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"You are never too old to set another goal or to dream a new dream."

- C.S. Lewis

Facing a Long-Distance Move?
Follow These 5 Tips for a Successful Home Search



For most people, moving to a new home creates a whirlwind of stress, excitement, and sometimes sadness. But between having to house hunt remotely and facing the reality of leaving behind your job, friends, and all that is familiar, a long-distance move can amplify these emotions. Therefore, when moving to a city or state far from where you currently live, proper

planning is key to reducing stress and finding the home of your dreams.

Anticipating a long-distance move? Follow these five tips for house hunting across the miles:

1. Use the internet to create a comparison chart of factors that are important to you. One of the first steps in any home search is making a list of all the attributes that you consider important in a property. When moving to an area with which you are unfamiliar, you may have to spend some time researching certain attributes, such as a home's distance from your new office, neighborhood crime rates, reputations of the schools, and proximity to places you visit most often. Consider organizing these factors into a spreadsheet that you share with your realtor, so you can both see at a glance how the homes you like compare to each other.
2. Dig deeper online to get a better feel for different neighborhoods. Forums, Facebook groups, review websites like Yelp, and other online niche communities tend to generate banter about the true character of a city's neighborhoods. Delving into these sources can help you identify which parts of town are right for you, before you even visit your new city. In addition, Google Earth and online maps with a street view option will help you gain a realistic understanding of the area surrounding homes that have piqued your interest. Another way to learn more about your new city via the internet is to leverage your own social media networks with posts seeking advice about where you are moving—you never know who will be able to provide valuable input.
3. Have a clear idea of the top five factors that are most important to you in a home, and which factors are non-negotiable. Prioritizing these items will help you narrow down neighborhoods and specific properties, which will make in-person searching more efficient and expedite the process of making an offer when you find your ideal property.
4. When scheduling trips to your new city, set a budget and plan strategically. While you can find a wealth of information online, house-hunting trips—as well as trips to attend the closing or deal with any problems that arise—are usually inevitable. Therefore, try to have some money set aside for at least two trips to your new city. When house hunting, arrive armed with a list of properties and neighborhoods that you like in order to maximize efficiency. However, avoid cramming so many showings into one day that the homes blur together in your mind and you don't remember important details about each.
5. If you are unable to find the perfect home or feel anxious about making such a major purchase without fully knowing the area, consider renting an apartment with a short-term lease. This will buy you some time to settle into a new job, familiarize yourself with the area, and continue your home search at your leisure.

Orzo Salad



Ingredients:

- 1 pound orzo
- 1 teaspoon Dijon mustard
- 1/2 cup olive oil
- 2 lemons, juiced
- Kosher salt and freshly ground black pepper
- 2 cups halved red and yellow cherry tomatoes
- 1 cup slivered almonds, toasted
- 1 small red onion, finely chopped
- 2 green onions, thinly sliced (white and green parts)
- 2 tablespoons chiffonade fresh basil leaves
- 2 tablespoons chiffonade fresh mint leaves
- 5 ounces crumbled feta cheese

Directions:

1. Bring a large pot of salted water to a boil over medium heat. Add the orzo and cook until tender yet still firm, about 8 to 10 minutes. Drain into a colander and let cool.
2. Whisk together the Dijon, olive oil, and lemon juice in a large serving bowl. Season with salt and pepper, to taste. Add the cooled orzo, cherry tomatoes, almonds, red onion, green onions, basil, mint, and feta. Toss together and taste for seasoning. Add salt and pepper, if needed. Serve.

Source: foodnetwork.com

The Do s and Don ts of Summer Travel

For many people, July is peak time for summer vacations but between crowded destinations, higher travel prices, and summer heat, traveling at this time of year can be stressful. Here are a few do s and don ts to keep in mind for a safe, comfortable, and enjoyable summer vacation:

- Do: Layer your clothing. It may be hot outside, but the temperatures on airplanes are often frigid. On car trips, opinions about the ideal temperature at which to set the air conditioning can vary among family members. Ensure comfort for everyone by keeping a sweater and socks close at hand during your trip and making sure that kids do the same.
- Don't forget the first-aid kit. Travel always increases the chances for illness and other mishaps. Unfortunately, avoiding these situations is not always possible, but being prepared with a well-stocked first-aid kit can help improve safety and minimize discomfort. Some items to remember include sunscreen, insect repellent, band-aids, and over-the-counter pain relievers, allergy medications, and motion sickness solutions.
- Do leave time for relaxation. When traveling to a new destination, it is normal to want to cram as many things into each day's schedule as possible in order to see all the attractions on your list. However, this may leave you feeling exhausted at the end of the trip rather than refreshed and ready to head back to work. To avoid vacation burnout, be sure to designate a day or two to sleep in, read a good book, or just enjoy some low-key time with your family.
- Don't be upset if not everything goes as planned. Some obstacles are a normal part of the vacation experience: bad weather may ruin your plans, flights may be delayed, hotels may fall short of your expectations, and so on. While situations like these may seem disastrous at the time, laughing them off is the key to staying calm and enjoying the vacation regardless. As long as everyone is safe, common vacation pitfalls often make the funniest memories.

If you are currently working with another Broker please do not consider this a solicitation.