



The **EDUCATED BUYER'S** *Guide*

EVERYTHING YOU NEED TO
BUY YOUR HOME
WITH **CONFIDENCE**



EDUCATE.



EMPOWER.



MOVE.

Sury 
ROMERO
— REALTOR® —

real



INDEX

Your Guide to a
Confident Homebuying Journey ♥

Use this guide as a resource every step of the way.

I'm here to educate, empower, and help you move forward with confidence.

INTRODUCTION

	01 Welcome	03
	02 Why Work With Me	04
	03 Are You Ready to Buy?	05

BEFORE YOU START SHOPPING

	04 Understanding the Costs of Buying a Home	06
	05 Mortgage Basics	08

THE HOMEBUYING JOURNEY

	06 The Educated Buyer Roadmap	10
	07 Meet Your Homebuying Team	12
	08 How We'll Work Together	13

FINDING YOUR HOME

	09 Finding the Right Home	14
	10 Making an Offer	16

UNDER CONTRACT

	11 Under Contract	18
	12 Home Inspection	20
	13 Appraisal & Loan Approval	21
	14 Closing Day	22

HOMESHOWERSHIP

	15 Welcome Home	24
	16 Beyond Closing	25

RESOURCES

	17 Home Search Notes	26
	18 Thank You	27

“ I teach the process so you can own the outcome. ”



WELCOME



I'm glad you're here.

Buying a home is one of the biggest financial decisions you'll ever make, and you deserve to understand every step of the journey.

As a former teacher turned REALTOR®, my approach is simple:

*I teach the process so
you can own the outcome.*

This guide was created to help you:

- ✓ Understand the home buying process
- ✓ Learn what to expect
- ✓ Make informed decisions
- ✓ Buy with confidence

Whether you're purchasing your first home or your next one, my goal is the same—to **educate**, **empower**, and **guide** you every step of the way.

Let's get started.



Sury
ROMERO
— REALTOR® —

EDUCATE. EMPOWER. MOVE.

WHY WORK WITH ME?

I don't just help you buy a home.

I help you understand the process.

Every buyer deserves more than someone who unlocks doors.

My goal is to educate you so you can make informed decisions with confidence—from our first conversation to closing day and beyond.

That's why every client experience is guided by my **EDUCATE Method**.

THE **EDUCATE** METHOD



E – Evaluate

We begin by understanding your goals, budget, and timeline so we can build a plan that fits your needs.



D – Design

Together, we'll create a personalized homebuying strategy based on what matters most to you.



U – Unite

I'll connect you with trusted professionals, including lenders, inspectors, title companies, and other resources you'll need along the way.



C – Clarify

Real estate can feel overwhelming. I'll explain each step, answer your questions, and make sure you understand your options before making decisions.



A – Authenticate

We'll review homes, contracts, and important details carefully so you can move forward with confidence.



T – Trust

You can expect honest communication, organized guidance, and an advocate who always puts your best interests first.



E – Empower

My goal isn't just to help you buy a home—it's to help you feel confident every step of the way.

My Promise to You



I listen before I lead.



I educate instead of pressure.



I communicate clearly.



I stay organized.



I protect your best interests.



I celebrate your success.



Sury
ROMERO
REALTOR®

real

551-200-8145
SurySellsRealEstate@gmail.com
SurySellsHomes.com
@Sury.Romero.Realtor
Sury Romero, Realtor



Sury
ROMERO
REALTOR®



ARE YOU READY TO BUY?

Let's make sure you're set up
for success.

✓ YOU MAY BE READY IF...

- ✓ You're thinking about buying within the next 6–12 months.
- ✓ You have a steady source of income.
- ✓ You're saving for a down payment and closing costs.
- ✓ You're ready to meet with a lender to explore financing options.
- ✓ You're excited about becoming a homeowner.

♥ DON'T WORRY IF...



This is your
first home.



You don't
know where
to start.



You're unsure
how much you
can afford.



You have
questions about
credit or
financing.



The process
feels
overwhelming.

You don't have to figure it out alone.



MY PROMISE TO YOU



I listen.



I teach.



I guide you
every step.

I teach the process so you can
own the outcome.



“

My goal isn't just to
help you buy a home—
it's to help you *understand*
every step along the way.

Sury Romero, REALTOR®

EDUCATE. EMPOWER. MOVE.

real

UNDERSTANDING THE COSTS OF BUYING A HOME

Buying a home is more than the purchase price.
Understanding these common expenses can help you plan ahead and avoid surprises.



