

Getting Ready to List

Taking the Necessary Steps

Selling your property for the highest price possible can have a significant impact on your future, including your ability to purchase your next home. The process can be an enjoyable one with a little preparation.

01

Start the Process Early Selling your home requires you to shift your perspective from that of a "homeowner" to a "home seller." You'll need to start thinking objectively and understand that you are selling a product. Sometimes it helps the mindset shift to start the process early.

02

Find a REALTOR®
You Can Trust

Who you choose to partner with is one of the most important decisions you'll make when selling your home, so finding the right person is essential. They are responsible for aggressively marketing your home, equipping you with the knowledge you need to make informed decisions, negotiating your deal, and guarding your interests.

03

Understand the Costs

There are costs associated with selling your house including compensation to the real estate Advisor involved, costs associated with negotiating the sale, and any costs you may incur to fix issues that could come up during a home inspection.

04

Complete Those Side Projects First impressions matter – especially to prospective home buyers. The seemingly small issues with your home like loose doorknobs, broken screen doors, and faulty drains will lead buyers to assume that disrepair carries over to larger items as well, so get them squared away before going to market.

05

De-Clutter and Neutralize Your personal preferences need to take a back seat for a bit while you "stage" your home to win over buyers. Clean up by renting a storage unit for knick-knacks, photos, extra furniture and other personal items. When showing the home, fill it with inviting smells by putting out fresh flowers or baking cookies.

06
Price Your Home to Sell

Selling your home for more than you bought it for is every homeowner's dream, but it's not a given. How much your home is worth and will actually sell for depends on the current market – not the price you paid for it or how big you'd like the return to be.

07

Invest in a Pre-List Inspection A pre-inspection demonstrates a willingness to go beyond what's expected, which sets you apart from other sellers. You're sending a signal that your house is an "open book." It can save you money in the long run, and it gives you a heads-up if there are problems that a potential buyer will likely want repaired.

08

Prepare for Any & All Offers

Any offer is a good offer because it shows interest and allows your Advisor to have a meaningful discussion about the value of your home. Generating offers early in the process is a good thing, and pricing your home based on the market will effectively draw multiple prospects.

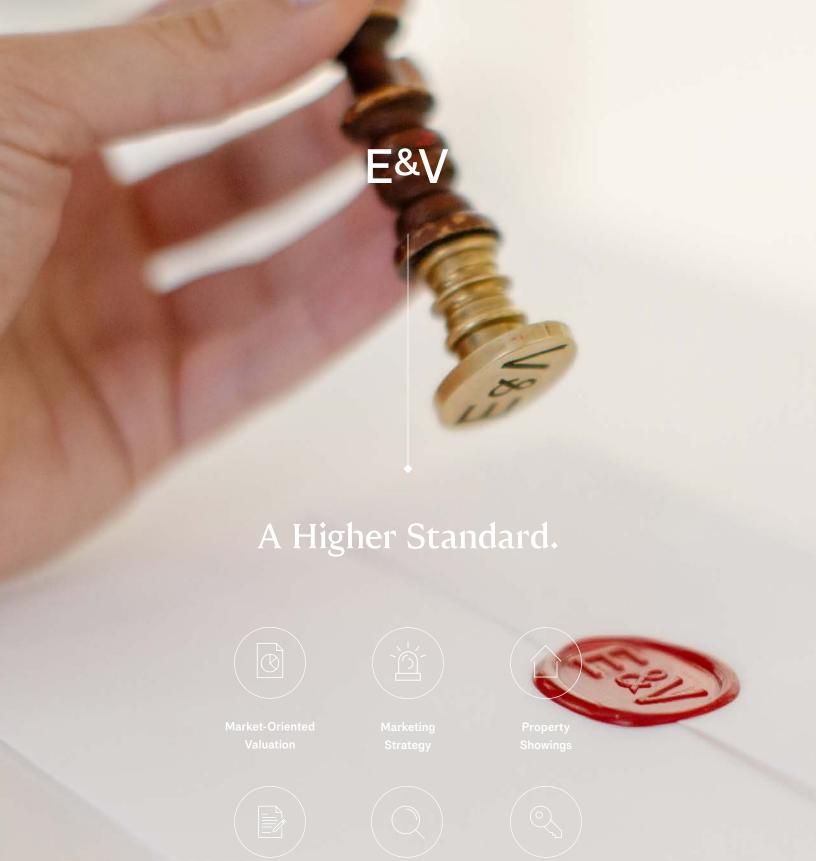
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Get Out of the House Staying out of the house during showings and open houses is best for everyone. Prospective buyers are evaluating your home as a potential investment, and they'll feel more comfortable exploring, speaking openly, and visualizing their life in the home without the seller hanging over their shoulder.

