

BUYING A NEW
HOME

MONARC  REALTY

ASHLEIGH WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN
HELPING ME GET MY DREAM CONDO.
AFTER MY INITIAL CONVENTIONAL
FINANCING FELL THROUGH, SHE WAS
ABLE TO ASSIST WITH SWITCHING TO AN
FHA LOAN AND EVEN SAVED ME SOME
MONEY IN THE PROCESS. I WOULD
DEFINITELY RECOMMEND!



HAROLD ASBRIDGE

WELCOME

I AM EXCITED TO GUIDE YOU THROUGH THIS JOURNEY!

Thank you for choosing to put your trust in me for the process of buying and/or selling your home. Every member of my team is committed to ensuring that ALL of your real estate needs are not just met, but exceeded! I've created this book for your convenience and we hope that it will be a valuable resource. While the entire process is outlined for you here, please know that I will be staying in constant contact with you throughout the process. Your experience will be unique and I will adjust our service according to your wants and needs. My focus is on your complete satisfaction.

MEET THE TEAM



ASHLEIGH

Ashleigh Herrera is the broker and owner of Monarc Realty. With 12 years in the real estate industry, 5 of those leading large local offices, she brings a wealth of experience, knowledge, and service to your home buying experience.

JOSE

Jose Herrera is an agent owner of Monarc Realty. With 20 years in the sales industry he brings a strong skillset of negotiation and attention to detail. Together, this husband & wife duo wont settle for anything less than an excellent experience.



WELCOME

ABOUT ME

With over 12 years of experience as a licensed real estate professional, I bring deep industry knowledge, proven results, and strong leadership to every transaction. I'm currently the Managing Broker and Owner of Monarc Realty and have proudly led local branches for some of the most recognized and successful real estate brands in the industry.

Throughout my career, I've personally sold over 130 homes, and as a branch manager and broker, I've oversaw thousands of real estate contracts, guiding agents and clients through every stage of the buying and selling process with care and precision.

My experience spans:

- Residential listings and buyer representation
- Agent training and contract compliance
- Office leadership and operations
- Marketing strategy and negotiation

As a local expert and hands-on broker, I'm fully committed to delivering exceptional service, strong results, and a stress-free experience — whether you're selling your first home or your forever one.

MY COMMITMENT TO YOU

01

GETTING YOU IN THE DOOR

We will narrow down the homes that fit your unique wants and needs get you in the door! Looking at dozens of homes every week, I can help you identify potential problems within a home.

02

HANDLING CHALLENGING CONVERSATIONS

When repairs or changes in price need to be made, I will be your guide and handle requesting any repairs or changes in price to the sellers.

03

STAYING ON TOP OF THE PAPERWORK

Buying a home involves many types of documentation. I have the experience and knowledge to navigate real estate contracts. Ensuring that nothing is overlooked and that you truly understand what a paper means before ever signing.

04

NEIGHBORHOOD EXPERT

Working daily in neighborhoods with inspectors, and contractors, and negotiating with sellers, I have the market knowledge you need to get the best results from your purchase. Understanding the local real estate market can go a long way when it comes time to make an offer on a house.

05

PROBLEM SOLVER

I will work hard to protect all of your interests and take on any issues that may arise throughout the entire process. Hopefully making buying a home a fun and stress-free process.

STEPS TO BUYING A NEW HOME

STAGE 1 - PREP WORK

- DECIDE WHETHER YOU'RE READY TO BUY A HOME
- CALCULATE HOW MUCH YOU CAN AFFORD ON A HOUSE
- SAVE FOR A DOWN PAYMENT AND CLOSING COSTS
- DECIDE WHAT TYPE OF MORTGAGE IS RIGHT FOR YOU
- GET PREAPPROVED FOR A MORTGAGE

STAGE 2 - THE SEARCH

- CREATE A WISH LIST
- DOCUMENTING YOUR VISIT
- START TOURING HOMES

STAGE 3 - UNDER CONTRACT & CLOSING

- MAKE AN OFFER
- FINALIZE MORTGAGE
- ATTEND THE HOME INSPECTION
- NEGOTIATE ANY REPAIRS OR CREDITS
- GET HOMEOWNERS INSURANCE
- HAVE THE HOME APPRAISED
- CLOSE ON YOUR NEW HOME!

STAGE ONE

STAGE ONE : PREP WORK

DECIDE WHETHER YOU'RE READY TO BUY A HOME

Sure, there's being financially ready to buy a house, but are you emotionally ready? Even if it's just going to be your starter home, you're making a big financial commitment and putting down some roots.

