

WORKSHEET

Your Reality Check

Again, if a wish list is everything you want in a home, a reality check is everything you can't live without. For example, you may want a four-bedroom home, but you absolutely need three bedrooms. You may want a large garden, but you really need a place to hang out outside, have your children or dogs play safely, and grill hotdogs and burgers for your friends. Your reality check may include many of the same items as your wish list, but perhaps in a pared-down version. This is the place where you want to be completely honest about the minimum you need to live comfortably in your new home.

Ideally, each spouse or partner does his or her own reality check. Afterward, you should sit together and work through each item. You'll be able to afford only one home, so you should end up with one list of basic needs and one list of wants.

| | REALITY CHECK ITEM | YOUR RANK | SPOUSE OR PARTNER'S RANK | CHILD/OTHER BUYER'S RANK |
|----|---------------------------|------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| 1 | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
| 2 | _____ | _____ | _____ | _____ |
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