

## Take Your Retirement to the Next Level by Flipping Houses



Image via [Pexels](#)

You may have gotten sucked into reality television showcasing how individuals and couples make hundreds of thousands of dollars a year buying and selling houses. The truth is that there is money in real estate, but it definitely takes more work than a 30-minute TV series can illustrate. However, flipping houses is still an excellent income-earning opportunity for retirees.

Are you interested in finding out more? [StarLight Realty](#) has some insights to share, so keep reading if you're of a mind to enter the flipping game.

### Defining your goals

The first step toward any successful retirement is to [define your goals](#). If you're not sure what those are, your financial advisor can walk you through the process of understanding what you need for a relaxed retirement. While everyone's ideal retirement will look different, a few things will need to be considered: your [lifestyle, longevity, legacy](#), and liquidity.

## **Real Estate Is a Business**

Next, get yourself in the mind frame that flipping houses is more than a hobby — it's a business. In this vein of thought, it might be wise to form an LLC, which will protect your retirement accounts in case something negative happens with your real estate business.

## **Buying Your First Property**

Now it's time to begin the process of flipping your first house. How do you start? Research. According to Mashvisor, you'll want to make sure to choose a location that has [the potential to be profitable](#). You also need to determine whether it's currently a buyers' or sellers' market and have a basic understanding of the local economy.

### *Budget*

Next up is your budget. It's probably best not to wipe out your entire retirement savings, and, depending on your credit and comfort with lenders, you can take out a loan. Keep in mind here that you will need a [minimum credit score of 720](#) and at least six months' worth of cash reserves to qualify for an investment property.

### *Buy a foreclosure?*

One great option many investors overlook is buying a bank-owned home. Referred to as an REO (real estate owned) property, foreclosed homes can be purchased for significantly less than non-REO homes. And while it's true that there are some hoops to jump through, it can save you quite a bit of money in the long run. Before taking the leap, however, it's important to discuss this option with your StarLight Realty agent and to learn what you can about [how to buy a foreclosed home](#); this will ultimately put you in a better position to negotiate. One caveat that property management software developer Stessa warns about is that [not all foreclosures](#) are a good deal. Always check comparable properties before making an offer.

### *Gather a team*

Another crucial step here is to create a network of contractors. Remember, you can't do all of the work on your own, and some types of renovations [will require a specialized license](#). A few contractors to have plugged into your phone include a general contractor, roofer, HVAC company, plumber, electrician.

### *Start your search*

Once you have all of this information together, you can then begin to look for a home. You can find houses to flip by searching [the listings](#) your StarLight Realty agent shares, which will give you the option to narrow down your results by price and location.

### *Makeover time*

Once you've purchased your property, you will then want to renovate to make the home livable and most attractive. Ideally, you will have an established relationship with a local realtor who can help you decide on upgrades and ensure your home is priced so that you can earn a profit.

There are many more moving parts that go into using real estate investments as part of your retirement portfolio. The information above just scratches the surface but, hopefully, will give you something to think about that will enhance your senior years. Real estate has long been considered one of the most stable investments, but it takes work to make money buying and selling houses, especially in today's seller's market.

*Are you ready to find the perfect Tampa home to flip? Connect with [StarLight Realty](#) today! We can help you every step of the way as you take the leap toward property investing. Call us today to find out more! (813) 310-0444*

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