You'll want to think about your other goals for the next few years. Are you buying with a partner, and if yes, are you on the same page when it comes to money? Is there any chance you'd need to relocate for work? Are you thinking of starting a family?

These big-picture questions can add to the pros (or cons) of whether this is the right time to buy a house.

WONDERING IF YOU SHOULD BUY A HOUSE? LET'S LOOK AT SOME OF THE FACTORS THAT LENDERS AND HOMEOWNERS ALIKE SHOULD CONSIDER.

INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT STATUS

Your lender won't just want to see how much money you make. They'll also want to see a work history (usually about 2 years) to make sure your income source is stable and reliable.

Preparing your income is all about pulling the right documentation together to show steady employment. If you're on the payroll, you'll likely just need to provide recent pay stubs and W-2s. On the other hand, you'll need to submit your tax returns and other documents the lender requests if you're self-employed.

Debt-to-income ratio (DTI) is another financial instrument mortgage lenders use to evaluate your loan application. Your DTI helps your lender see how much of your monthly income goes to debt so they can evaluate the amount of mortgage debt you can take on.

DTI is calculated by dividing your monthly debt by your gross monthly income. For example, if your monthly debts (credit card minimum payments, loan payments, etc.) total \$2,000 per month and your gross monthly income is \$6,000, your DTI is $\$2,000/\$6,000$, or 33%. Your lender will use the debts shown on your credit report to calculate your DTI.

Depending on the type of loan you're applying for, your lender may also calculate your housing expense ratio, also sometimes referred to as front-end DTI. This is a ratio that looks at your total monthly house payment (principal, interest, taxes and insurance) compared to your monthly income. For example, if you have a \$1,200 house payment and the same \$6,000 monthly income, your housing expense ratio is $\$1,200/\$6,000$, or 20%.

It's smart to review your DTI before you apply for a loan. In most cases, you'll need a back-end DTI of 43% or less to qualify for the most mortgage options, although this number varies based on your lender, loan type and other factors.

CREDIT HEALTH

Your credit score plays a huge role in what loans and interest rates you qualify for. Your credit score tells lenders how much of a risk you are to grant a loan.

Taking steps to improve your credit score and reduce your debt can pay off big as you prepare to get a mortgage. Better numbers mean better loan options with lower interest rates.

Your credit score is based on the following information:

