

The Pickleball Craze Comes Home

In recent years, pickleball has emerged as a popular sport, attracting players of all ages.

Some homeowners are taking their passion for the game to the next level by installing pickleball courts in their own backyard.

Pickleball, a paddle sport that combines elements of tennis, badminton and table tennis, has captured the hearts of many due to its simplicity, social nature and accessibility for players of varying skill levels and ages.

Mauricio Umansky, the CEO and founder of The Agency, a global real estate empire, said pickleball courts are a must-have in residential developments because of the sport's popularity. NBC News reported that from 2019-2021, it was the country's fastest growing sport.

Meanwhile, Zillow reports that it is becoming a sought-after amenity with pickleball mentions — including a home's proximity to public or private courts — in for-sale listings up by 64% in 2023 compared to the year before.

"Pickleball courts have become a great selling feature because they appeal to athletes of all ages," said Joy Kim



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Metalios, a Zillow Premier Agent partner in Fairfield County, Connecticut, to TheMReport. "I've seen homeowners converting their driveways into courts by using portable nets. Players with ultra-luxury homes are painting new pickleball lines on their sport courts or tennis courts. Since pickleball is such a social sport, an at-home court has become the latest entertaining feature, like an outdoor kitchen or a pizza oven."

There's even a Pickleball Realtor Network, according to TheRealDeal, which advises people on the best places to buy and rent based on the pickleball scene and their proximity to major pickleball tournament venues.

THE EFFECT ON HOME VALUES

Investing in a home pickleball court may contribute to an increase in property values. The addition of such a feature can set a property apart from

others. Homebuyers who are pickleball enthusiasts or those looking for distinctive amenities may find a home with its own court particularly attractive.

The rise of pickleball's popularity has created a niche market of players seeking homes with dedicated courts. Realtors and homeowners alike recognize the potential of attracting this specific demographic. A home with a pickleball court can be positioned as an ideal

residence for those who value an active lifestyle and community engagement.

While installing a home pickleball court involves an upfront investment, the potential return on investment can be substantial. In regions where pickleball is especially popular, prospective buyers may be willing to pay a premium for a property with its own court. This added value could more than offset the initial construction costs, making it a financially sound decision for homeowners.

However, the sport is a noisy one and there are people who object to having courts nearby. Some real estate experts warn that having a court may actually have a negative effect on property values, though there is currently no evidence to this effect.

COMMUNITY AND SOCIAL BENEFITS

Beyond financial considerations, a home pickleball court fosters a sense of community and social engagement. Homeowners can host friendly matches, tournaments and social events, creating an atmosphere that may appeal to potential buyers seeking not only a home but a lifestyle.

The court becomes a focal point for socializing and bonding, further enhancing the overall appeal of the property.



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"Pickleball courts have become a great selling feature because they appeal to athletes of all ages," said Joy Kim Metalios, a Zillow Premier Agent partner in Fairfield County, Connecticut, to TheMReport. "I've seen homeowners converting their driveways into courts by using portable nets. Players with ultra-luxury homes are painting new pickleball lines on their sport courts or tennis courts. Since pickleball is such a social sport, an at-home court has become the latest entertaining feature, like an outdoor kitchen or a pizza oven."

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REAL ESTATE 101



HOMEWISSE GLOSSARY

Valuable Assets

Ask your real estate agent to be present when the appraiser arrives at the home you want to buy. The agent can show the appraiser any details of the house that make it worth the selling price and bring their list of recent comparable sales. This makes it more likely that the appraiser will return an accurate amount.

HUD: U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Office of Housing/Federal Housing Administration within HUD insures home mortgage loans made by lenders and sets minimum standards for such homes. **SOURCE:** Illinois Real Estate Lawyers Association

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