

Are You Ready to Buy A House?



Buying a house is a huge investment and an exciting time, but it's also a lot of work. It's helpful to understand the steps of buying a home so that you know what to expect during the process.

Figure out what you can afford

Figuring out how much you can afford is an important part of the process. The first step is deciding on your down payment and monthly payments. Do you have enough money to put 20 percent down? If not, can you buy a house with a smaller down payment?

After figuring out how much home you can afford, it's time to get prequalified or approved for financing. A lender will look at your income and expenses to determine if they think there's enough money coming in each month to cover mortgage payments, taxes and insurance costs. They'll also consider what kind of credit score you have (a good one!) as well as other factors like whether there are any liens against the property being purchased (like if someone owes back taxes).

Once you've been pre-approved for financing by a lender, it's time for closing day!



Find an agent you trust

Finding an agent to help you buy a home can be stressful, but it doesn't have to be. You want someone who is trustworthy and will have your best interests in mind throughout the buying process.

How do you find such an agent? A few simple questions can help you discern whether or not an agent is trustworthy:

- Does the person seem experienced and knowledgeable about real estate? They should be able to answer questions about local market conditions, property values and trends, mortgage rates, etc.
- Do they seem like they care about your needs as much as their own? If so, great! But if not—and especially if the agent has tried to pressure or manipulate you into making decisions quickly—consider that this might not be the right fit for your needs.



Find the right neighborhood

In the same way that buying a house is an investment, so is buying a home in a specific neighborhood. While it's not always possible to buy exactly where you want, it makes sense to make sure your next property is situated in an area that offers plenty of amenities and opportunities for long-term growth. Think ahead to your future needs to understand what you may need in the area. Think about schools, parks and recreation and healthcare amenities!



Find your home style!

It's a great idea to look at as many homes as you can. Even if you're looking for a specific house, seeing another home in the neighborhood or with similar amenities will help you think about what else is out there. This will also help you know what your price range should be.

It's also important to look at houses in different neighborhoods and areas of town. You may find that one part of town might suit your needs better than another because of how close it is to work or school, or how much traffic there is on the road where it's located (or not). And while it may seem like everyone wants the same thing when they're shopping for a home—a four bedroom house with white picket fence—the truth is people have very different needs and preferences when it comes down to location and size of home they want.





Homebuying is a process that takes time, but it's so worth it!

The best way to be prepared for all that the buying and selling process entails is to contact a professional to get advice!

Contact me and we'll get the ball rolling!