Your payment history

The amount of money you owe

The length of your credit history

Types of credit you've used

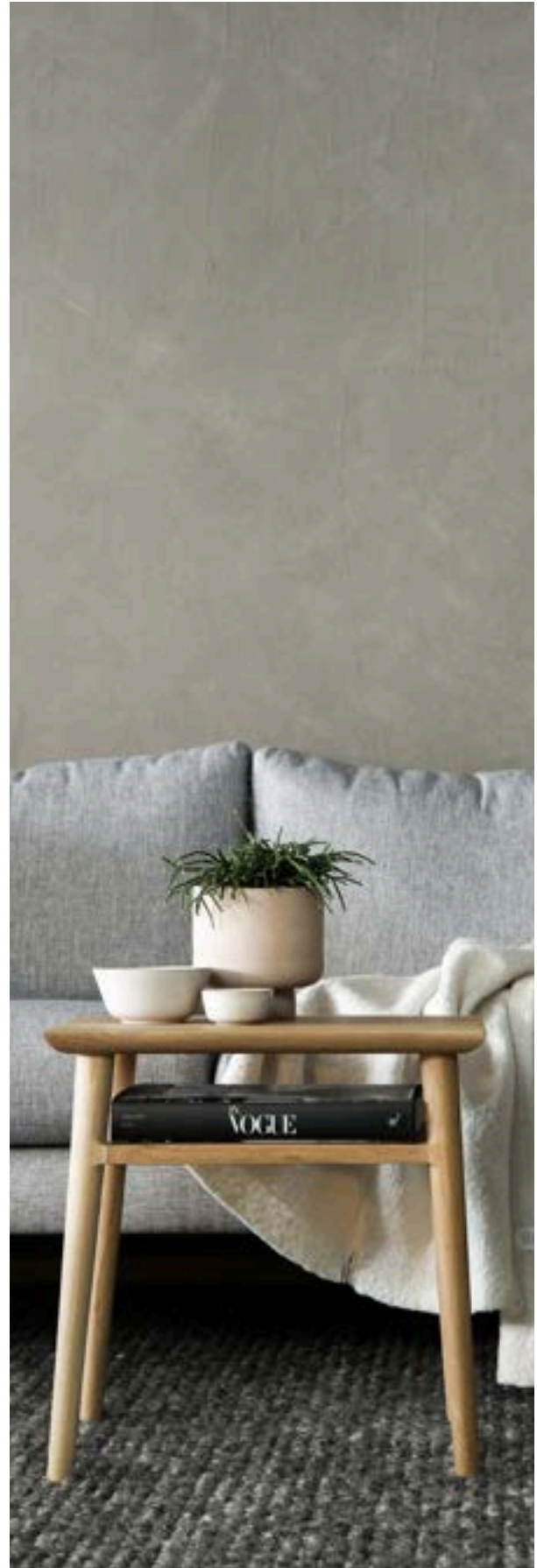
Your pursuit of new credit

What score will you need to qualify for a home loan? Most lenders require a credit score of at least 620 to qualify for the majority of loans. A score above 720 will generally get you the very best loan terms.

TIMING

Deciding whether it's a good time to buy a house or not depends on a variety of personal factors (such as financial readiness and lifestyle preferences) and market conditions (such as economic health and current mortgage rates).

Ultimately, the right time to buy a home comes down to your own unique situation. Be sure to consult a financial expert before making any big financial decisions such as buying a house.



CALCULATE HOW MUCH YOU CAN AFFORD

Once you decide you're ready to buy a home, it's time to set a budget. A good place to begin is by calculating your DTI ratio. Look at your current debts and income and consider how much money you can reasonably afford to spend each month on a mortgage.

Homeownership comes with several costs you don't need to worry about while renting. You'll need to pay property taxes and maintain some form of homeowners insurance. Factor these expenses into your household budget when you decide how much you can afford on a house.

Mortgage lenders consider DTI an important qualifying factor. The amount of debt you have is considered a very reliable predictor of the risk associated with the approval of any mortgage loan. Therefore, it's important to know your numbers.

LET'S LOOK AT HOW DTI IS CALCULATED.

Step 1: Add Up All Of Your Monthly Debts

Your debt payments could include:

- Monthly rent or house payments
- Monthly child support payments or alimony
- Student loan payments
- Car payments
- Monthly credit card minimum payments
- Any other debts you might have

You don't need to add in:

Grocery bills
Utility bills
Taxes
Any other bills that may vary month to month

Step 2: Divide Your Monthly Debts By Your Monthly Gross Income

Next, do a simple calculation. For example, let's say your debts add up to \$2,000 per month. If your monthly gross income (your before-tax income) is \$6,000 per month, then your DTI ratio is 0.33, or 33%.



SAVE FOR A DOWN PAYMENT AND CLOSING COSTS

There are many ways to save for your home purchase, including through investments and savings accounts. If you have relatives who are willing to contribute money, you may be able to use gift money toward your down payment (in which case, be sure to provide your lender with a gift letter).

But how much do you need to save before buying a home? Let's look at some of the major expenses related to the purchase, and how much you might want to save for them.

DOWN PAYMENT

Your down payment is a large, one-time payment toward the purchase of a home. Many lenders require a down payment because it mitigates the loss they might suffer in the event that a borrower defaults on their mortgage.

Many home buyers believe that they need a 20% down payment to buy a home. This isn't true. Plus, a down payment of that size isn't realistic for many first-time home buyers.

Fortunately, there are many options for buyers who can't afford a 20% down payment. For example, you can get a conventional loan for as little as 3% down. Federal Housing Administration (FHA) loans have a minimum down payment of 3.5%. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) loans and United States Department of Agriculture (USDA) loans even allow eligible and qualified borrowers to put 0% down.

There are advantages, however, to making a larger down payment. For one, it typically means you'll have more mortgage options. It also usually means you'll have a smaller monthly payment and a lower interest rate. Plus, if you put at least 20% down on a conventional loan, you won't need to pay for private mortgage insurance (PMI).

CLOSING COSTS

You'll also need to save money to cover closing costs – the fees you pay to get the loan. There are many variables that go into determining how much you'll pay for closing costs, but it's usually smart to prepare for 3 – 6% of the home value. This means that if you're buying a home worth \$200,000, you might pay \$6,000 – \$12,000 in closing costs.

The specific closing costs will depend on your loan type, your lender, and where you live. Almost all homeowners will pay for things like appraisal fees and title insurance. If you take out a government-backed loan, you'll typically need to pay an insurance premium or funding fee upfront.

IMPORTANT!

Before you close on your loan, your lender will give you a document called a Closing Disclosure, which lists each of the closing costs you need to cover and how much you'll need to pay at closing. Look over your Closing Disclosure carefully before you close to know what to expect and to catch any errors.