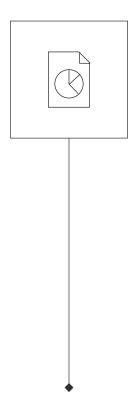
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Let Your Advisor Do Their Job You hired your Advisor for their expertise and knowledge. Share your goals with them, and then trust them to get the job done. If you can support their strategy, have realistic expectations, and focus your emotional energy on finding your next dream home, you'll experience much less stress and hopefully find joy in the entire process.

You hired a Real Estate Advisor *for a reason*. Their *industry expertise*, knowledge about your *niche market*, and their *years of experience* in positioning a home sale for success, is why you should trust that they have *your best interests in mind*.







A Market Oriented Valuation

Assessing Your Home's Value

A Market-Oriented Valuation performed by your Engel & Völkers Advisor is an essential part of the services we provide. It is the most accurate assessment of your home's value based on data and information that includes current and historical real estate activity in your market.





The Importance of Correct Pricing

Accurate pricing based on a comparative market analysis is crucial for maximizing the value of your home sale. Pricing slightly above market value can deter potential buyers, while starting with the right price ensures optimal results.

As time on the market increases, interest diminishes, emphasizing the importance of a swift and informed approach. Understanding local market dynamics is key to gauging buyer perception and facilitating successful negotiations. Although home improvements may not directly translate to increased value, a well-priced property can still attract competitive offers. Negotiating offers lower than the listing price is common, but it signifies buyer interest and presents opportunities for favorable outcomes.

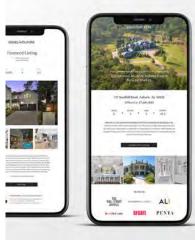
Ultimately, effective pricing from the outset is fundamental, as it determines the level of market attention and the likelihood of finding the right buyer, which your expert advisor will accurately assess and provide you prior to listing your home.



Establishing Market Value

The market value of your property is determined exactly the same way as any other commodity – what a buyer is willing to pay for it in today's market. Despite the price you paid originally, or the value of any improvements you may have made, the value is determined by market forces.















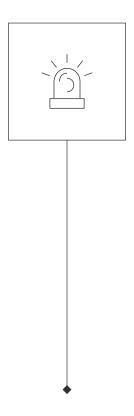












Your Custom Marketing Plan

Strategy and Promotion for Your Listing

With a full understanding of your home's position in the market and a pricing strategy to meet your goal within an acceptable timeframe, our marketing team will go to work developing and executing a custom strategy to promote your home to its target audiences.





From professional photographers who capture images of your home that will leap out of the pages of world-class publications where Engel & Völkers ads are placed, to our designers and copywriters who work together to build your campaigns which may include direct mail, online advertising, social media posts, and exposés, our full-service marketing approach includes professional and high-quality creative work that places you in front of the most qualified buyers. Our services include but are not limited to the following:

Our Signature Marketing Approach

- · Targeted Print & Digital Outreach
- Social Media Campaigns
- · 3D Matterport Tours
- · Network of Online Partnerships
- · GG Magazine Exclusive Features
- Photography & Videography
- · Global Shop TV Features



