



105 WAYS A BUYERS AGENT BENEFITS YOU

Here's a look at all the things – big and small – that a REALTOR® may do to help clients when buying a home.

Counseling Session Activities

1. Prepare the buyer for executing a buyer representation agreement
2. Explain agency relationships to the buyer and get state required legal consent to represent, if needed
3. Inform the buyer of working relationship based on state law, the REALTORS® Code of Ethics, and the broker's business policies

Building a Relationship

4. Learn the buyer's wants and non-negotiable needs
5. Understand the buyer's budget and what will be needed financially
6. Help the buyer understand what property their chosen budget will buy
7. Consider having the buyer fill out a homebuyer's checklist
8. Assist the buyer in examining how much they can afford to spend
9. Provide quality lender resources
10. Partner with the buyer to locate suitable properties for consideration
11. Match the buyer's needs with available property
12. Constantly re-evaluate buyer's needs and refocus property showings to fit those needs
13. After ensuring the buyer understands what is done for them, how it is done, and the benefit to them, obtain signatures on the buyer representation agreement
14. Explain how compensation is paid, who pays it, and what the buyer's options are for paying it



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Educating the Buyer

- 15.** Communicate the working relationship based on state law, the REALTORS® Code of Ethics, and the broker's business policies
- 16.** Explain Federal and State Fair Housing laws
- 17.** Explain what to look for in applicable property disclosures
- 18.** Reassure the buyer that their personal information will remain confidential
- 19.** Inform the buyer that you will always disclose all known material defects
- 20.** In accordance with state law, provide information on checking the sex-offender registry and crime statistics for the neighborhood
- 21.** Discuss available resources that the buyer can check to learn more about prospective neighborhoods

Preparing the Buyer

- 22.** Explain the timeline for house hunting, mortgage approval, and closing
- 23.** Explain the local market and how it impacts the buyer
- 24.** Show statistics on what percentage of list price sellers in the area are currently receiving
- 25.** Inform the buyer on what home features are popular
- 26.** Identify current average days on market
- 27.** Share the dangers of using the price per square foot to figure home values
- 28.** Explain the concept of absorption rate and how it impacts the buying process
- 29.** Indicate current listing months of market inventory
- 30.** Share estimated potential out-of-pocket costs to complete the transaction
- 31.** Assist the buyer in analyzing the loan estimates
- 32.** Qualify the buyer for financial ability to purchase
- 33.** Help the buyer account for the complete costs of homeownership
- 34.** Prepare lender for listing agent calls
- 35.** Assist in comparing different financing options
- 36.** Help the buyer select for viewing only those homes that fit their needs
- 37.** Proceed in showing homes that fit the buyer's must-haves
- 38.** Caution the buyer on posting information to social media
- 39.** Review the sample sales contract so the buyer is prepared when it comes time to make an offer



Showing Properties

40. Schedule showings and provide access to all listed properties as soon as they become available in their local MLS broker marketplaces
41. Educate the buyer on the immediacy of new listings appearing in their local MLS broker marketplaces and the lag time for them to appear on some websites
42. Collaborate with the buyer on properties they may have learned about through their sphere contacts
43. Research and assist on all unlisted properties the buyer wishes to see
44. Preview properties prior to showing if needed
45. Network with other agents to source properties not yet in their local MLS broker marketplaces
46. Contact homeowners in focus areas to see if they are considering selling
47. Set up an automated email alert system through their local MLS broker marketplaces that immediately notifies the buyer of properties that fit discussed requirements
48. Arrange a tour of areas, schools, and key points of interest
49. Provide resources containing neighborhood information on municipal services, schools, etc.
50. Inform the buyer of negative aspects like nearby venues or operations that may result in issues that could impact value
51. Collect and share any other vital information on available homes, remembering to follow all fair housing laws at all times
52. Check applicable zoning and building restrictions
53. Help the buyer decipher public property and tax information
54. Collect and share pertinent data on values, taxes, utility costs, etc.
55. Compare each property shown to the buyer's wants and needs list and remind them of what they were looking for
56. Help the buyer narrow the search until the buyer identifies top choices

Negotiating Offers

57. Assist the buyer in getting the best property at the best price
58. Suggest that the buyer learn more about the neighborhood prior to making an offer
59. Prepare a comparative market analysis (CMA) in advance of making an offer
60. Prepare the buyer to have the most attractive offer in the current marketplace
61. Explain common contract contingencies and include approved protective clauses in the purchase offer
62. Ensure that the buyer receives and understands all state and federally-required disclosure forms
63. Prioritize contract negotiation goals with the buyer
64. Help create a negotiating strategy
65. Use strategies such as an escalation clause to maintain a competitive offer
66. Prepare the buyer for a multiple offer situation and develop negotiation strategies
67. Write an offer that has a reasonable chance of being accepted
68. Recommend optional contingencies and explain the pros and cons of using them
69. Provide information on purchasing incentives that may be available
70. Discuss financing alternatives
71. Negotiate the buyer's offers to arrive at the best price and terms
72. Utilize hyperlocal expertise and strong communication skills to assist the buyer in being the successful offer



Advocating for the Buyer and Facilitating the Close

- 73.** Advocate for the buyer throughout the entire process
- 74.** Encourage the buyer to fully investigate their options in terms of a home inspector, title company, appraiser, mortgage lender, and other services
- 75.** Present a list of the types of required and optional inspections such as environmental, roofing, and mold
- 76.** Review and discuss home inspection concerns
- 77.** Negotiate repair requests from home inspection
- 78.** Guide the buyer on meeting all contract deadlines
- 79.** Assist in coordinating communications
- 80.** Advise the buyer to review the settlement statement
- 81.** Inform clients that they need to transfer utilities to the new residence
- 82.** Schedule final walkthrough
- 83.** Accompany the buyer on the walkthrough
- 84.** Assist the buyer in questioning the appraisal report if it affects the financing
- 85.** Confirm clear-to-close with the lender
- 86.** Ensure all parties have all forms and information needed to close the sale
- 87.** Remind the buyer of the location where the closing will be held
- 88.** Confirm the closing date and time, and notify parties if there are changes





- 89.** Gather all required forms and documents for closing
- 90.** Explain flood insurance to the buyer
- 91.** Explain title insurance to the buyer and refer to qualified insurance broker
- 92.** Order any surveys needed
- 93.** Order the appraisal
- 94.** Order the title search
- 95.** Confirm the status of the loan funding
- 96.** Check addendums and alterations for agreed terms
- 97.** Review the buyer's closing statement to ensure accuracy
- 98.** Explain wire fraud risks and remind clients to verify all wiring instructions before transferring funds
- 99.** Double-check all tax, homeowners' association dues, utility, and applicable prorations, if relevant
- 100.** Request final closing figures from the closing agent (often an attorney or title company)
- 101.** Receive and carefully review closing figures to ensure accuracy
- 102.** Receive and carefully review title insurance commitment with the buyer
- 103.** Advise the buyer to re-key their locks and to consider a one-time cleaning service or landscaping before moving day
- 104.** Review documents with the closing agent (attorney)
- 105.** Support the buyer in any final closing activities

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PROTECT YOUR INTERESTS**

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Actual services provided will depend on the needs of the buyer and the transaction – not all 105 things will need to be done in every transaction.

Featured content from the Center for REALTOR Development's Accredited Buyer's Representative (ABR®) Designation Course.

Visit crd.realtor to learn more.