DECIDE WHAT TYPE OF MORTGAGE IS RIGHT FOR YOU

Before you can apply for a mortgage, you'll need to decide what the best type of loan is for you and which one you'll qualify for.

CONVENTIONAL LOANS

Conventional loans are mortgages made by a private lender and not backed by the government. The most common type of conventional loans are loans that are backed by Fannie Mae or Freddie Mac, sometimes called conforming loans. The majority of mortgages in the U.S. are conventional loans. Conventional loans are always a popular option for home buyers, and you can get one with as little as 3% down.

FHA LOANS

Backed by the Federal Housing Administration, FHA loans are less of a risk for lenders because the government insures them if you stop making payments. As a result, FHA loans have credit score requirements that aren't as strict. You can get an FHA loan with a down payment as small as 3.5%.

VA LOANS

Backed by the Federal Housing Administration, FHA loans are less of a risk for lenders because the government insures them if you stop making payments. As a result, FHA loans have credit score requirements that aren't as strict. You can get an FHA loan with a down payment as small as 3.5%.



GET PREAPPROVED FOR A MORTGAGE

When you're ready to start house hunting, it's time to get preapproved for a mortgage. When you apply, your lender will give you a preapproval letter that states how much you're approved for based on your credit, assets, and income. You can show your preapproval letter to your real estate agent so they can help you find homes within your budget.

To get preapproved, you need to apply with your lender. The preapproval process typically involves answering some questions about your income, your assets, and the home you want to buy.

Pre-approvals are a dress rehearsal for your mortgage and are necessary to make a serious offer on a home. They typically expire after 90 days and can be refreshed if you don't find the home you're looking for in that time.

Know that pre-approvals don't guarantee your mortgage approval or interest rate. After you're pre-approved, avoid opening new credit lines or making large debt payments that can impact your FICO score.

Working with a lender to get preapproved for a mortgage is an important step in accurately determining your budget. A mortgage preapproval will give you real numbers since the lender will have detailed info about your finances. That includes a hard inquiry, which will show up on your credit report. The good news: If you apply with multiple lenders around the same time, it'll only count as one hard pull.



ASHLEIGH WAS SO HELPFUL IN
THE PROCESS OF HELPING US
FIND OUR NEW HOME. SHE
SENT NEW LISTINGS DAILY,
WAS VERY KNOWLEDGEABLE
WHEN IT CAME TO THE
PROPERTIES AND THE MARKET.
WE WILL BE RECOMMENDING
HER TO FAMILY AND FRIENDS.



MELISSA ORCUTT

STAGE TWO

STAGE TWO : THE SEARCH

CREATE A WISH LIST

Make a list of the things you'll need to have in the house. Ask yourself how many bedrooms and bathrooms you'll need and get an idea of how much space you desire. How big do you want the kitchen to be? Do you need lots of closets and cabinet space? Do you need a big yard for your kids and/or pets to play in?

Once you've made a list of your must-haves, don't forget to think about the kind of neighborhood you want, the types of schools in the area, the length of your commute to and from work, and the convenience of local shopping. Take into account your safety concerns as well as how good the rate of home appreciation is in the area.

TIPS:

We will make sure to check out the little details of each house:

- Test the plumbing
- Try the electrical system
- Open and close the windows & doors to make sure they work properly

We will evaluate the neighborhood and surrounding areas:

- Are the surrounding homes well maintained?
- How much traffic is on the street?
- Is it conveniently located to schools, shopping, restaurants, & parks?



THE BASICS

What price range would you consider?

No less than \$_____ but no more than \$_____

Are schools a factor and, if so, what do you need to take into consideration (e.g., want a specific school system, want kids to be able to walk to school, etc.)?

Do you want an older home or a newer home (less than 5 years old)? ___Yes ___No

How much renovation would you be willing to do?
___A lot ___A little ___None!

What kind of houses would you be willing to see?
___One story ___2 story
___Split level ___Bi-level
___Townhouse ___Condo
___New construction ___Ranch

What style house appeals to you most?
___Contemporary ___Traditional
___Tudor ___Colonial
___Modern ___No Preference

Do you have any physical needs that must be met, such as wheelchair access?
___Yes ___No

THE INTERIOR

How many bedrooms must you have? ____ would you like to have? ____

How many bathrooms do you want? ____

How big would you like your house to be (square feet)?
No less than ____ But no more than ____

What features do you want to have in your house?

