Questions to Ask Your Home Builder

When you are thinking about buying a new home, selecting the right home builder is a key step in creating the home of your dreams. You should feel comfortable asking a potential home builder every question that you think is important. A professional builder or sales representative will want to make you a happy and satisfied homeowner.

Besides the questions of "How much does it cost?," and "When can we move in?," here are some other questions you should ask:

Will the builder give you references of recent buyers/occupants?

Does the builder have a financing plan established?

Are there options in the floor plan — for example, can a basement or deck be added?

Can a room such as the basement be left unfinished?

How much "customizing" can be done versus standard features?

Can appliances be up- or down-graded?

Are there any additional fees relating to the home or development?

Will there be a homeowners' association? If so, what will the dues cost and what do they cover?

Does the builder offer a warranty program?

Does the price include landscaping? What if the plants die within a year?

Are there any restrictive covenants?

What are the estimated taxes on the property?

How is the school system rated?

Are day care and grocery stores convenient and satisfactory?

What about emergency facilities — police, fire department and hospitals?

Are there any major development plans for the area in the next five years?

