



*Arizona Department of Real Estate*

## **BUYER ADVISORY**

A resource for real estate consumers

*provided by the*

*Arizona Association of REALTORS®*

A real estate agent is vital to the purchase of real property and can provide a variety of services in locating a property, negotiating the sale, and advising the buyer. A real estate agent is generally not qualified to discover defects or evaluate the physical condition of property; however, a real estate agent can assist a buyer in finding qualified inspectors and provide the buyer with documents and other resources containing vital information about a prospective property.

This advisory is designed to make the purchase of real property as smooth as possible. Some of the more common issues that a buyer may decide to investigate or verify concerning a property purchase are summarized in this Advisory. Included in this Advisory are: (1) common documents a buyer should review; (2) physical conditions in the property the buyer should investigate; and (3) conditions affecting the surrounding area that the buyer should investigate. In addition, a buyer must communicate to the real estate agents in the transaction any special concerns the buyer may have about the property or surrounding area, whether or not those issues are addressed in this Advisory.

***REMEMBER:*** *This Advisory is supplemental to obtaining professional property inspections. Professional property inspections are absolutely essential: there is no practical substitute for a professional inspection as a measure to discover and investigate defects or shortcomings in a property.*

### **COMMON DOCUMENTS A BUYER SHOULD REVIEW**

*The documents listed below may not be relevant in every transaction, nor is the list exhaustive. Unless otherwise stated, the real estate agent has not independently verified the information contained in these documents.*

#### **Purchase Contract**

Buyers should protect themselves by taking the time to read the real estate purchase contract and understand their legal rights and obligations before they submit an offer to buy a property. Sample AAR forms are at [www.aaronline.com/ForRealtors/Forms/](http://www.aaronline.com/ForRealtors/Forms/).

#### **MLS Printout**

A listing is an agreement between the seller and the listing broker and may authorize the broker to submit information to the Multiple Listing Service (“MLS”). The MLS printout is similar to an advertisement. Neither the listing agreement nor the printout is a part of the purchase contract between the buyer and seller. The information in the MLS printout was probably secured from the seller, the builder, or a governmental agency, and could be inaccurate, incomplete or an approximation. Therefore, the buyer should verify any important information contained in the MLS.

#### **The Subdivision Public Report**

A Public Report is intended to point out material information about a subdivision. Subdividers (*any person who offers for sale or lease six or more lots in a subdivision or who causes land to be divided into a subdivision*) are required to give buyers an ADRE Public Report. Read the Public Report before signing any contract to purchase property in a subdivision. Although some of the information may become outdated, subsequent buyers can also benefit from reviewing the Public Report. Public Reports dating from January 1, 1997, are available on the ADRE website at <http://159.87.254.2/publicdatabase/>. The ADRE does not verify the information in the Public Report, therefore the Report could be inaccurate so it should be verified. For additional information, go to [www.azre.gov/PUBLIC\\_INFO/Documents/Property\\_Buyer\\_Checklist.html](http://www.azre.gov/PUBLIC_INFO/Documents/Property_Buyer_Checklist.html)

### **Seller's Property Disclosure Statement ("SPDS")**

Most sellers provide a SPDS. This document poses a variety of questions for the seller to answer about the property and its condition. The real estate broker is not responsible for verifying the accuracy of the items on the SPDS; therefore, a buyer should carefully review the SPDS and verify those statements of concern. View sample SPDS forms at [www.aaronline.com/ForRealtors/Forms/](http://www.aaronline.com/ForRealtors/Forms/). Also review [www.azre.gov/PUBLIC\\_INFO/Documents/Property\\_Buyer\\_Checklist.html](http://www.azre.gov/PUBLIC_INFO/Documents/Property_Buyer_Checklist.html).

### **Covenants, Conditions and Restrictions ("CC&Rs")**

The CC&Rs are recorded against the property and generally empower a homeowner's association to control certain aspects of property use within the development. By purchasing a property in such a development, the buyer agrees to be bound by the CC&Rs. The association, the property owners as a whole, and individual property owners can enforce the contract. It is essential that the buyer review and agree to these restrictions prior to purchasing a property. See [www.realtor.com/BASICS/condos/ccr.asp](http://www.realtor.com/BASICS/condos/ccr.asp). The ADRE advises: "Read the deed restrictions, also called CC&Rs (covenants, conditions and restrictions). You might find some of the CC&Rs are very strict." [www.azre.gov/PUBLIC\\_INFO/Documents/Property\\_Buyer\\_Checklist.html](http://www.azre.gov/PUBLIC_INFO/Documents/Property_Buyer_Checklist.html)  
Buyers should consult legal counsel if uncertain of the application of particular provisions in the CC&Rs.