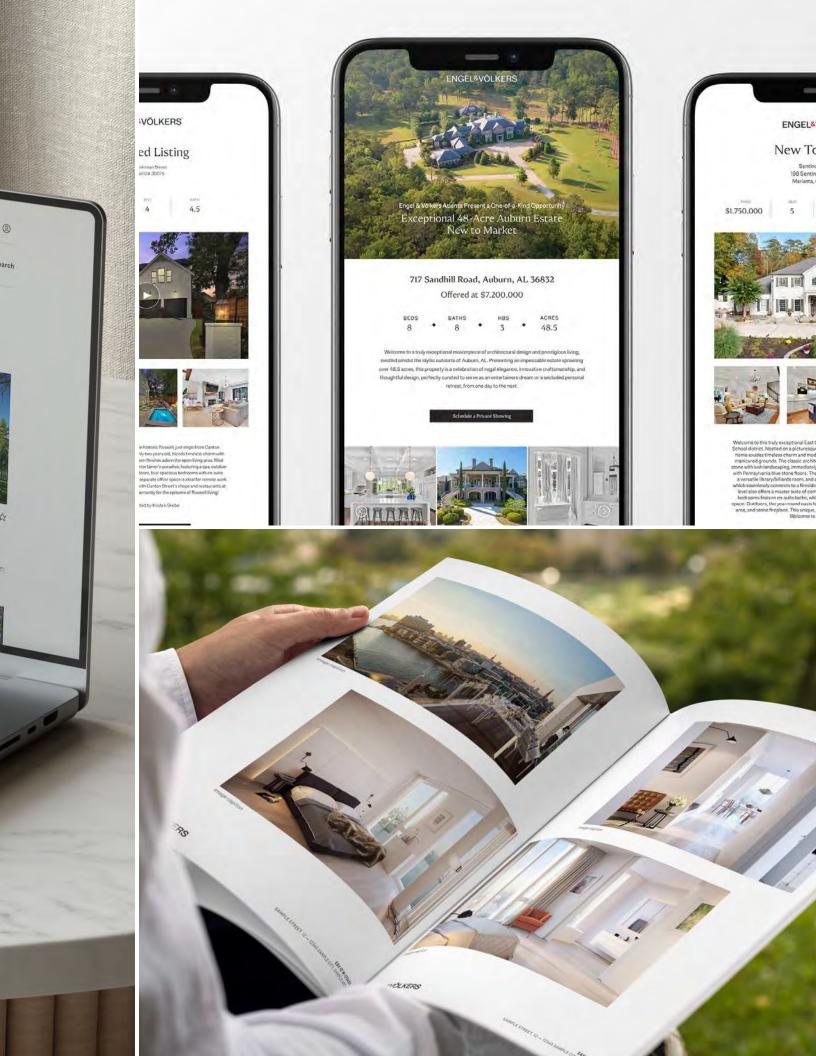
Local and Global Media Relations

Our relationships with the world's leading publications, local magazines, newspapers and our ongoing public relations activities ensure all around maximum exposure for our listings in print. Engel & Völkers has maintained special arrangements for years that allow our properties heightened exposure in local, national and international print publications.

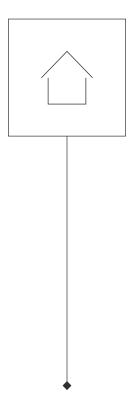
Distinctive Deliverables

Our team executes based on a thoughtful marketing approach, which is custom-tailored for each unique client and each unique property. We ensure your property has online exposure in all major markets, which is imperative for selling property to today's digital-savvy and often international clientele.









Showing Your Home

What to Expect During Showings

Now that you've scrutinized, staged, and scrubbed down your property, the showings will begin. While your property may be in immaculate shape, it is important to follow some unwritten etiquette rules to show your home in the best possible light.

01

Types of Showings Sometimes agents make showings by appointment and other times a lockbox will be placed on your house. Through a lockbox, your Advisor will electronically receive information about who is showing your property, when, and any additional contact information associated with the showing.

02

Leave During Showings Buyers are less comfortable when homeowners, and their pets, are watching their every move. They are trying to picture themselves living in your property, so it is important that you give them privacy to experience your house without you or your pet in their space.