	NEED	WANT
CARPET	_____	_____
CERAMIC TILE	_____	_____
HARDWOOD FLOORS	_____	_____
EAT-IN KITCHEN	_____	_____
SEPARATE DINING ROOM	_____	_____
FORMAL LIVING ROOM	_____	_____
FAMILY ROOM	_____	_____
BASEMENT	_____	_____
SEPARATE LAUNDRY ROOM	_____	_____
FIREPLACE	_____	_____
MASTER ON THE MAIN	_____	_____

THE LOT

NEED

WANT

LARGE YARD (1 ACRE OR MORE)

SMALL YARD (LESS THAN 1 ACRE)

FENCED YARD

1 CAR GARAGE

2 CAR GARAGE

3 CAR GARAGE

4+ CAR GARAGE

EXTRA PARKING

PATIO/DECK

POOL

OUTDOOR SPA

OUTDOOR KITCHEN

OTHER BUILDINGS

SPECIAL VIEW OF WHAT?

THE MOST COMMONLY MISSED STEP...

DOCUMENTING YOUR VISIT

When it's time to take your home tour, check the features against the checklist you made. Do you need to re-evaluate any of your must-haves?

Get a feel for the home and consider anything you may have left off of your list. Remember, paint can be replaced and staged furniture will change, but there are aspects that can't change so easily.

IMPORTANT QUESTIONS TO ANSWER:

IS THERE ENOUGH SPACE OR TOO MUCH SPACE?

WHERE COULD YOU USE MORE SPACE?

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE LAYOUT?

DO YOU LIKE THE FIXTURES AND FINISHES?

ARE YOU HAPPY WITH THE WINDOWS (ENOUGH NATURAL LIGHT, WELL-PLACED, TOO SUNNY)?

DOES THE HOME HAVE CURB APPEAL?

DOES THE HOME HAVE ADEQUATE PARKING?



START TOURING HOMES



ADDRESS: _____

DATE VIEWED: _____ TIME OF DAY: _____

HOME SCORE:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
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LOCATION

- _____ The home is in our desired neighborhood and/or area
- _____ The home is in our desired school district
- _____ We like the parks and recreational options close by
- _____ The home is within our determined work radius

INTERIOR DETAILS

- _____ The home has the number of bedrooms we want/need
- _____ The home has the number of bathrooms we want/need
- _____ The home is as updated as we want
- _____ The home has the square feet we want/need

EXTERIOR DETAILS

- _____ The exterior is in good condition & is as updated as we want/need
- _____ We like the look and design of the exterior of the home
- _____ We like the landscape and it is what we want/need.
- _____ The backyard will work for us and is what we want/need

MAKE COPIES OF THIS TO USE AT EACH HOME YOU TOUR.

ASHLEIGH IS NOT ONLY AN AGENT BUT ALSO A BROKER. WE DIDN'T REALLY UNDERSTAND HOW IMPORTANT THIS WAS IN THE BEGINNING.

BUT HER EXTRA KNOWLEDGE PROVED TO BE INVALUABLE THROUGHOUT THE SALE OF OUR HOME AND PURCHASE OF NEW HOME. SHE WAS ABLE (AND WILLING) TO EXPLAIN COMPLICATED THINGS TO US IN LAYMAN'S TERMS.

FIRST THERE WAS THE SALE. ASHLEIGH DID AN OUTSTANDING JOB! SHE HELPED US PRICE IT COMPETITIVELY SO WE COULD GET TOP DOLLAR BUT ALSO NOT HAVE TO SIT WITH IT FOR WEEKS IN THIS SLUGGISH MARKET. BESIDES PULLING COMPS SHE CAME AND DID A THOROUGH WALK THROUGH TO SEE AND DOCUMENT ALL OUR UPGRADES. THEN SHE BROUGHT IN A PROFESSIONAL PHOTOGRAPHER TO DO BOTH INTERIOR AND AERIAL VIEWS. HER STRATEGIES WORKED BECAUSE WE HAD A CONTRACT WITHIN 4 DAYS OF LISTING! THEN SHE GUIDED US THROUGH THE ENTIRE PROCESS. I THOUGHT WE HAD TO SPEND MONEY TO FIX CERTAIN THINGS. SHE GAVE US GREAT ADVICE AND HELPED US AVOID WASTING MONEY ON THINGS THE BUYERS WERE GOING TO CHANGE ANYWAY. WITHIN 5 WEEKS WE WERE AT THE CLOSING TABLE. SHE CONSTANTLY KEPT US UPDATED EVERY STEP OF THE WAY AND EACH TIME THERE WAS A CHANGE. AND SHE WAS SHOWING US HOUSES!