### **Homeowner's Association ("HOA") Governing Documents**

In addition to CC&Rs, HOAs may be governed by Articles of Incorporation, Bylaws, Rules and Regulations, and often architectural control standards. Read and understand these documents. Also, be aware that some HOAs impose fees that must be paid when the property is sold, so ask if the purchase of the property will result in any fees. Condominium and planned community HOAs are regulated by Arizona statutes; however, they are not under the jurisdiction of the Department of Real Estate. If you have questions about your rights and remedies regarding homeowner's associations or community associations, read the information provided at [www.azre.gov/PUBLIC\\_INFO/Documents/Purchasing\\_A\\_Home\\_Read\\_This.html#LINK11](http://www.azre.gov/PUBLIC_INFO/Documents/Purchasing_A_Home_Read_This.html#LINK11) or [www.dfbls.az.gov/UserFiles/File/administration/HOA%20Package04012007.pdf](http://www.dfbls.az.gov/UserFiles/File/administration/HOA%20Package04012007.pdf)

### **HOA Disclosures**

If purchasing a resale home in a condominium or planned community, the seller (if fewer than 50 units in the community) or the HOA (if there are 50 or more units) must provide the buyer with a disclosure containing a variety of information. See [www.azleg.state.az.us/ars/33/01260.htm](http://www.azleg.state.az.us/ars/33/01260.htm) and [www.azleg.state.az.us/ars/33/01806.htm](http://www.azleg.state.az.us/ars/33/01806.htm) for the laws detailing these requirements.

### **Title Report or Title Commitment**

The title report or commitment contains important information and is provided to the buyer by the title/escrow company or agent. This report or commitment lists documents that are exceptions to the title insurance (Schedule B Exceptions). Schedule B Exceptions may include encumbrances, easements, and liens against the property, some of which may affect the use of the property, such as a future addition or swimming pool. Make sure you receive and review all of the listed documents. Questions about the title commitment and Schedule B documents may be answered by the title or escrow officer, legal counsel, or a surveyor. General information regarding title issues may be found at [www.alta.org/consumer/questions.cfm](http://www.alta.org/consumer/questions.cfm).

### **Loan Documents**

Unless a buyer is paying cash, the buyer must qualify for a loan in order to complete the purchase. A buyer should complete a loan application with a lender before making an offer on a property if at all possible and, if not, immediately after making an offer. It will be the buyer's responsibility to deposit any down payment and insure that the buyer's lender deposits the remainder of the purchase price into escrow prior to the close of escrow date. Therefore, make sure you get all requested documentation to your lender as soon as possible. For information on loans and the lending process, visit the following websites:  
Ginnie Mae: [www.ginniemae.gov/2\\_prequal/intro\\_questions.asp?Section=YPTH](http://www.ginniemae.gov/2_prequal/intro_questions.asp?Section=YPTH)  
HUD: [www.hud.gov/](http://www.hud.gov/)  
Mortgage Bankers Association: [www.homeloanlearningcenter.com/default.htm](http://www.homeloanlearningcenter.com/default.htm)  
National Association of Mortgage Brokers: [www.namb.org/namb/Home\\_Buyers\\_Home.asp?SnID=382338594](http://www.namb.org/namb/Home_Buyers_Home.asp?SnID=382338594)

### **Home Warranty Policy**

A home warranty may be part of the sale of the home. Buyers should read the home warranty document for coverage and limitation information. Be aware that pre-existing property conditions are generally not covered under these policies.

### **Affidavit of Disclosure**

If the buyer is purchasing five or fewer parcels of land (whether improved or vacant), other than subdivided land, in an unincorporated area of a county, the seller must furnish the buyer with an Affidavit of Disclosure. A sample form is located at [www.aaronline.com/documents/affidavit.aspx](http://www.aaronline.com/documents/affidavit.aspx).

