

Thinking of Fleeing the City?

If the irritants of the city have begun to pile up and you're ready to trade urban living for the peace and quiet of the suburbs, you are not alone.

Many people fled cities seeking open spaces and safety as the coronavirus pandemic deepened. Others found themselves taking less advantage of the amenities cities offered, opting for less noise and a less hectic lifestyle. Still others find the suburbs are a more suitable environment to raise a family. Whatever your motivation, make sure you look before you leap.

RESEARCH

Every big decision benefits from research, no less true for abandoning urban life. First, question your motivation and don't panic move. Fleeing the city amid a pandemic can be risky. Moving quickly will increase your chances of becoming disappointed in the long term. Take the time to explore and discover a new area before committing. While moving can be exciting, it can also induce its own sort of stress and panic.



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REAL ESTATE 101

Selling a Condo or Apartment

If you own the condo or apartment you live in and are looking to move to a single-family home, chances are good you'll get offers fairly quickly, even in a down market. Condos and apartments sell quicker because they're typically smaller, cost less and have lower maintenance costs. To learn more about how to sell a condo, Realtor.com has some tips at bit.ly/3d5pXdh.

If you take stock of your situation and weigh your options, needs and desires, chances are you will make the right decision. The pros and cons of both city and suburban life are many and should not be acted on based on

temporary conditions.

WORK CONSIDERATIONS

If you're one of an increasing number of Americans who work from home, consider yourself fortunate, in most cases, live wherever you like

as long as you can meet the expectations of your employer. Others are not so lucky. Indeed, many want and need to work in the collaborative environment of an office. Many companies have found during the pandemic that a

work-from-home situation benefits both parties. Whatever the case, make sure the suburbs offer you the life value you're seeking — not simply an escape from the office. People who work from home tend to need to socialize more and find the allure of the city an antidote to living and working in the same home.

ASK AROUND

If you have friends or family in the area you're considering, you're in luck. They can give you the inside scoop on the ups and downs of life in the suburbs of a particular area and answer many of your questions. If not, seek out people who work in your career field, visit local institutions, visitors centers and entertainment venues and shopping areas to get a feel for the local vibe and amenities.

FIND AN AGENT

A local real estate agent can be an invaluable resource not only for exploring housing options but they also may know someone or a client who made the choice you're considering. You can find plenty of properties and prices online, but a local agent is key to ensuring you find the right home when you've made the decision to relocate.



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HOMESWISE GLOSSARY

Commitment letter: A written offer by a lender to make a loan by a particular date under certain conditions. SOURCE: MLS.com

AD SPACE