



TIPS FOR BUYERS



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Daniel Hodgins Reno Realtor is a top real estate agent in Reno, Sparks, Carson City, Incline Village, Fernley, Fallon, and the surrounding communities of Northern Nevada.

As a Nevada Native, my earliest memories are of my childhood in Incline Village and spending summers on Lake Tahoe. After moving around during my middle and high school years (Wisconsin, Florida, the Caribbean, British Columbia), I returned to my roots to attend UNR. I graduated with a BS in International Business, with a minor in economics. I've lived and worked in Reno ever since, and love all of the opportunities our vibrant, growing community offers. Our diverse economy is fueled by an ever growing number of companies. Combined with activities from skiing, boating, and hiking, to concerts, events, and an ever growing food scene, Northern Nevada offers something for everyone to enjoy.

I spent many years working for large corporations in the telecommunications industry, first in sales, then in training and leadership roles. During that time I developed a passion for creating an incredible customer experience. The core of my philosophy is that my client should have to exert as little effort as possible to reach their real estate goals.

After watching countless friends and family find security, and even wealth, through their homes and investment properties, I recognized that real estate was the key to success. I bought my first home at 21 and have continued to grow ever since.

While I have always had a passion for real estate, it wasn't until a friend introduced me to two things: eXp Realty and the USAHomebids.com platform, that I became a Realtor.

eXp Realty offers the freedom to focus on the clients I want to, while also providing industry leading support. No matter what my client needs, I have immediate access to the information and resources to help them.

The USAHomebids.com platform takes one of the most frustrating parts of selling and buying real estate, the offer and negotiation process, and makes it transparent and simple for everyone. It makes the bidding process visible to all parties. But unlike many web offerings, both the buyer and seller continue to get full representation throughout the process, helping them avoid the many pitfalls of real estate.

eXp Realty plus USAHomebids.com give me the tools I need to create an effortless customer experience for my clients.

Be Prepared and Ready to Strike



With the fastest market in history, homes are selling at record speed. When a home hits the market that you might be interested in, go see it! Don't wait! In a sellers market due to low inventory levels, buyers have to be more aggressive in order to be successful in their homeownership goals. The average number of homes with multiple offers in California is almost 8 out of 10 homes. If you plan on waiting for the open house, good luck.

Even with the best Real Estate Agent, buying a home in a sellers' market can take a lot of your time, so be prepared, be flexible, be ready to move quickly, and be decisive. Now, having said that, don't be too impulsive or too compromising. Urgency is key but don't let it rule your decision either. The right home will show up eventually. Buying a home, whether it's your first home, your forever home, or your retirement home, is a big decision and the last thing you should want is buyer's remorse.



Full price offers are common, and even a few homes are going over the asking price in a bidding war with motivated buyers. So just what is it that a buyer should do to succeed when they find a home you've fallen in love with and can't see yourself in any other home?

Show You Are A Serious Buyer

Showing sellers and their Agent that you are a serious buyer is imperative to success. No one wants to waste their time, including you. Seller's expect Agents to open their homes only to those who are qualified in advance to purchase a home. Plus, if you find that perfect home, you need to be ready to get an offer in, which you can't do without financing approvals. So, here are the first 5 steps to show you are serious:



Step 1.

Before you do anything, secure your financing. Deciding on a lender that you are confident in working with is also important. Meeting with two or three will help you decide who will be the best fit for now and years to come.

Step 2.

Gather all of needed documents your lender requests. Be quick to respond to any additional needs and understand they are working on your behalf.



Step 3.

Complete the loan application. You will now know how much home you can qualify for and determine what you are comfortable paying for your new home.



Show You Are A Serious Buyer



Step 4.

Once you have been preapproved, have your lender provide the pre-approval letter. This letter shows the seller that you have been vetted financially while giving you an idea of how much you can afford.

Step 5.

Keep your documents up to date and stored where you can get your hands on them on a moments notice. It's likely you will have to provide the bank statements and pay stubs again, when you are in contract.

A photograph of two women standing outdoors in front of a large, white house with a porch. The woman on the left is wearing a grey blazer and holding a folder, while the woman on the right is wearing a yellow top and a white bag. They appear to be in conversation. In the background, a man and a child are also visible.

Now that you have your financing, you should be able to shop with confidence, knowing what you can afford, what your budget is and you are prepared to make a strong offer when you find that home you love.

Making a Strong Offer

In a Seller's Market environment, buying the first home a buyer wants may be difficult! It may take a few offers to get accepted. It doesn't hurt to have a war chest of strategies to help your odds in getting your offer accepted.

Tip 1.

Don't low-ball the seller. Be prepared to pay fair market value. Low-balling may alienate the seller right off the bat. And it wastes everyone's time. Plus while you are messing around, chances are another offer is being accepted. Get serious.



Tip 2.

Be flexible with your timing. The more flexible you are with the timing of the seller's move, as to how quickly or slowly their needs are to move can give you a great advantage over other offers.

Tip 3.

Put your best offer as your first offer. You may only get one chance to come in at the top dollar you are willing to pay for the home or that your lender is willing to lend based on your income and credit score.



Making a Strong Offer

An offer \$10,000 over the asking price with \$10,000 in contributions from the seller is a greater risk to a seller, as far as the home appraising, than an offer at asking price with no seller contributions.

Tip 4.

Increase Your Earnest Money deposit. A larger earnest money deposit may appeal to a seller. Ask your agent for advice. You might consider doubling or tripling that amount. You're going to pay it anyway at closing.



Tip 5.

Don't request favors of the sellers. Asking for additional appliances, furniture, fixtures, or repaint the front door could hurt your offer and get you put at the bottom of the pile.

Tip 6.

Limit the contingencies. Get a pre-inspection. Anything you can do to speed up the buying process and make it easier for the seller might improve your chances.



The Right Agent



Choosing a “buyers” Real Estate Agent is an absolute must in the seller’s market environment. The seller’s market is the most competitive and aggressive housing market to be in when trying to succeed at purchasing a home for you and your family. And it’s emotional. A good buyers agent should be able to accommodate your schedule to view homes, have offers ready to be delivered, and respond to you quickly. If your agent doesn’t show homes evenings or weekends, or has poor response times, they might not be the right agent in this market. It can cost a buyer the opportunity to buy their dream home.

A good buyer’s agent also needs to have the ability to advise you on the best offer strategy and then to be a strong negotiator on your behalf. A big part of a buyers success in a bidding war is the experience and skill of their Real Estate Agent.



If you love the house, chances are someone else might love it too. Your Agent will be a big resource when it comes to submitting an attractive offer. If you hired them for their skill and knowledge, taking their advice might be prudent.