### **Lead-Based Paint Disclosure Form**

If the home was built prior to 1978, the seller must provide the buyer with a lead-based paint disclosure form. Information about lead-based paint may be obtained at [www.azre.gov/PUBLIC\\_INFO/Documents/Purchasing\\_A\\_Home\\_Read\\_This.html#LINK12](http://www.azre.gov/PUBLIC_INFO/Documents/Purchasing_A_Home_Read_This.html#LINK12) or [www.epa.gov/lead/](http://www.epa.gov/lead/).

### **County Assessors/Tax Records**

The county assessor's records contain a variety of valuable information, including the assessed value of the property for tax purposes and some of the physical aspects of the property, such as the reported square footage. The date built information in the assessor's records can be either the actual or effective/weighted age if the residence has been remodeled. All information on the site should be verified for accuracy. Information is available on county websites:

Coconino: [www.coconino.az.gov/](http://www.coconino.az.gov/)

Maricopa: [www.maricopa.gov/assessor](http://www.maricopa.gov/assessor) and <http://treasurer.maricopa.gov/parcels/>

Pima: [www.co.pima.az.us/navigate.aspx?L1=1&L2=11](http://www.co.pima.az.us/navigate.aspx?L1=1&L2=11)

Yavapai: [www.co.yavapai.az.us/](http://www.co.yavapai.az.us/)

Other counties: [www.az.gov/webapp/portal](http://www.az.gov/webapp/portal)

### **Professional Inspection Report**

The importance of having a property inspected by a professional inspector cannot be over-emphasized. An inspection is a visual physical examination,

performed for a fee, designed to identify material defects in the property. The inspector will generally provide the buyer with a report detailing information about the property's condition. The buyer should carefully review this report with the inspector and ask the inspector about any item of concern. Pay attention to the scope of the inspection and any portions of the property excluded from the inspection. A list of certified home inspectors may be found at the Arizona Board of Technical Registration website, [www.btr.state.az.us](http://www.btr.state.az.us). Additional information on inspections may be found at [www.ashi.com](http://www.ashi.com), and guidance on hiring a home inspector may be found at [www.realtor.com/basics/buy/inspnegot/hire.asp?gate=realtor&poe=propertystore](http://www.realtor.com/basics/buy/inspnegot/hire.asp?gate=realtor&poe=propertystore)

### **Termites and Other Wood Destroying Insects and Organisms**

Termites are commonly found in some parts of Arizona. The Structural Pest Control Commission ("SPCC") regulates pest inspectors and can provide the buyer with information regarding past termite treatments on a property by calling 800-223-0618. The SPCC publication, *What You Should Know About Wood Infestation Reports*, can be found at [www.sb.state.az.us/TermiteInsp.php](http://www.sb.state.az.us/TermiteInsp.php). Additional information may be obtained at the SPCC website at [www.sb.state.az.us](http://www.sb.state.az.us).

### **COMMON PHYSICAL CONDITIONS IN THE PROPERTY A BUYER SHOULD INVESTIGATE**

*Every buyer and every property is different, so the physical property conditions requiring investigation will vary.*

### **Repairs and New Construction**

The seller may have made repairs or added a room to the property. The buyer should feel comfortable that the work was properly done or have an expert evaluate the work. Request copies of permits, invoices or other documentation regarding the work performed. The Registrar of Contractors' ("ROC") publication, *Hiring a Licensed Contractor*, is available on the ROC website, [www.rc.state.az.us/Consumer\\_menu.html](http://www.rc.state.az.us/Consumer_menu.html). The Arizona Chapter of the National Association of the Remodeling Industry may be contacted at <http://aznari.com/>. For information regarding permits, contact the city or county building department.

## Roof

If the roof is 10 years old or older, a roof inspection by a licensed roofer is highly recommended. See the ROC information on hiring a licensed contractor online at [www.rc.state.az.us/Consumer\\_menu.html](http://www.rc.state.az.us/Consumer_menu.html) or the Arizona Roofing Contractors Association at [www.azroofing.org](http://www.azroofing.org).

## Swimming Pools and Spas

If the property has a pool or a spa, the home inspector may exclude the pool or spa from the general inspection so an inspection by a pool or spa company may be necessary. **Barriers:** Further, each city and county has its own swimming pool barrier ordinance. Pool barrier contact information for Arizona cities and counties may be found at [www.aaronline.com/documents/pool\\_contacts.aspx](http://www.aaronline.com/documents/pool_contacts.aspx). The Arizona Department of Health Services Private Pool Safety notice may be found at [http://azdhs.gov/phs/oe/pool\\_rules.htm](http://azdhs.gov/phs/oe/pool_rules.htm). The state law on swimming pools is located at [www.azleg.state.az.us/ars/36/01681.htm](http://www.azleg.state.az.us/ars/36/01681.htm).

