

The Need ... Want ... Like list

How to set up the list

In the left-hand column put all the essentials of your new home. These are things you could not live without, such as the number of rooms, secure parking, level access - basically all the essential things that your home must have. Obviously these are different for different people. Include, of course, the absolute maximum of your affordable price range.

In the middle column put the things that you really want but could live without, at a pinch, such as a large kitchen or a view or a balcony.

Some people couldn't live without a balcony or deck. Maybe they have pets or they smoke. Some people would like a timber floor for the aesthetics, others might need one for hygiene and allergy reasons. Only you can tell what is essential and what is desirable.

Finally there the "like" column - things you'd prefer to have but could easily live without.

How to use the list

Looking at property ads, discard any that don't tick all the boxes in the "Need" column. This will cut your search down to a manageable level and save you from wasting hours of time.

Then you should look first at properties that have most of the elements listed in the second column. This is especially useful if you have two or more similar properties viewing at the same time.

Finally, if you have to choose between two or more properties, or decide how hard you want to go for one that you like, see how many items it has in your "like" or wish-list column.

Here's a sample (there's a blank form on the next page): As you'll see, any of these elements could be interchangeable between the columns. But, when you've actually seen what's on offer, while you might want to move things between *Need* and *Want*, and *Want* and *Like*, if you find you're changing stuff between *Need* and *Like*, you don't really know what you want and need to think about this a bit harder.

What you really need	What you really want	What'd you'd also like
2 bedrooms	Large kitchen	In-ground pool
Secure parking	Deck	Near gym
Near railway station	Mature garden	Handy for shops
Near schools	Privacy	
Level access (no stairs)	Near cafes	
Office or work area	Quiet area	
Secure storage		

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[illegible]