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## **What you need to think about before buying a home:**

**WHAT:** Define the home you want

- Do you want to live in a house, a condo, maybe a loft
- How many bedrooms, bathrooms do you need
- Size does matter, including storage
- Would you like a fireplace, wood floors, outdoor space
- Do you need secure parking
- What about views
- Proximity to public transportation and shopping
- Proximity to highways [think commute to work]

**WHERE:** Identify the neighborhood(s) you like

**WHY:** Think about how you live and what your requirements are. For example, do you like to entertain, and then maybe a home with a big kitchen is important to you. Are you planning to have kids in the near future, think of the kindergarten options in the neighborhood you are looking at?

**HOW MUCH:** What is your budget? Do you need to sell your current home? Get a pre-approval letter for a mortgage from your bank

**WHEN:** Determine when you would like to move, then go backwards to factor in the research period, negotiations, closing of escrow

**HOW:** Identify an agent to represent you in the transaction (at no cost to you, both buyer and seller agents are paid by the seller)