When I start visiting homes, what should I be looking for the first time through?

45 The house you ultimately choose to call home will play a major role in your family's life. A home can be an excellent investment, but more importantly, it should fit the way you live, with spaces and features that appeal to everyone in the family.

Buying Tip: *Pay attention to the original listing date of the homes you look at. Sellers tend to be more flexible the longer the house is on the market.*

As you look at each home, consider these important factors:

- Is there enough room for you now and in the near future?
- Is the home's floor plan right for your family?

- Is there enough storage space?
- Will you have to replace the appliances?
- Is the yard the size that you want?
- Are there enough bathrooms?
- How much maintenance and/or decorating will you need to do right away? Later?
- Will your present furniture work in this home?

How many bedrooms should I be considering?

46 Whether you are married or not, or have kids or not, spare bedrooms come in handy when family and friends come to stay. And when you're not having guests, extra rooms are useful as a library, den, or TV room.

Another good reason to choose a home with extra bedrooms: extra space will make your home more appealing to a larger number of interested buyers when it comes time to sell.

Abbreviations for real estate listings and ads

ba	bath	**fin ll**	finished lower level	**mstr**	master bedroom/suite
blt	built-in	**fpl**	fireplace	**mtg**	mortgage
br	bedroom	**fml**	formal	**pvcy fence**	privacy fence
brk	brick	**fr**	family room	**sec sys**	security system
bkporch	back porch	**frog**	finished room over garage	**scrnd porch**	screened porch
bldrs redo	builder's renovation	**fsbo**	for sale by owner	**th**	townhouse
cac	central air conditioning	**gmt kitchen**	gourmet kitchen	**txs**	taxes
dr	dining room	**ingrd pool**	inground pool	**wbs**	wood-burning stove
dk	deck	**lr**	living room	**w/o**	walk-out
fdr	formal dining room	**mk**	modern kitchen	**u/g sprk**	underground sprinkler system
fha/va	qualifies for financing	**meik**	modern eat-in kitchen	**yd**	yard