## Square Footage

Square footage on the MLS printout or as listed by the county assessor's records is often only an estimate and generally should not be relied upon for the exact square footage in a property. An appraiser or architect can measure the property's size to verify the square footage. If the square footage is important, you should have it confirmed by one of these experts during the inspection period in a resale transaction and prior to executing a contract in a new home transaction. A list of appraisers may be found at the Arizona Board of Appraisal, [www.appraisal.state.az.us/directory/Default.aspx](http://www.appraisal.state.az.us/directory/Default.aspx). A list of architects may be found at the Board of Technical Registration, [www.btr.state.az.us](http://www.btr.state.az.us).

## Sewer

Even if the listing or SPDS indicates that the property is connected to the city sewer, a plumber, home inspector, or other professional should verify it. Some counties and cities can perform this test as well.

## Septic and Other On-Site Wastewater Treatment Facilities

If the home is not connected to a public sewer, it is probably served by an on-site wastewater treatment facility (septic or alternative system). A qualified inspector must inspect any such facility six months prior to transfer of ownership. For information on current inspection and transfer of ownership

requirements, contact the county environmental/health agency or the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality at [www.azdeq.gov/environ/water/permits/onsitenot.html](http://www.azdeq.gov/environ/water/permits/onsitenot.html).

## Water/Well Issues

You should investigate the availability and quality of the water to the property. For information on wells and assured/adequate water, go to [www.azwater.gov/dwr/Content/Find\\_by\\_Program/Wells/default.htm](http://www.azwater.gov/dwr/Content/Find_by_Program/Wells/default.htm) or [www.azwater.gov/WaterManagement\\_2005/Content/OAAWS/default.asp](http://www.azwater.gov/WaterManagement_2005/Content/OAAWS/default.asp).

**Adjudications:** Arizona is undertaking several General Stream Adjudications, which are court proceedings to determine the extent and priority of water rights in an entire river system. For information regarding water uses and watersheds affected by these adjudications, and the forms upon sale of the property, contact the Department of Water Resources at [www.azwater.gov/dwr/Content/Find\\_by\\_Program/Adjudications/default.htm](http://www.azwater.gov/dwr/Content/Find_by_Program/Adjudications/default.htm). Additionally, the Verde Valley Water Users assists members in matters pertaining to the Gila River System Adjudication. [www.verdevalleywaterusers.org/homepage.htm](http://www.verdevalleywaterusers.org/homepage.htm)

**CAGRDs:** The Central Arizona Groundwater Replenishment District (CAGRD) functions to replenish groundwater used by its members, individual subdivisions ("member lands") and service areas of member water providers ("member service areas"). Homeowners in a CAGRD pay an annual assessment fee which is collected through the county property tax process based on the amount of groundwater served to member homes. To learn more about CAGRD, membership visit [www.cagr.com](http://www.cagr.com).

## Soil Problems

The soil in some areas of Arizona has "clay-like" tendencies, sometimes referred to as "expansive soil." To investigate areas in Arizona where expansive soils exist, go to [www.az.nrcs.usda.gov](http://www.az.nrcs.usda.gov) (search "shrink/swell") or [www.azgs.az.gov](http://www.azgs.az.gov) ("Geologic Hazards"). Other areas are subject to fissures, subsidence and other soil conditions. For information on earth fissures, visit [www.azwater.gov/dwr/Content/Hot\\_Topics/Earth\\_Fissures\\_in\\_Arizona/Earth\\_Fissures\\_in\\_Arizona.pdf](http://www.azwater.gov/dwr/Content/Hot_Topics/Earth_Fissures_in_Arizona/Earth_Fissures_in_Arizona.pdf). Properties built on such soils may experience significant movement causing a major problem. If it has been disclosed that the property is subject to any such soil conditions or if the buyer has any concerns about the soil condition or observes evidence of cracking, the buyer should secure an independent assessment of the property and its structural

integrity by a licensed, bonded, and insured professional engineer. A list of state certified professional engineers and firms can be found at [www.btr.state.az.us](http://www.btr.state.az.us).

