



## Ask the Realtor – Should I finish my basement?

Basements use to be the place where you would go to do your laundry, store all the furniture you couldn't bear to part with or put the lawn equipment.

Not any more. When you finish your basement, it's estimated the return on your investment is over 60 percent. And finishing the basement can save you up to half the cost of putting on an addition.

When finishing your basement, you must have a plan. You will need to take out permits and make sure it is up to code. Make sure you have the appropriate amount of exits, do you have enough head room, and don't seal off the mechanical systems or electrical box. You will need access to your water heater, furnace, plumbing etc.

Water problems? There are products on the market to seal the basement floor from getting wet. But if you are not sure where the water is coming from, call a professional.

Today's trend is open concept, so don't make the layout boxy or sealed up. You can always partition different functional areas with furniture.

Since you are in the basement, don't forget to add plenty of lighting. Can you add another window or will it be recessed or track lighting? Go ahead, finish that basement and enjoy your new living space.

If you are considering buying or selling, let's work together and make it a realty reality.

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## Pick Your Own

Blueberries, strawberries, cherries, peaches, apples and pumpkins. There are a lot of local farms that let you pick fruits fresh from the vine/tree. Here are a few.

### Carlson Orchards – [carlsonorchards.com](http://carlsonorchards.com)

**115 Oak Hill Rd, Harvard MA, 800-286-3916**

120 acres of working farm with 50 dedicated to blueberries, raspberries, nectarines and of course apples (14 varieties). Voted one of the 1000 great places to visit in Massachusetts, this is a must see.

### Tougas Family Farm – [tougasfamilyfarm.com](http://tougasfamilyfarm.com)

**234 Ball St, Northborough MA, 508-393-6406**

Blueberries and peaches are in full flavor this month. Apples in the fall. Pick your own or visit the farm's store. Family owned and operated since 1981 they also offer field trips for the younger students in the fall.

### Belkin Family Lookout Farm – [lookoutfarm.com](http://lookoutfarm.com) **89 South Pleasant St, Natick MA, 508-651-1539**

Lookout farm has the traditional peaches, apples and pumpkins, but they also offer plums and pears. In addition to the picking, there are activities for the kids. Ride a train through the orchard, play in the Childrens Play area, climb a hay pyramid or find your way through the farm maze.

### Parlee Farms – [parleefarms.com](http://parleefarms.com)

**95 Farwell Rd, Tyngsboro MA, 978-649-3854**

Apples, blueberries, cherries, pumpkins, strawberries, peaches, this place has it all. Try some of their fresh baked pies, shortcake or cider donuts! And yes, there is an animal farm for the little ones, boasting over 70 farm animals.

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