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Feb. 12, 2020



Buying or selling a home can signal the beginning of a new phase in a couple's life together, but a new survey commissioned by Zillow and conducted online by The Harris Poll¹ finds those two transactions are often fraught with conflict.

A vast majority of Americans (77 percent) who have gone through the home buying process with a significant other in the past decade say they argued over the home buying process. Nearly as many Americans (71 percent) who have sold a home with a significant other in the past decade say they argued over the home selling process, suggesting those two life events may take a toll on relationships.

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Selling Squabbles

A large percent of Millennial sellers, aged 25 to 39, argued with a significant other over selling a home (85 percent) while a smaller share of baby boomer sellers, 55 years and older, argued about the home selling process (54 percent), indicating that life experience – and a higher likelihood of being a repeat seller – may help couples weather the tension that can come with a home sale.

Of couples who argued over the home selling process, a majority (69 percent) fought about at least one of three financial decisions: what price to list the home for, whether to drop the price and whether to accept an offer.

Many also argued over the following hassles of a traditional sale:

- Whether or not to make repairs (24 percent)
- Strangers walking through the home during open houses (24 percent)
- Keeping the house clean for showings (23 percent)
- Uncertainty over whether the house would sell or not (21 percent)

[Previous Zillow research](#) found more than one-third of home sellers cry when selling a home, and more Americans are stressed out by selling a home than they are by planning a wedding or getting fired. Zillow also found [uncertainty caused sellers more stress](#) than showings and repairs.

“We know buying and selling a home can be taxing, but now we know those stressors can cause friction in a relationship,” said Zillow lifestyle expert Amanda Pendleton. “Couples may want to take that into account when deciding how to sell, and consider an alternative that removes many painful parts of the real estate transaction.”

[Zillow Offers](#) is a new way to buy and sell that allows homeowners in 23 markets

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