### **Previous Fire/Flood**

If it is disclosed there has been a fire or flood on the property, a qualified inspector should be hired to advise you regarding any possible future problems as a result of the fire or flood damage and/or any subsequent repairs. For example, if the property was not properly cleaned after a flood, mold issues may result. Your insurance agent may be able to assist you in obtaining information regarding fire, flood, or other past damage to the property.

### **Pests**

Cockroaches, rattlesnakes, black widow spiders, scorpions, termites and other pests are common in parts of Arizona. Fortunately, most pests can be controlled with pesticides. **Scorpions:** Scorpions, on the other hand, may be difficult to eliminate. If the buyer has any concerns or if the SPDS indicates the seller has seen scorpions or other pests on the property, seek the advice of a pest control company. A source of information on scorpions may be found at [www.desertusa.com/oct96/du\\_scorpion.html](http://www.desertusa.com/oct96/du_scorpion.html). **Roof Rats:** For information on roof rats, which have been reported in some areas, go to [www.maricopa.gov/EnvSvc/VectorControl/RR/RRInfo.aspx](http://www.maricopa.gov/EnvSvc/VectorControl/RR/RRInfo.aspx). **Termites and bark beetles:** For information on termites or bark beetles, which have been reported in some forested areas, see [www.sb.state.az.us/](http://www.sb.state.az.us/).

### **Endangered and Threatened Species**

Certain areas in the state may have issues related to federally listed endangered or threatened species that may affect land uses. Further information may be obtained by going to the following U.S. Fish and Wildlife website, [www.fws.gov/southwest/es/arizona/](http://www.fws.gov/southwest/es/arizona/), or contact the appropriate planning/development service department.

### **Deaths and Felonies on the Property**

An Arizona law states that sellers and real estate licensees have no liability for failure to disclose to a buyer that the property was ever the site of a natural death, suicide, murder or felony, [www.azleg.state.az.us/ars/32/02156.htm](http://www.azleg.state.az.us/ars/32/02156.htm). This information is often difficult to uncover; however, the local law enforcement agency may be able to identify calls made to the property address.

### **Indoor Environmental Concerns**

**Mold:** Mold has always been with us, and it is a rare property that does not have some mold. However, over the past few years a certain kind of mold has been identified as a possible contributor to illnesses. Allergic individuals may experience symptoms related to mold. The Arizona Department of Health Services, Office of Environmental Health, states: "If you can see mold, or if there is an earthy or musty odor, you can assume you have a mold problem." [www.hs.state.az.us/phs/oe/invsurv/air\\_qual/mold\\_contents.htm](http://www.hs.state.az.us/phs/oe/invsurv/air_qual/mold_contents.htm) The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and Centers for Disease Control and Prevention websites also contain valuable information: [www.epa.gov/iaq/molds/moldresources.html](http://www.epa.gov/iaq/molds/moldresources.html) and [www.cdc.gov/mold/default.htm](http://www.cdc.gov/mold/default.htm).

**Radon gas and carbon monoxide:** Radon gas and carbon monoxide poisoning are two of the more common and potentially serious indoor air quality ("IAQ") concerns. Both of these concerns can be addressed by the home inspector, usually for an additional fee. For information on radon levels in the state, go to [www.arra.state.az.us/radon.htm](http://www.arra.state.az.us/radon.htm).

**Clandestine drug labs:** For information on remediation of clandestine drug laboratories, and to view a list of seized homes, visit the Board of Technical Registration website at [www.azbtr.gov/listings/drug\\_lab\\_site\\_clean\\_up.asp](http://www.azbtr.gov/listings/drug_lab_site_clean_up.asp).

**Other:** For information on other indoor environmental concerns, the EPA has a host of resource materials and pamphlets available at [www.epa.gov/iaq/iaqinfo.html](http://www.epa.gov/iaq/iaqinfo.html) and [www.epa.gov/iaq/pubs/index.html](http://www.epa.gov/iaq/pubs/index.html).

### **Property Boundaries**

If the property boundaries are of concern, a survey may be warranted. For example, a survey may be advisable if there is an obvious use of property by others (i.e., a well-worn path across a property and/or parked cars on the property) or fences or structures of adjacent property owners that appear to be built on the property. For more information, visit the Arizona Professional Land Surveyors website at [www.azpls.org](http://www.azpls.org). A list of surveyors may be obtained from the Board of Technical Registration at [www.btr.state.az.us](http://www.btr.state.az.us).

