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Home Buying Checklist

BUYER'S
CHECKLIST

Home Buying Checklist

Step-by-step guide: Top tips for buying a first home or your next investment property

NOTES

Research your target neighborhoods

- Look online for information on schools, crime rate, traffic and zoning
- Determine your work commute
- Scout local amenities such as parks, shops and restaurants

Work with a buyer's agent who knows the neighborhood

- Get referrals
- Consider working with an exclusive buyer's agent
- Interview at least three agents
- Look for experience and good chemistry

Search for homes in the MLS and For Sale By Owner (FSBO)

- Browse listings online, including Foreclosure.com
- Ask your agent to set up tours of homes that fit your criteria
- Check local newspapers
- Pick up flyers and attend open houses (See our Open House and Home Tour Checklist)

Research each home you want to buy

- Ask your agent for comps to estimate the property's fair market value:
\$ _____
- Ask the seller's reason for selling
- Review all property disclosures
- Find out about liens, easements or other restrictions

Make an offer and negotiate

- Determine the purchase price: \$ _____
- Include contingencies such as financial, inspection or purchase
- Spell out any special requests and repairs you want included in the sale
- Determine earnest amount of money: \$ _____
- Decide move-in date: ____ / ____ / ____
- Once both parties agree to the terms, sign the Purchase and Sale Agreement

