

CONSIDER LIFESTYLE WHEN BUYING A NEW HOME

The obvious things we consider when buying a new home are location, price and size but remember to consider your lifestyle as well. Your home's layout needs to match your needs in order to live in an organized way. Many builders offer customized solutions or have various options for you to choose from when it comes to floor plans. Try to picture your family's future needs as well and you'll save yourself costly renovations down the road.

ENTRANCEWAY TRAFFIC JAMS

Do you have children or plans to start a family in this home? Consider the space in your entranceway. Children tend to enter the home leaving a trail of backpacks, coats, shoes and mitts behind them so having a mud room would be ideal. Make sure there is enough space to install hooks for school bags and coats and a place for baskets to collect seasonal items. If you have no plans for little ones, what about pets? Dogs often like to nap near the door so make sure there is a cozy spot for Fido. For the professional, a sleek entranceway may better suit your lifestyle but plan a space for easy drop-off of Palm Pilots, cell phone, laptops and keys.

ANYONE FOR TENNIS?

Does your family play sports? A filled hockey bag alone can take over a hallway so be sure your new home has plenty of room for them to be stored and aired out between games. Golf bags and fishing equipment also take up a lot of space. Do you have a swimming pool or plan to install one? If so, linen closets near the back door for extra towels, sunscreen and flip flops would make life easier.

AS THE SEASON TURNS

Do you have a large assortment of off-season clothing to be stored? If so, adequate storage in basements, garages or walk-in closets are required. Don't forget to include summer sandals and winter snow pants that also take up space. Seasonal decorations are also important to remember. Are you a minimalist with décor or do you decorate every nook and cranny for the holidays? Ample space can sometimes be found in crawl spaces under stairs or in the attic.

HOW'S THAT WORKING FOR YOU?

Do you work from home or can you picture having a home office one day? Check that your floor plan allows an extra room to be turned into a home office should it be required. Extra electrical and phone outlets are usually needed in an office while a window would be a bonus.

When selecting your new home, try to imagine your whole family in each room. Do you have enough space for that activity and to store all your current and future possessions? Will the floor plan allow for your lifestyle? The best advice here is to write down all of your family's needs and discuss them with your designer – they are the experts and can help you make the right decisions before making the move.