### **Flood Plain Status**

If the property is in a flood zone, an additional annual insurance premium of several hundred dollars may be required (check with your insurance agent about cost and coverage). If the property is in an area deemed high risk, the

buyer may be required by the lender to obtain flood hazard insurance through the National Flood Insurance Program. Find details on flood plain status at: Maricopa County: [www.fcd.maricopa.gov/](http://www.fcd.maricopa.gov/) Pima County: [www.rfcd.pima.gov](http://www.rfcd.pima.gov) Other parts of the state: [www.azgs.az.gov/index.htm](http://www.azgs.az.gov/index.htm) FEMA's Flood Map Service Center: [www.fema.gov/hazard/flood/index.shtm](http://www.fema.gov/hazard/flood/index.shtm)

### **Insurance (Claims History)**

Many factors affect the availability and cost of homeowner's insurance. Some insurance companies use a database known as the Comprehensive Loss Underwriting Exchange ("C.L.U.E.") in their underwriting practices to track the insurance claim history of a property and of the person applying for insurance coverage. Property owners may request a five year claims history from their insurance agent or purchase a C.L.U.E. report online at [www.choicetrust.com](http://www.choicetrust.com) or by calling 866-527-2600. For additional insurance information, visit the Arizona Department of Insurance website at [www.id.state.az.us/](http://www.id.state.az.us/) and read "The New Reality of Property Insurance - What You Should Know" at [www.aaronline.com/documents/insurance.pdf](http://www.aaronline.com/documents/insurance.pdf).

### **Other Property Conditions**

**Plumbing:** Check functionality. Also, a national class action suit has been settled, providing relief for qualifying leaks in polybutylene pipes (PB). For more information, see [www.pbpipe.com/index1.htm](http://www.pbpipe.com/index1.htm) or [www.aaronline.com/documents/polyb.aspx](http://www.aaronline.com/documents/polyb.aspx) or [www.polybutylene.com/selling.html](http://www.polybutylene.com/selling.html)

**Cooling/Heating:** Make sure the cooling and heating systems are adequate. Arizona State Chapter affiliate of the Air Conditioning Contractors of America: [www.acca-az.org/](http://www.acca-az.org/).

**Electrical systems:** Check for function and safety.

### **CONDITIONS AFFECTING THE AREA SURROUNDING THE PROPERTY THE BUYER SHOULD INVESTIGATE**

*Every property is unique; therefore, important conditions vary.*

#### **Environmental Concerns**

It is often very difficult to identify environmental hazards. For environmental information, search the ADEQ website at [www.adeq.state.az.us](http://www.adeq.state.az.us). The ADEQ website contains information regarding the locations of open and closed

landfills (Solid Waste Facilities) at [www.adeq.state.az.us/environ/waste/solid/other.html](http://www.adeq.state.az.us/environ/waste/solid/other.html) and wildfire information at [www.adeq.state.az.us/function/about/wildfire.html](http://www.adeq.state.az.us/function/about/wildfire.html), as well as air quality information, water quality information and more.

***Environmentally Sensitive Land Ordinance:*** Approximately two-thirds of the City of Scottsdale is affected by the Environmentally Sensitive Land Ordinance (ESLO), which requires some areas on private property be retained in their natural state and designated as National Area Open Space (NAOS). For more information about how the ESLO and NAOS may impact affected property, go to [www.scottsdaleaz.gov/codes/ESLO](http://www.scottsdaleaz.gov/codes/ESLO).

#### **Electromagnetic Fields**

For information on electromagnetic fields, and whether they pose a health risk to you or your family, visit the following websites: [www.niehs.nih.gov/health/topics/agents/emf/](http://www.niehs.nih.gov/health/topics/agents/emf/) or [www.cancer.org/docroot/NWS/content/NWS\\_1\\_1x\\_Electromagnetic\\_Fields\\_and\\_Cancer\\_Risk.asp](http://www.cancer.org/docroot/NWS/content/NWS_1_1x_Electromagnetic_Fields_and_Cancer_Risk.asp) or <http://cfpub.epa.gov/ncea/cfm/recordisplay.cfm?deid=31421>

#### **Superfund Sites**

There are numerous sites in Arizona where the soil and groundwater have been contaminated by improper disposal of contaminants. To check if a property is in an area designated by the ADEQ as requiring cleanup, see [www.adeq.state.az.us/environ/waste/sps/phx.html](http://www.adeq.state.az.us/environ/waste/sps/phx.html) for available maps to view. The EPA also has information on Federal sites at [www.epa.gov/superfund/spanish/index.htm](http://www.epa.gov/superfund/spanish/index.htm) (Spanish).

