

# Finding Your Home Three Tests to See if it's the Right Fit for You

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By John Henderson

Here are three great tests to see if the home you are looking at is the right fit for you. Not only will these tests help clarify what's important to you, they will also aide communication when more than one person is making the home buying decision. Most people only buy a few homes in their lifetime so it's important to get everyone to use the same language and standard of judgment to determine if it's a good fit.

So, using a scale of 1 to 10 (10 meaning "I absolutely love this house" and 1 meaning, "Well, I'm just not feeling it"), ask yourself these questions:

## ***What do I think about the quality of this neighborhood?***

Before you pull up to the front of any house, judge the neighborhood it sits in. Can you see yourself living there, taking a walk or your children riding their bikes there? Are these the neighbors you'd like to get to know? Are surrounding homes maintained to the same standard that you will keep yours? Pay special attention the houses located on either side of the one you're considering as well as the ones across the street.

## ***What do I think about the quality of the structure?***

How well is this house built and maintained? Does it feel solid or flimsy? Has it been well cared for or let go? Are you interested in a fixer-upper or do you want something that is move-in ready?

## ***How will this home fit my lifestyle?***

Every home you live in will affect the way you live. Many homebuyers have come back to me and said they were surprised by how true that statement is. Beyond asking *who* will fit into the house, ask *how* will we fit into it. Where will you read books? Watch TV? Entertain guests? Is there a place to garden or will you need to mow a lot of grass? These are all good questions to ask. Think through how you want to live and how this property will or will not meet your needs.

Now, on a scale of 1 to 10, how does the house rate? I advise my clients to walk away from homes that rate less than 8 in any category. Finding a home that rates 10 in every category is not realistic. When you find a home that rates 8 or above, it's time to write an offer and start negotiating.

BEST HOMES  
*of Michigan*