WE HAD ALREADY BEEN CALLING HER THE REAL ESTATE ROCKSTAR WITH THE SALE OF OUR HOME. THEN SHE SHOWED US A WHOLE OTHER SIDE WHEN SHE HELPED US NEGOTIATE FOR THE PURCHASE OF OUR NEW HOME. NOW WE WERE CALLING HER OUR LITTLE BULLDOG.

SHE CAUGHT SO MANY THINGS. IN PARTICULAR, THE ROOF INSPECTION REVEALED IT HAD HAIL DAMAGE. ASHLEIGH KNEW THAT IF THE SELLER DIDN'T REPLACE THE ROOF UNDER THEIR INSURANCE - WE COULD POTENTIALLY HAVE A DENIED FUTURE CLAIM BECAUSE THE DAMAGE OCCURRED WHILE COVERED BY ANOTHER INSURANCE COMPANY. THE SELLER WAS DIFFICULT BUT REPLACING THE ROOF WAS THE RIGHT THING TO DO. ASHLEIGH MADE IT HAPPEN. THERE WERE SEVERAL THINGS WITH THIS SELLER THAT WERE PROBLEMATIC. ASHLEIGH HAD TO AMEND OUR CONTRACT MULTIPLE TIMES SO WE WOULD NOT LOSE OUR EARNEST MONEY. SHE'S FIERCE AND DIDN'T LET ANYTHING GET BY. SHE MADE SURE THE DEAL WAS FAIR AND DIDN'T ALLOW THE SELLER TO BULLY US. WE CANNOT SAY ENOUGH GOOD THINGS!!!! I HAD NO IDEA REAL ESTATE AGENTS WERE SUPPOSED TO BE THIS WAY.



Natalie Grant

STAGE THREE

STAGE THREE : UNDER
CONTRACT & CLOSING

WRITING AN OFFER



BEFORE YOU MAKE AN OFFER ON A HOUSE

There are three key elements that you'll want to have in place before you make an offer on a house.

The first is a mortgage preapproval from at least one lender. Ideally, you should get preapproved before you start looking at houses. It can be time-consuming to pull together all the required documents, but most importantly, a preapproval lets you know how much house you can afford. Having a preapproval in hand also lets the seller know that you're serious and provides reassurance that the deal will close. That can be extra helpful in a scenario where the seller is in a hurry to move.

Second, know your market to ensure you're making a competitive offer. This can be based on comparable sales, other market information from your own research, or a comparative market analysis provided by your real estate agent. You'll probably want to make an offer that's for slightly less than your preapproval amount, which leaves room to negotiate.

Last, verify that the down payment required by your lender is in the bank and ready to go. Simply having earmarked certain assets as the funds to buy a home (including the money required for the earnest deposit, down payment, closing costs, etc.) is not enough to ensure a smooth transaction. Having direct and immediate access to the cash is essential.

WHAT'S INCLUDED IN AN OFFER:

A written offer may contain these elements, among others:

- Address: The home's legal address, and sometimes the legal property description.
- Price: Details regarding the purchase price and terms.
- Earnest money: The amount and terms regarding the earnest money, including its disposition upon the acceptance of the offer.
- Title: A stipulation that the seller will provide clear title to the property.
- Closing costs: Details regarding which party will pay closing costs or other fees, as well as how certain taxes and expenses will be prorated between the buyer and the seller at closing.
- The date and time of the offer's expiration: In hot markets, this can be mere hours, but in most cases, it's one or two days.
- A projected loan closing date: This is typically 30 to 60 days, though how long your lender's underwriting process takes can be the deciding factor here.
- Contingencies: Any contingencies that the deal is subject to.
- Disclosures: Other state-required provisions or disclosures.

COMMON CONTINGENCIES:

Your written offer will likely include at least a couple of standard contingencies. These are things that need to happen before the sale can move forward. Common contingencies include:

- Final loan approval: In other words, you get the mortgage, often within a specified amount of time.
- Home inspection: In addition to requiring that the property undergo a home inspection, this contingency may also specify how issues revealed during the inspection will be addressed (for example, if the seller will repair or provide a credit at closing), or if the inspection is for informational purposes only.
- Appraisal: Lenders generally insist on verification of the home's value via an appraisal, as they don't want to lend you more than the property is worth.
- Home sale: This is a less common contingency that means the purchase relies on the completion of another, separate transaction. This is usually either the sale of your current home or the seller finding a new home.