#### **Freeway Construction and Traffic Conditions**

Although the existence of a freeway near the property may provide highly desirable access, sometimes it contributes to undesirable noise. To search for roadway construction and planning, go to the Arizona Department of Transportation ("ADOT") website at [www.azdot.gov/Highways/](http://www.azdot.gov/Highways/). Check ADOT maps to find the nearest future freeway routes and roads in the area slated for widening. For traffic conditions, visit [www.az511.com/](http://www.az511.com/).

## **Crime Statistics**

Crime statistics, while an imperfect measurement at best, nevertheless provide some indication of the level of criminal activity in an area. To check the crime statistics for the cities of Phoenix, Tempe, Glendale, Mesa, Scottsdale, Chandler, Gilbert and Peoria, go to [www.faxnet1.org](http://www.faxnet1.org). A visit or phone call to other law enforcement agencies may be required. For a list of all Arizona city links, go to [www.azleague.org](http://www.azleague.org). To find crime statistics on their websites, you may need to search for “crime statistics.”

## **Sex Offenders**

Since June 1996, Arizona has had a registry and community notification program for convicted sex offenders. This information may be accessed at [www.azsexoffender.org](http://www.azsexoffender.org). Prior to June 1996, registration was not required, and only the higher-risk sex offenders are on the website. The presence of a sex offender in the vicinity of the property is not a fact that the seller or real estate agent is required to disclose.

**City of Glendale:** Go to [www.glendaleaz.com/police/sexoffenderinfocenter.cfm](http://www.glendaleaz.com/police/sexoffenderinfocenter.cfm) for more information.

## **Military and Public Airports**

The legislature has mandated the identification of areas in the immediate vicinity of military and public airports that are susceptible to a certain level of noise from aircraft. The boundaries of these areas have been plotted on maps that are useful in determining if a property falls within one of these areas. The map for military airports may be accessed at [www.azre.gov/PUBLIC\\_INFO/Airport\\_Maps/Territory\\_in\\_the\\_Vicinity\\_of\\_a\\_Military\\_Airport.html](http://www.azre.gov/PUBLIC_INFO/Airport_Maps/Territory_in_the_Vicinity_of_a_Military_Airport.html); view maps for many of the public airports at [www.azre.gov/PUBLIC\\_INFO/Airport\\_Maps/Territory\\_in\\_the\\_Vicinity\\_of\\_a\\_Public\\_Airport.html](http://www.azre.gov/PUBLIC_INFO/Airport_Maps/Territory_in_the_Vicinity_of_a_Public_Airport.html). These maps are intended to show the areas subject to the preponderance of airport-related noise from a given airport. Periodic overflights that may contribute to noise cannot usually be determined from these maps.

## **Forested Areas**

Life in a forested area has unique benefits and concerns. For information on protecting your property from wildfire, go to [www.azsf.az.gov/](http://www.azsf.az.gov/) or [www.firewise.org/](http://www.firewise.org/). See also, Arizona Firewise Communities,

<http://cals.arizona.edu/firewise/>. Contact county/city fire authority for information on issues particular to your community.

## **Zoning/Planning/Neighborhood Services**

Phoenix: [www.phoenix.gov/PLANNING/index.html](http://www.phoenix.gov/PLANNING/index.html)

Scottsdale: [www.scottsdaleaz.gov/Topics/Planning.asp](http://www.scottsdaleaz.gov/Topics/Planning.asp)

Tucson: [www.ci.tucson.az.us/planning.html](http://www.ci.tucson.az.us/planning.html)

Other cities and towns: [www.azleague.org](http://www.azleague.org)

## **Schools**

Although there is no substitute for an on-site visit to the school to talk with principals and teachers, there is a significant amount of information about Arizona’s schools on the Internet. Visit [www.ade.state.az.us](http://www.ade.state.az.us) for more information. The ADRE advises: “Call the school district serving the subdivision to determine whether nearby schools are accepting new students. Some school districts, especially in the northwest part of the greater Phoenix area, have placed a cap on enrollment. You may find that your children cannot attend the school nearest you and may even be transported to another community.”

