

# Top 12 Apps

## for Homeowners and Renters

The average person checks their smartphone 46 times a day, with people under the age of 24 checking it an average of 74 times a day.<sup>1</sup> Smartphones are not only a useful tool for communication. With the following apps, you can get organized (*whether you plan to buy or sell*), save money, learn about the homes in your neighborhood and get inspired for your next renovation project.

### Apps For Homeowners: Get Renovation Inspiration

These apps not only offer ideas for your next remodel or home décor project, some of them even give you a preview of what your home may look like once it's finished.

#### 1 Houzz (Free)

The Houzz app is the number one app for home design and it's no wonder; the app gives you access to all the inspiration, blogs and design ideas from the Houzz site on your phone or tablet. The app features View in My Room 3D, which allows you to view products in your home before you buy. Whether you're gathering ideas for your next renovation and décor project or you're just browsing, the Houzz app will satisfy all your design needs.



#### 2 iHandy Carpenter (\$1.99)

Make sure the photos, shelves, mirrors and other artwork you hang are even and aligned with this helpful app. It's an all-in-one tool kit that features a plumb bob, surface level, bubble level bar, ruler and protractor. No need to purchase these tools separately; just hold your smartphone up to the wall and the app will take care of the rest.



#### 3 Color911 (Free 30-day trial and free for people starting the Pomodoro technique; Subscriptions start at \$3 per month)

If you're thinking of changing the color scheme of your home or want to find the right shades for lamp shades, rugs or throw pillows to match your vintage sofa, the Color911 app provides pre-selected color palettes to match any color scheme. Take a photo of the room or the furniture and the app will create a custom palette full of complementary colors.



## Apps For Sellers: List & Sell Your Home Quickly

Are you a homeowner who is thinking of selling? If you're preparing to sell, you know there are a lot of tasks to complete before putting your home on the market. These apps help you manage your to-dos so you can list and sell your home more efficiently with fewer distractions.

### 4 Homesnap (Free)

Using the Homesnap app, you can snap a photo of any home, nationwide, to learn more about it. When you're ready to sell, snap a few of the homes in your neighborhood to find out their valuation. This app isn't perfect, which is why you should always consult with a local real estate agent. However, it can give you a general idea of the value of your home compared to others in the neighborhood.



### 5 DocuSign (Free)

Use the DocuSign app to complete approvals and agreements in hours—not days—from anywhere and on any device. The benefit to using the app (over your desktop computer) is you will receive push notifications when a document is waiting for your signature and you can view and organize all your docs on-the-go. You will need a paid account to send documents; pricing starts at \$10 a month.



### 6 Wunderlist (Free)

Wunderlist is a well-designed to-do list and task management program that makes it easy to create a list and add tasks, due dates and reminders. Organize your ideas or focus into separate lists or create tasks within one list. You can also email them with whomever you collaborate, such as a spouse or your real estate agent.



## Apps For Renters: Get Ready to Buy

Not ready to buy a home just yet? These apps will help you get into the perfect rental while you save money, build a budget and get on track for homeownership.

### 7 Mint (Free)

Do you know where your money goes each month? Manage your bills, budget and credit score all in one place. Mint is a free app that helps you view your complete financial picture and track your spending. We recommend this app to anyone, but it's especially useful for renters who need to crack down on their spending in order to save for a down payment.



### 8 Acorns (\$1 a month to start)

Acorns is modernizing the practice of saving loose change with their automated savings tool. The app rounds up your purchases on linked credit or debit cards, then sweeps the change into a computer-managed investment portfolio. Acorns is free for four years for college students and everyone else pays \$1 a month until their account balance hits \$5,000, then 0.25% of their account balance per year. This is a useful tool for those who have a hard time saving.



### 9 Neighborhoods & Apartments

Built for the on-the-go apartment hunter, this app from Walk Score takes the hassle out of finding your next home or apartment and helps you live near the people and places you love. They collect listings from top rental listing sites and we like them because they share how walkable each address is, determined by access to public transit, things to do, bike trails, shorter commutes, etc.



## Apps for Buyers: Find the Perfect Home

When you're ready to buy, there are several apps that can help you stay on top of the process. Whether you're browsing online at different neighborhoods and homes and can't seem to remember where all your saved data and information went or you want to save an important task or a neighborhood or listing clipped from the Web, these apps help you keep it all straight.

### 10 Dwellr (Free)

Dwellr is run by the U.S. Census Bureau and provides demographic information about the neighborhoods you are considering moving to. You get a variety of education/school, real estate, transportation, and population statistics to give you an idea of what it would be like living there. If you want to get the feel of a potential neighborhood, then Dwellr may just be the app to help you find the best home.



### 11 Evernote (Free for the Basic version, \$34.99 per year for Plus and \$69.99 per year for Premium)

Collect ideas, notes and images in one place to access later on your computer, tablet or smartphone. Categorize your notes so you can find them quickly and easily and share them with others in a group notebook. Whether you're collecting research on a business idea or you're looking for inspiration for a home renovation, Evernote can help you keep it all together.



### 12 Mortgage Calculator (Free)

There are a lot of free mortgage calculators available for download that will help you quickly determine what your monthly payment will be while you're house hunting. We recommend picking your favorite and using it to help you shop in your price range. These numbers should be used as a guide, work with your agent and mortgage professional to learn exactly what type of loan you'll qualify for.



## Ready to move beyond the app?

If you're thinking of buying or selling your home, or know someone who is, keep us in mind because we're happy to help!

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