

Visiting an open home

Open homes are the best way to find out if a property is right for you. They're a chance to check the layout and size of the rooms, to get a sense of the neighbourhood and to see what the area has to offer. If you're heading to an open home, here's a checklist of things to look for:

Inside the home

- Ask if the home has ceiling and floor insulation
- Bathroom and kitchen extractor fans and any other ventilation sources are in working order
- Heating sources are present and in working order
- Windows are double-glazed
- Carpets and other flooring are in good condition and flush with walls
- Doors are in good condition, open and shut correctly and are flush with their frames
- Windows are in good condition, open and shut correctly and are flush with their frames
- Power points are connected and working
- Lighting fixtures are connected and working
- Stove, oven and any other cooking facilities are connected and working
- Kitchen taps are working with no leaks and have suitable pressure
- Bathroom taps, shower and bath are working with no leaks and have suitable pressure
- Bedroomshave wardrobes or other storage
- Hallway has suitable storage
- Garage (if applicable) has suitable storage
- All locks on external doors are working properly
- All windows have security latches or stays
- Any damage in all rooms
- The home is free of visible mould, odours and smoking stains

Outside the home

- External walls are free of cracks or damage and paint is in a suitable condition
- The roof and drainpipes are free of damage and paint is in a suitable condition
- Pathways and paving are in a suitable condition
- Lawns and garden are in a suitable condition
- Any other outdoor structures like decks or patios are in a suitable condition
- Underfloor insulation is present and the area is dry
- Drains and gutters are free of any damage or blockages
- Retaining walls are free of any cracks, damage or bowing

Surrounding area

- There is suitable parking on the property and/or in the street
- Any shared spaces (where applicable) like pools, gyms or garden spaces are suitable and well maintained
- Neighbourhood access to healthcare, public transport and other needs