Although you have to protect your interests and gather enough information to make a wise purchase, contingencies may act as roadblocks to getting a deal done — especially in hot markets. It's best for both the buyer and the seller to put only enough stipulations in the contract to cover the necessary bases; no more.

THE OFFER PROCESS



You can negotiate back and forth as many times as needed until you reach an agreement or someone chooses to walk away.

NEGOTIATE ANY REPAIRS OR CREDITS WITH THE SELLER

Though some items, like prorating property taxes or HOA fees, will already have been addressed in your offer letter, you may still have some items to negotiate before closing.

Your ability to negotiate can hinge on what kind of market you're facing. In a strong seller's market, it can be difficult to get concessions, since the seller can simply go to their next offer. But if it's an issue that will come up with any buyer — for example, a necessary repair that will get flagged by any home inspector — you may still have leverage.

ASKING FOR A CREDIT AT CLOSING RATHER THAN FOR THE SELLER TO COMPLETE NEEDED REPAIRS CAN HELP KEEP THE TRANSACTION MOVING. THE SELLER SIMPLY REBATES YOU AN AGREED-UPON AMOUNT FOR SPECIFIC IMPROVEMENTS. THAT CAN SAVE YOU A BIT OF CASH AT CLOSING, PLUS HANDLING THE REPAIRS YOURSELF (WHETHER DIY OR WITH A PRO) ENSURES THE WORK WILL BE DONE TO YOUR SATISFACTION.



FINALIZE YOUR MORTGAGE

You know the property you want to buy and how much you'll have to pay for it. Now you'll choose a lender to get a mortgage from (you can go with a lender that preapproved you or start fresh with a different one).

Even with an online-first lender, you'll often work closely with a loan officer to complete the actual application.

This is a paperwork-heavy process, so get ready to do a lot of uploading. Here's what you're likely to need:

W-2 forms from the past two years (possibly more, if you've changed employers).

Pay stubs from the past 30 to 60 days.

Proof of other sources of income (including documentation of any gift money).

Federal income tax returns from the past two years.

Recent bank statements (usually for the last couple of months).

Details on long-term debts like car or student loans.

ID and Social Security number.

Once your mortgage application is complete, you'll go into underwriting. During this process, the lender makes a final decision on whether to give you the loan — it's making sure there's not anything about the deal that's just too risky.

Underwriting includes digging deep into your finances, so you may need to come up with even more documents. The lender will also look at the home you've chosen via an appraisal and request a title search.



FINALIZE HOME INSURANCE

It might feel a little strange to take out an insurance policy on a home you don't actually own yet, but most lenders make securing homeowners insurance a condition of giving you a mortgage. You'll want enough coverage to fully replace the home (which might not be the same as your purchase price or the appraised value), and typically the policy should become effective on your closing date.

ORDER AND ATTEND INSPECTION

A basic home inspection can raise issues you might face down the road and point out any necessary repairs. This visual assessment covers all aspects of the house and its systems, from the foundation to the roof. If you have a particular concern, like mold or radon, you may want to get one of the more specialized types of home inspections in addition to a standard inspection.

You choose the home inspector and pay for the home inspection. If it uncovers problems that weren't included in the seller's disclosures, you may be able to negotiate with the seller.



ORDER AN APPRAISAL

When your home is under contract, you can't move forward with the sale until an appraisal is done on your home.

The outcome can affect whether or not you make it to closing and whether the price in the offer is the price you'll end up with on settlement day.

We go the extra mile during this phase of being under contract, meeting the appraiser at your home, and creating an information packet that helps the appraiser have all the information he or she needs for a favorable outcome.

You don't want the appraised value of your home to come in below the price you've negotiated with the buyer, so we have a very specific process for making sure that doesn't happen!



SCHEDULING YOUR MOVE

AFTER SIGNING

Declutter! Sort through every drawer, closet, cupboard & shelf, removing items you no longer need or like.

Donate or sell items that are in good condition.

Get copies of medical records and store them with your other important documents

Create an inventory of anything valuable that you plan to move

Get estimates from moving companies

4 WEEKS TO MOVE

Give 30 days' notice if you are currently renting

Schedule movers/moving truck

Buy/find packing materials

Start packing

2 WEEKS TO MOVE

Contact utility companies (water, electric, cable)

Change address: mailing, subscriptions, etc.

