

**Northern Minnesota Builders Association  
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**Guide to Buying a New Home**

If you are thinking of buying a new home, you must pay close attention to a great many details to ensure that you find one that will suit your needs and preferences. Before you start shopping, you should sit down with the members of your household to discuss the features you would all like in a new home. You should also determine how much you can afford to pay for a new home.

To organize your thoughts, write each separate feature that you want on a 3X5 card, and arrange the cards in order of their importance to you.

For instance, if you like to cook, you may want a home with a large, well-equipped kitchen. Or you may settle for a small kitchen so that you can have extra space for a library, office or computer room.



Some homebuyers seek large, open interior spaces, while others prefer traditional rooms that afford more privacy. Some choose homes with large yards. Others opt for condominiums where they can avoid yard maintenance entirely.

While looking for a home, consider whether your needs are likely to change over time. If you plan to add rooms, find out if there is enough space on your site for such expansion and whether such additions are permitted by your local jurisdiction.