DOWN PAYMENT

The portion of the home's purchase price you pay upfront. The amount varies based on your loan program and financial goals.



EARNEST MONEY

A good-faith deposit submitted with your offer to show you're serious about purchasing the home. This money is typically applied toward your purchase at closing.



CLOSING COSTS

Fees associated with finalizing your home purchase, which may include lender fees, title services, prepaid taxes, and homeowners insurance.



HOME INSPECTION

An optional but highly recommended inspection that helps identify the home's condition before you move forward with your purchase.



HOMEOWNERS INSURANCE

Most lenders require homeowners insurance before closing to help protect your investment.



MOVING & NEW HOME EXPENSES

Don't forget to budget for moving costs, utility deposits, furniture, and any immediate home improvements or repairs.



Buyer Tip

Every buyer's financial situation is different.

Before you start shopping, we'll connect with a trusted lender to understand your options, estimate your costs, and build a plan that fits your goals and budget.



Sury
ROMERO
REALTOR®



MORTGAGE BASICS

UNDERSTANDING YOUR FINANCING IS ONE OF THE FIRST STEPS TOWARD HOMEOWNERSHIP.



You don't need to know everything about mortgages before you begin.
Understanding these basics will help you feel more confident as you prepare to buy your home.



1 PRE-APPROVAL

A lender reviews your finances to estimate how much you may qualify to borrow.

Why it matters:

It helps you understand your budget and shows sellers you're a serious buyer.



2 CREDIT SCORE

Your credit history helps determine the loan programs and interest rates available to you.

Tip: Continue paying bills on time and avoid opening new credit accounts while buying a home.



3 DOWN PAYMENT

The amount you contribute toward the purchase of your home.

The required amount depends on the loan program you choose.



4 INTEREST RATE

Your interest rate affects your monthly mortgage payment and the total cost of your loan over time.



5 MONTHLY MORTGAGE PAYMENT

Your payment may include:

- ✓ Principal
- ✓ Interest
- ✓ Property Taxes
- ✓ Homeowners Insurance



6 TRUSTED LENDING PARTNERS

I can connect you with experienced local lenders who will explain your financing options and help you choose the loan that best fits your goals.



Buyer Tip

Getting pre-approved doesn't commit you to buying a home—it simply helps you understand your options and shop with confidence.



EDUCATE. EMPOWER. MOVE.

real



Sury
ROMERO
REALTOR®



THE EDUCATED BUYER ROADMAP

Your step-by-step guide to buying with confidence.

1 MEET & CONSULT

We'll discuss your goals, needs, and timeline to create a plan that fits you.



3 CREATE YOUR HOME PLAN

We'll define your must-haves, wants, and neighborhoods that fit your lifestyle.



5 FIND "THE ONE"

We'll find the home that checks the boxes and feels just right.



7 UNDER CONTRACT

Your offer is accepted! Now we move into the contract period.



9 APPRAISAL

The lender orders an appraisal to confirm the home's value supports the loan.



11 FINAL WALK-THROUGH

We'll walk through the home to make sure everything is as agreed upon.



13 HOME SWEET HOME

Time to move in and start making memories in your new home!



2 GET PRE-APPROVED

Your lender reviews your finances so you know your budget and strengthen your buying power.

4 HOME SEARCH

I'll help you search smarter, not harder, and schedule showings that match your plan.

6 MAKE AN OFFER

I'll guide you through pricing strategy, terms, and negotiation to make a strong offer.

8 INSPECTION

We'll schedule the home inspection and review the results together.

10 CLEAR TO CLOSE

Your lender gives the final approval and we prepare for closing day!

12 CLOSING DAY

You'll sign the documents, get the keys, and officially become a homeowner!

14 BEYOND CLOSING

I'm here long after you close for questions, referrals, and anything you need.



My Promise

I'll be with you through every step—from our first conversation to long after you receive the keys.

EDUCATE. EMPOWER. MOVE.

real



MEET YOUR HOMEBUYING TEAM

A successful home purchase is a team effort. Each professional plays an important role in helping you buy with confidence.



REALTOR®

Your Trusted Guide

I'm here to educate, advocate, and guide you from our first conversation through closing—and beyond.

