provides free information and tools to help consumers with home improvements, maintenance projects, taxes, finances, insurance, and even community involvement.