03

Move Your Car(s) Make it easy for visitors to park and view the home. No one likes parking issues, and a potential buyer having parking issues during a showing is a sure way to get a viewing off to a bad start. Either park your spare car in the garage or take it with you on your way out.

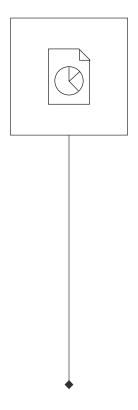
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Lay Out Important Documents

If questions arise while buyers are on the premises, it may help them decide to put in an offer that much faster if they can find answers quickly and in writing. Leave out the home inspection report, appraisal, home warranty, etc. so that people considering your home can review.







Navigating the Contract Process

What to Expect From Offer to Closing

Coming to an agreement on price and terms between the seller and the buyer is the first step. Between offers and counter-offers, you will come to a mutually agreed upon terms, and the listing status of your home will change from "active" to "pending". Here are a few nuances to expect before you can officially make it to closing day.





The Binding Agreement

The Binding Agreement Date is the day on which all of the timelines and deadlines for the contract contingencies begin, such as the due diligence period, the financing contingency period, and the appraisal contingency period.

The Purchase & Sale Agreement

The Georgia residential Purchase and Sale Agreement is a contract that legally binds two parties (seller and buyer) together for the purpose of making a transaction of a residential property. This contract covers all the pertinent information regarding the transaction including price, financing terms, rights and obligations of both parties, and a closing clause.



Earnest Money

Earnest Money is a deposit made to a seller indicating the buyer's good faith in the purchase and is typically 1-3% of the purchase price. The earnest money paid is put toward the buyer's down payment when the transaction is finalized.

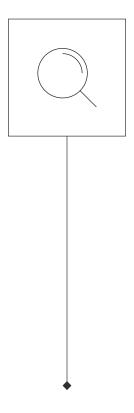
Due Dilligence

The buyer may elect to perform inspections on the property as part of the Due Diligence period defined in the contract. These inspections must be completed by a number of days specified under "buyer's right to terminate" in the standard purchase and sale agreement contract.

The Appraisal

A home appraisal is an unbiased estimate of the true (or fair market) value of what a home is worth, which are ordered during the mortgage loan process so that there is an objective way to assess the home's market value. If the appraisal is lower than the contracted price, most lenders will decline to offer the buyer a loan. In this instance your Advisor will help facilitate additional negotiations between buyer and seller.





Your Home Inspection

Common Issues to Assess Ahead of Time

As a component of the Purchase and Sale Agreement, a
Buyer has the right to inspect your property during their due
diligence. Identifying any items that need repairs prior to
a Buyer discovering them better positions you to deal with
possible negotiations that may arise after the initial contract
has been negotiated.

Faulty Wiring

Worn or outdated systems and homeowner additions are the most common defects, especially in older homes. Electrical system problems require immediate attention.

Roof Problems

Improperly installed or aged roofing surfaces are common. Repairs may be simple, or the entire roof may need to be replaced. Consult a roofer for a full assessment

Heating & Cooling System Defects

Improper installations, inadequate maintenance, and aged components are common. Thoroughly assess with a trained professional.

Inadequate Insulation and Ventilation

Poor insulation and poor ventilation in attics and walls will cause excessive utility costs, potential moisture issues, and lack of occupant comfort.

Poor Home Maintenance

Deferred maintenance represents a potential high-cost situation to bring the home back into condition. If the homeowner did not properly care for the home, someone will need to later.

Poor Drainage Around the Structure

Water needs to drain away from the structure at its perimeter to prevent water intrusion. Roof gutters and downspouts can sometimes be added to rectify site drainage problems.

Structural Deficiencies

Cut and broken trusses are often seen in attic cavities, and on occasion we see structural components missing. Usually repairs are needed, however we find it is rarely an imminent safety hazard.

Environmental Problems

Signs of mold growth represents the latest environmental scare.
Structure cracks and separations at windows can allow water into the home's wall cavities.

