

What's the "Lifestyle" Score for your Home?

In the business world, a phrase that's often used is ROI or Return On Investment. It refers to the regular gain (or loss) you're getting from a particular asset relative to its cost.

When it comes to your home, the gain may be more than financial. It may include the benefit of the lifestyle it gives you. For example, a spacious backyard deck pays off in countless pleasant Saturdays with friends and family. A home's location near convenient commuting routes means less stress getting to and from work.

Lifestyle factors are important, not only when considering where you're living now, but also when considering where you think you'd like to live in the future.

That's why it's a good idea to do a Lifestyle Assessment regularly. The exercise is simple. Make a list of all the lifestyle characteristics you want in a home, as well as a neighbourhood. Think about how much room you need, the kind of neighbourhood you want to live in, your hobbies and interests, what's important to have nearby (such as schools), and so forth.

The next step is to prioritize. Move items on your list around so that the most important lifestyle factors are at the top.

Finally, review the list and check off those lifestyle



factors your home is currently providing.

If you're able to check off most (ideally, all) of the items at the top of your list, you're in pretty good shape. Your current home is probably giving you the lifestyle you want.

But if some important lifestyle factors are unchecked, it might be worth considering whether buying a new home will give you a better "Lifestyle ROI".

If, after doing this exercise, you're curious about how to get into your ideal home, call me.

How to Fix Common Floor Cracks and Stains

When you're selling your home, you want it to look its best to buyers. Unfortunately, buyers are likely to notice any cracks or stains on your floor.

Luckily, there are many do-it-yourself solutions to help make your floors look significantly better.

Let's start with stains.

If you have carpeting, there are a number of spot cleaning products on the market. But before you try one of those, consider this simple remedy. Sprinkle a little baking soda on the stain and then add just enough drops of white vinegar to make it bubble. Wait two minutes. Then, dab carefully with

a paper towel and vacuum the residual. This method often works.

For hard floors, gentle rubbing with warm water will take care of most stains. If you have hardwood floors, don't let the area remain wet. Dry it completely.

Ceramic tile floors often have old, discoloured grout that is an eyesore. Of course, there are products available to clean grout. But try using an old toothbrush and water before investing in those products. Scrub the grout gently. Then mop the entire area.

If you have minor damage to a section of hardwood floor or floor tiles — for example, a chip or crack — the best solution is replacement. Unfortunately, this isn't a DIY-friendly job, so unless you've done it successfully before, consider hiring a contractor.

If the crack is minor and you don't want to replace the piece, there are sealing products available, which will camouflage the crack — to some extent — and prevent it from getting worse.

If you have a flooring crack or stain you're concerned about, try these tips. Also, check out your local home improvement centre for more ideas.

Think, Act... Live!

"You are braver than you believe, stronger than you seem, and smarter than you think." [Christopher Robin](#)

"Talk to yourself like you would someone you love." [Brene Brown](#)

"Confidence comes not from always being right but from not fearing to be wrong." [Peter McIntyre](#)