

Beware of Over-Downsizing or Over-Upsizing

Buying a new pair of shoes is relatively easy. Once you find the style you like, all you need to do is try them on and see if they fit. If they do, you go to the cash register and pay.

When it comes to size, buying a new home can be trickier! Whether your intention is to upsize or downsize, figuring out the right size can be especially challenging.

Say for example, you're downsizing from a large two-story home to a smaller bungalow. You don't want to underestimate the space you need and end up in a place that feels tight. If you're going the other way and upsizing, you don't want to end up sinking extra money into a property that's larger than you really need.

So how do you avoid these scenarios?

One of the best ways is to start by considering your current home. Do you use all the rooms in your home regularly? Is there a bedroom that's rarely occupied? Has the recreation room become simply a storage area? If you're downsizing, subtracting rooms you scarcely use can give you a better idea of what you need in a new home.

Upsizing is a bit more challenging because you have to anticipate what you will need in the future. For example, if you have young children, and your place is feeling cramped, then a home



with a recreation room or separate family and living rooms may be a good idea. You may also need a bigger kitchen with a spacious eating area (in addition to a separate dining room.) Think about the extra room you'll need and how you'll use that space.

When I work with a client, I typically sit down with them and discuss the type of home they want in detail — and, based on needs and circumstance, I make expert recommendations. Bottom line, I help clients find the perfect fit in a new home. Contact me if you'd like to learn more.

The Basics of Do-it-Yourself Video-based Home Security

According to law enforcement experts, a video-based home security system is significantly more effective than a simple alarm system. The reason is obvious. Burglars don't want their crimes captured on video, which can then be used as evidence in court.

So it's no wonder that many homeowners have, or are considering, video-based security.

These days, most video-based home security systems are wireless. The cameras

either record to your DVR (just like recording your favourite TV show), or to a cloud-based server provided by the manufacturer.

There are many do-it-yourself systems on the market. You simply place the cameras around your property and do some initial setup. Most of these have motion-detection that records automatically when someone comes into the frame of the camera. These are typically installed at your front door, patio door, main floor windows, and garage door.

Some systems will even alert you when a

camera turns on, and let you see the action on your smartphone or computer. If it's a burglary attempt, you have the opportunity to call the police.

Although most of these products are weatherproof, check and confirm before purchasing. The packaging will say something like, "Suitable for outdoor use" or "Suitable for all-weather conditions".

Also look for night vision capability. Not all security cameras have that feature.

Think, Act... Live!

"When you reach the end of your rope, tie a knot in it and hang on." Thomas Jefferson

"Action is the foundational key to all success." Pablo Picasso

"Discipline is the bridge between goals and accomplishment." Jim Rohn