Plumbing Issues

The most common defects are leaking, outdated, or problematic systems such as polybutylene. Repairs can be made, but on occasion it may require a total system replacement.

The Most Prominent & Repair-Worthy Inspection Findings

During a home inspection, several common issues may arise that merit attention and remediation to ensure the integrity and safety of the property. Addressing these issues promptly can help prevent potential problems down the line and maintain the value of the home.

Termites

Termites, often unseen until they inflict considerable structural harm, can lead to expensive repairs. While not mandated by law in Georgia, buyers frequently seek termite letters to safeguard against these pests, while investing in preventive measures such as termite bonds can offer lasting defense against potential damage.

Lead-Based Paint

Homes constructed before 1978 often harbor lead-based paint, a known cause of lead poisoning, particularly when the paint begins to deteriorate. While intact lead paint usually poses minimal risk, deteriorating surfaces, especially those accessible to children, can become hazardous, emphasizing the importance of regular maintenance, dust cleanup, and precautions during renovation or painting to mitigate the spread of toxic lead dust.

Polybutylene Pipe

Polybutylene piping, favored from 1978 to 1995 for its affordability and ease of installation, is recognizable by its blue, gray, or black hue and 1/2" or 1" diameter, but may degrade over time due to water supply oxidants, resulting in leaks and potential structural harm. Despite minimal maintenance requirements, joint leaks are frequent, often requiring complete pipe replacement.

Stucco

Stucco siding, crafted from cement, water, and sand, is prone to cracking, particularly in regions with clay-rich soil prone to foundation shifts. While minor cracks can be easily fixed, wider ones may signify water penetration and structural concerns, potentially necessitating professional repair or replacement by a qualified contractor over time.

Radon

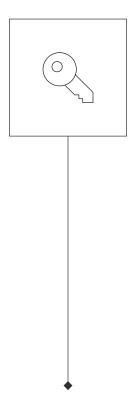
Radon, a colorless and odorless radioactive gas generated by decaying uranium, pervades nearly all soils and poses a threat when trapped inside homes. Long-term exposure to elevated levels increases the risk of lung cancer, with seepage through concrete gaps in walls and floors presenting significant concerns. Given the absence of immediate symptoms, testing is crucial, as nationwide surveys reveal elevated radon levels affecting up to 1 in 5 homes.

just one good chair

Mold

Mold thrives in moist environments, often present in basements, with extensive growth potentially indicating past flooding. Testing and remediation for significant mold growth are essential, but addressing the issue is typically more manageable and affordable than anticipated.





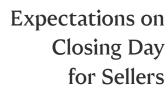
The Closing

What Comes Next

Closing Day is the day that the buyer and seller fulfill all of the agreements made in the sales contract. In more literal terms, it is about the transfer of money and documents so that you, the seller, can transfer ownership and possession of the property free and clear to the buyer.

Here's what you can expect.





On the day of closing, you and the buyer sign various documents including the deed that will be filed at the county courthouse. All financial obligations, including agent commissions, mortgage payoffs, and down payments, are settled, and you'll receive any proceeds due. The buyer receives keys, garage door remotes, and possibly receipts for agreed-upon work, while it's important to leave warranty and instruction books for appliances and systems for the new owner.

In Georgia, closings are handled by attorneys. In a cash purchase, the attorney represents the Buyer. When the Buyer is obtaining a loan, the attorney represents the lender. To avoid conflict, the attorney handling the closing may not represent any other parties of the transaction. If the Buyer/Borrower wants legal representation, they would need to hire independent counsel.

