

Getting the Most From an Open House



Have you ever attended an "Open House" advertised in your area or in a community you like? Most people have. Even if you're not serious about moving, viewing a few properties in a neighbourhood you like is a great way to get a sense of the market.

Who knows? You might stumble upon your next dream home!

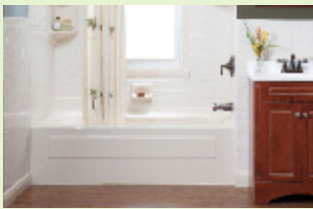
To get the most out of an open house, follow these guidelines:

- Most open houses will have a handout available containing the list price and other property information. Be sure to keep a copy.
- Don't just view the rooms. Explore the entire property, including the backyard.
- Don't be shy about asking the listing agent (or whoever is hosting the open house) questions about the property.
- Ask about the area. Are there schools nearby? Where is the nearest park or playground located?
- Ask about potential required repairs and renovations. For example, if the furnace is more than 15 years old, it may need to be replaced soon.
- Walk around the neighbourhood. Try to get a sense of what it's like to live there. If possible, chat with a neighbour.

Finally, if you become interested in the home, be sure to advise the listing agent that your own REALTOR® will be following up. Otherwise, the listing agent might assume that he or she will be representing you.

Looking for a good REALTOR® to have by your side? Call today.

Bathroom Upgrades Using Overlays



If you're considering a bathroom update, you're probably familiar with the typical approaches, such as replacing a countertop or toilet, or removing all the fixtures and finishes to complete a floor-to-ceiling renovation.

However, there is another, far less expensive way to make an older bathroom look brand new: using overlays.

An overlay is simply a new surface applied over an existing one. For example, instead of replacing an old and worn bathtub – which is costly – you can purchase an overlay

system (called a tub liner) that fits on top of the existing bathtub. It's a little like giving your tub a facelift!

You can do the same thing with your bathroom countertops and floors.

Overlays come in a wide variety of styles and finishes – some of which can make your bathroom look significantly more upscale. Compared to a major renovation, the installation of overlays is relatively straightforward. A tub liner installation, for example, can be done in a day.

You can learn more about overlays at your local home improvement centre and at specialty bathroom showrooms.

Think, Act... Live!

"Patience, persistence, and perspiration make an unbeatable combination for success." [Napoleon Hill](#)

"You have to learn the rules of the game. Then you have to play better than anyone else." [Albert Einstein](#)

"Courage doesn't always roar. Sometimes it's the quiet voice at the end of the day saying, 'I will try again tomorrow.'" [Anne Radmacher](#)