Minimize grocery shopping

Keep on packing

1 WEEK TO MOVE

Obtain a certified check for closing

Complete final walkthrough

Finish packing

Clean

Pack essentials for a few nights in the new home

Confirm delivery date with the moving company. Write directions to the new home, along with your cell phone number

CLOSING DAY

CLOSING DAY

Closing is when you sign ownership and insurance paperwork and you receive your new home's keys! Typically, closing takes four to six weeks. During this time, purchase funds are held in escrow, where your money is held safe until the transaction is complete.

FINAL WALK-THROUGH

We will do a final walk of the home within 24 hours of closing to check the property's condition. This final inspection takes about an hour. We will make sure any repair work that the seller agreed to do has been done.

WE WILL BE SURE TO:

- Make sure all appliances are working properly
- Run the water in all the faucets and check for any possible leaks
- Open and close garage doors with an opener
 - Flush toilets
- Run the garbage disposal and exhaust fans

CLOSING TABLE

Who will be there:

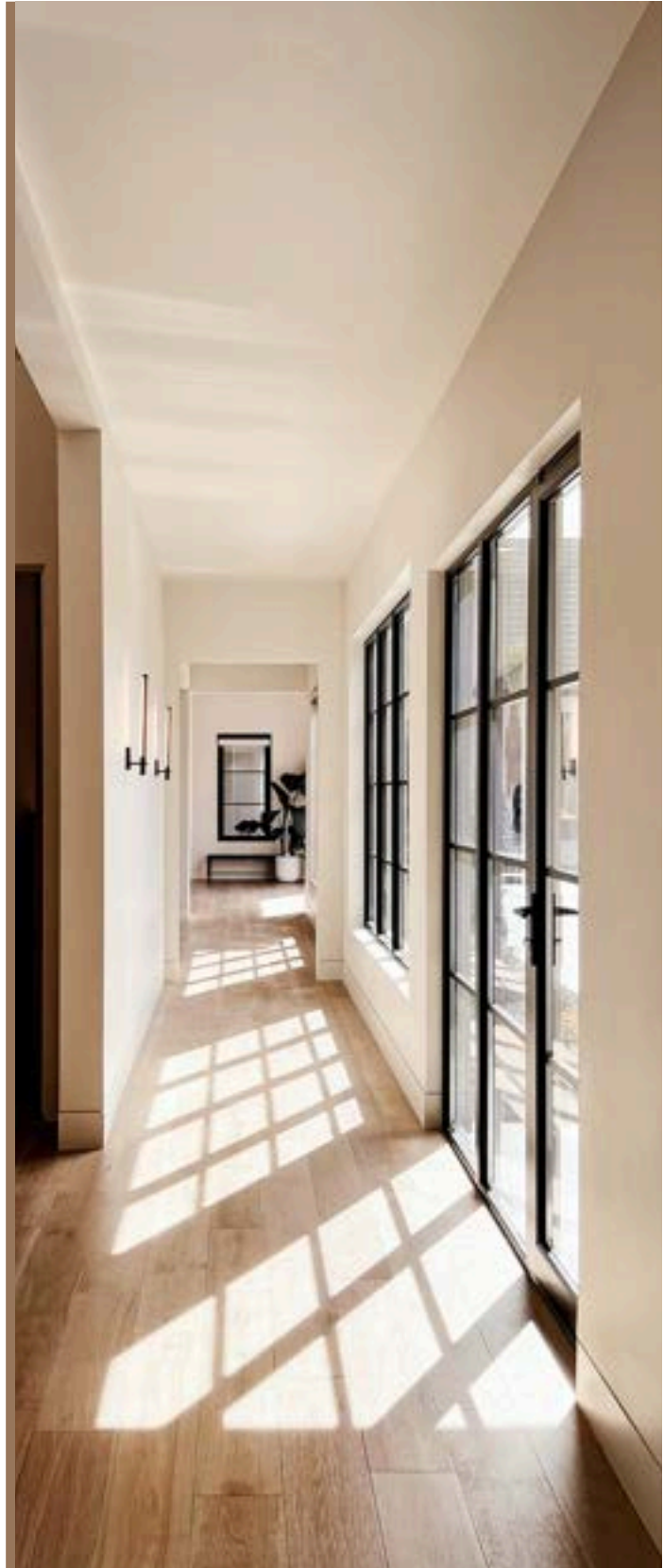
- Your agent
- The seller
- The seller's agent
- Your loan officer

BRING TO CLOSING

- Government-issued photo ID

RECEIVE YOUR KEYS

Congratulations! It was a lot of hard work but you are now officially homeowners!! Time to throw a party and get to know your new neighbors!



THANK YOU!

WE WOULD LOVE TO WORK WITH YOU. PLEASE
REACH OUT IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS.

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