Preparing for Closing

- · Maintain the house in good condition
- Negotiate and perhaps repair something the buyer's inspector finds
- Notify your utility companies of a final service date
- Prepare to Move

What You Pay at Closing

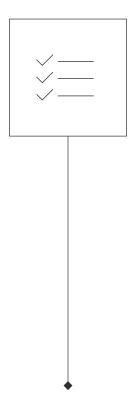
- · Real Estate Agent Compensation
- · Prorated Property Taxes
- · Any Outstanding Mortgage Balances
- Attorney Fees
- · Title Insurance Premiums
- · Recording Fees for Transferring the Deed
- · Any agreed-upon closing costs

What the seller pays at closing depends partly on local law and practice, and partly on the terms negotiated in the sales contract. Just remember that the contract rules. You can't decide you don't want to pay something that was already agreed to by both parties and written in your contract — unless you can get your buyer to agree. Of course, that means amending the paperwork, which could mean delaying the closing. Some expenses may include:

What to Bring to Closing

- The deed to your home, if the home is paid off and has no mortgage or liens
- · Photo ID a driver's license or passport
- A certified check, if required, in the amount told to you by escrow
- The keys and codes for the house





Your Moving Check List

To Aid in Preparation for Your Next Move

It's a given that moving can be stressful. However, if you cross off the items on the following checklist as you go, your advance planning will pay off. The following pages consist of a checklist you'll need to prepare for your move.

☐ Get Organized: Set aside a folder or file where you can put all your move-related paperwork. Dedicate a notebook as your moving notebook for all your notes. ☐ Start Sorting: Decide what to keep, discard or donate. If you're moving to a smaller Weeks Before place, be aggressive in your decision making. the Move ☐ Research Moving Companies: Go online to search for moving companies with positive reviews. Ask friends and family if they have any references for moving companies. Take a week or two to research. You're not in rush-mode quite yet. ☐ **Get Supplies:** Buy packing materials: boxes, tape, markers and bubble wrap. ☐ Plan a Garage Sale: As you go through your possessions, you'll find things you don't Weeks Before want to move. It's a perfect time to lighten your load. the Move □ Notify Schools: If you have kids, tell the staff at their schools of the impending move. Get copies of their school records and look into the enrollment process at the schools near your new residence. Weeks Before ☐ Medical Records: Check with your doctor to get copies of your family's medical the Move records. ☐ Book a Moving Company: Thanks to your research, you are ready to pick your movers. Pick a company you feel confident with and confirm the date, time, and details of your move. Weeks Before ☐ Start Packing Non-Essentials: Begin boxing up the things you won't need right away. the Move Make sure to label the boxes. □ Notify Your Building: If you are moving to or from a condominium building which requires scheduling of elevators, be sure to set this up. ☐ Change Your Address: Complete a change of address form on the USPS website. Weeks Before Notify banks and credit cards of your new address. the Move

☐ Strategize Your Food Situation: Use up food items that you don't want to move. Plan ahead to have nothing left in your freezer by your move date. Same goes for your pantry - make a plan to consume anything that's already open. Weeks Before ☐ Pets and Plants: Make arrangements to get your animals and plants to your new the Move ☐ Transfer Insurance: If your current home is covered, check with your Advisor to transfer the policy to your new home. ☐ Service Your Car: Have your car serviced, especially if embarking on a long-distance move. Check with your car insurance company about transferring your policy. ☐ Pack with a Vengeance: Now's the time to start boxing up most everything left in your home. Again, make sure to label everything to ensure a smooth transition to your new place. Weeks Before ☐ Coordinate Your Valuables: If you have jewelry, heirlooms or other valuable items, the Move sequester them from the main move. You don't want valuable items mixed up with your other packed items. Keep them in a safe place so you can transport them yourself. □ Notify Utilities: Start the process of closing out utility service at your current place and getting utilities set up at your new residence, but first confirm your contractual obligations with your Advisor. ☐ Make a Clean Move: If your new place needs a thorough cleaning, make arrangements to have it scrubbed before you arrive. ☐ At Your Disposal: Properly dispose of any items that can't be moved such as cleaning materials, propane, or paint. Confirm and Confirm Again: Check in with your mover to confirm the time and date of the move. ☐ Pack an Essential Kit: Prepare a suitcase with items you will need right away at your Week Before new place. Take it with you. Don't load it on the truck. the Move ☐ Keep Important Documents Handy: Make sure to have any documents related to the move at the ready. ☐ **Defrost and Clear:** Clean out your empty fridge and freezer. Check your cupboards and pantry for any open food items.