[www.azre.gov/PUBLIC\\_INFO/Documents/Property\\_Buyer\\_Checklist.html](http://www.azre.gov/PUBLIC_INFO/Documents/Property_Buyer_Checklist.html)

## **City Profile Report**

Information on demographics, finances and other factors drawn from an array of sources, such as U.S. Census Bureau, Bureau of Labor, Internal Revenue Service, Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

[www.homefair.com/find\\_a\\_place/cityprofile/](http://www.homefair.com/find_a_place/cityprofile/)

## **OTHER METHODS TO OBTAIN INFORMATION ABOUT A PROPERTY**

### **Talk to the Neighbors**

Neighbors can provide a wealth of information. Buyers should always talk to the surrounding residents about the neighborhood and the history of the property the buyer is considering for purchase.

### **Drive around the Neighborhood**

Buyers should always drive around the neighborhood, preferably on different days at several different times of the day and evening, to investigate the surrounding area.

## **FOR INFORMATION ABOUT ARIZONA GOVERNMENT**

Links to state agencies, city and county websites: [www.az.gov](http://www.az.gov)

Maps and information based on address (Geographic Information System):  
[www.az.gov/webapp/govinfo/main.do](http://www.az.gov/webapp/govinfo/main.do)

## **FOR INFORMATION ABOUT FAIR HOUSING AND DISABILITY LAWS**

The Fair Housing Act prohibits discrimination in the sale, rental, and financing of dwellings based on race, color, national origin, religion, sex, familial status (including children under the age of 18 living with parents or legal custodians, pregnant women, and people securing custody of children under the age of 18), and handicap (disability). Visit HUD's Fair Housing/Equal Opportunity website at [www.hud.gov/groups/fairhousing.cfm](http://www.hud.gov/groups/fairhousing.cfm). For information on the Americans with Disabilities Act, visit [www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/adahom1.htm](http://www.usdoj.gov/crt/ada/adahom1.htm). For the Arizona Office for Americans with Disabilities, visit [www.azada.gov](http://www.azada.gov).

## **FOR ADDITIONAL INFORMATION**

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS® (NAR): [www.realtor.com](http://www.realtor.com)  
NAR's Ten Steps to Homeownership:  
<http://finance.move.com/homefinance/guides/buyers/default.asp?lnksrc=FINHPGDS002&poe=move&tran=vud>  
Home Closing 101: [www.homeclosing101.org/](http://www.homeclosing101.org/)

### **ARIZONA DEPARTMENT OF REAL ESTATE**

Arizona Department of Real Estate (ADRE) Consumer Information

[www.azre.gov/](http://www.azre.gov/)

*Home Buyers' and Renters' Bill of Rights*

[www.azre.gov/PUBLIC\\_INFO/Bill\\_Of\\_Rights/BILL\\_OF\\_RIGHTS.html](http://www.azre.gov/PUBLIC_INFO/Bill_Of_Rights/BILL_OF_RIGHTS.html)

### **ARIZONA ASSOCIATION OF REALTORS®**

Arizona Association of REALTORS® (AAR) Consumer Assistance

[www.aaronline.com](http://www.aaronline.com)

*Find a REALTOR®:*

[www.aaronline.com/ConsumerAssistance/FindARealtor/](http://www.aaronline.com/ConsumerAssistance/FindARealtor/)



*Arizona Department of Real Estate*  
**BUYER ADVISORY**  
A Resource for real estate consumers  
provided by the  
*Arizona Association of REALTORS®*



**BUYER ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

Buyer acknowledges receipt of all nine pages of this Advisory. Buyer further acknowledges that there may be other disclosure issues of concern not listed in this Advisory. Buyer is responsible for making all necessary inquiries and consulting the appropriate persons or entities prior to the purchase of any property.

The information in this Advisory is provided with the understanding that it is not intended as legal or other professional services or advice. These materials have been prepared for general informational purposes only. The information and links contained herein may not be updated or revised for accuracy. If you have any additional questions or need advice, please contact your own lawyer or other professional representative.



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Buyer's Signature MO/DA/YR

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Buyer's Signature MO/DA/YR