



New Year, New Home?

The year just changed — are you ready for a change of address as well? Below are five signs the answer to that question is “yes!”

- Your current home's flaws are affecting your daily life. Maybe your floor plan doesn't work, you don't have enough space, or your commute's too long. Whatever the issues, when you start thinking a move would improve your daily life, you're probably ready to move.
- You've been investigating your options. Have you been eyeing listings? Scouting areas you might like to live in? Attending open houses? Checking out the competition to see what other homes in your area are fetching? If so, it's likely time to call a real estate sales representative.
- You're able to view your property as a product. A large part of preparing to sell your home has to do with preparing yourself emotionally. Once you stop thinking of it as your home and start thinking of it as someone else's future home, you are ready to sell.
- You're prepared to put in the effort it takes to get and keep your home in show-worthy condition. That means doing repairs, making improvements (like a new paint job), decluttering, and keeping your home sparkling clean until it's sold.
- You're motivated. Perhaps you've been offered a new job, have kids starting a new school, have already purchased a new home, or need to sell for financial reasons.

Whatever the reason, sometimes you're ready to sell because — you have to. Local real estate sales representatives can tell you what your current home is worth and help you find your next dream home!

Relocating Responsibly

Whether you're relocating across town, across the country or across the world, you can make your move a little easier on the planet. Follow these tips to make your next move a more environmentally friendly one.

- One of the main tenets of green living is, “reduce.” So get rid of as much of your stuff as you can *pre-move*. The fewer things you have to move, the less packing material and fuel you will require. But purge the eco-friendly way: offer items that don't make the cut to friends and family, hold a garage sale, or sell, donate, or recycle them.
- Don't buy boxes; scavenge them from local retailers or friends and family, and recycle them post-move or pass them on to someone else. Alternatively, you can rent storage containers, either from a regular moving company or one of the increasing number of green moving companies that offer containers made from recycled materials.
- Bubble wrap and Styrofoam peanuts are made in an eco-unfriendly way and linger in landfills. Don't buy packing material — collect it from the products you buy and reuse it for your move; use your clothing, bedding, towels and kitchen cloths to pad your belongings; or pack with paper products like newspaper and cardboard, which can be recycled when you're finished with them.
- Hire an eco-friendly mover. They provide the reusable, recycled and/or recyclable storage containers and packing materials for you, take them away when your move is over, and, in some cases, they use trucks that run on biodiesel fuel to transport your belongings.

