

Step 2

Choose a Sub-Division

Determine what amenities are important to you. Research subdivisions and determine which one best suits your needs.

Before you start scrutinizing neighborhoods, turn the magnifying glass back on yourself. Think about what you're really looking for in a new neighborhood. Remember, you'll probably have to make compromises, so put the "must-haves" at the top and the "would-like-to-haves" at the bottom.

Here are some things to consider:

- Do you have children or are you planning to have children anytime soon? Parents know that the first thing to do when looking at a neighborhood is to research the school system. Even if you're single, living in an area with a much sought-after school system raises your property value. If you have kids, you'll also want to live close to parks and community centers.
- What type of home do you want? Are you interested in a single-family home, an apartment or townhouse?
- How far are you willing to commute? Do you plan to drive, walk or take transit to work? Do you have a car or would you be willing to get one?

With your area of the city in mind, start digging up information. Find interesting neighborhoods online, ask local real estate agents for recommendations and compile all the background information you can, including school information, parks and recreation, neighbourhood associations, etc.

Just because it's a nice neighborhood doesn't mean it's the one for you. If the neighborhood meets your list but still feels wrong, search out another area. Trust your gut feeling -- after all, you're the one who has to live there.