- ✓ Explains every step of the process
- ✓ Schedules showings
- ✓ Negotiates on your behalf
- ✓ Coordinates deadlines
- ✓ Protects your best interests
- ✓ Answers your questions



LOAN OFFICER

Your Financing Expert

Your lender helps you understand your financing options and prepares your mortgage.

- ✓ Reviews your finances
- ✓ Issues your pre-approval
- ✓ Explains loan programs
- ✓ Secures your financing
- ✓ Provides your Clear to Close



HOME INSPECTOR

Your Home Detective

A licensed home inspector evaluates the home's condition so you can make an informed decision.

They inspect:

- ✓ Roof
- ✓ Plumbing
- ✓ Foundation
- ✓ HVAC
- ✓ Electrical
- ✓ Major systems



TITLE COMPANY

Your Closing Partner

The title company ensures the property can legally transfer ownership to you.

- ✓ Research ownership records
- ✓ Hold escrow funds
- ✓ Coordinate closing
- ✓ Issue title insurance
- ✓ Transfer ownership



APPRAISER

Your Value Expert

Ordered by your lender, the appraiser determines the home's market value.

- ✓ Their report helps ensure the home's value supports your mortgage loan.



INSURANCE AGENT

Protecting Your Investment

Before closing, you'll obtain homeowners insurance to protect your new home.

Your insurance agent helps you:

- ✓ Compare coverage
- ✓ Understand your policy
- ✓ Meet lender requirements



DID YOU KNOW?

Although many professionals are involved in your home purchase, I'll coordinate with everyone to help keep your transaction organized and on track.





HOW WE'LL WORK TOGETHER

Working Together for a Smooth Homebuying Experience



Buying a home is a team effort. These simple guidelines help us stay organized, protect your interests, and make the process as smooth and stress-free as possible.

1 SCHEDULE SHOWINGS EARLY



- Whenever possible, please provide at least one day's notice for home showings.
- I'll always do my best to arrange same-day showings, but availability cannot be guaranteed.

2 SHOWING AGENTS



- I may need a showing agent to assist with home tours, but I pay them per showing—never you.
- They open the door and answer basic questions that are basic facts.
- They cannot give you advice or opinions.



If an agent tries to obtain your business, they are unethical and violating the Code of Conduct.

3 NEW CONSTRUCTION & FOR SALE BY OWNER



- I will contact For Sale by Owners and Builders on your behalf.
- Never visit, call, register or contact any For Sale by Owner or Builder without me.

4 OPEN HOUSES



- Let me know if you plan to attend an Open House.
- I will do my best to attend with you.
- I will let the agent know if I can't attend with you.
- Carry my business card with you at an Open House and show agent if requested.

5 COMMUNICATION



- Texts/Calls after 8pm will be returned the following day.
- If I don't answer a call, text or email right away, please send a quick message so I can assess the priority.

6 ARRIVE ON TIME



- I cannot open the door before the appointment time.
- Emergencies do happen, so please keep me updated via call or text.



Buyer Tip:

The best homebuying experiences happen when we communicate openly, stay organized, and work together as a team.

FINDING THE RIGHT HOME

SMARTER SEARCH. BETTER DECISIONS. THE RIGHT HOME FOR YOU.

This is an exciting part of the journey! I'll help you focus on what matters most, stay within your plan, and find a home that fits your lifestyle and goals.

What to Look For



LOCATION & NEIGHBORHOOD

Consider commute, nearby amenities, schools, and the overall feel of the community.



CONDITION OF THE HOME

Check the roof, foundation, windows, HVAC, plumbing, electrical, and overall maintenance.



LAYOUT & FUNCTIONALITY

Does the floor plan fit your lifestyle? Think about space, storage, and how each room is used.



NATURAL LIGHT & VENTILATION

Good natural light and airflow can improve comfort and energy efficiency.



FUTURE NEEDS

Will this home meet your needs today and in the years to come?



VALUE & RESALE POTENTIAL

Look at comparable homes and consider the long-term value of the property.

During the Showing



LIMIT FACIAL EXPRESSIONS & TALKING

Security cameras with audio recording may be present. Keep conversations and reactions to a minimum.



TAKE NOTES

Details can blur together. Write down what you like, what you don't, and any concerns.



SCORE EACH HOME

Rate each home on a scale of 1-10 to help you compare them later.



MARK YOUR FAVORITES

Use a ✓ for the homes you love and an ✗ for the ones that aren't a good fit.



LIST PROS & CONS

Write down the pros and cons of the homes you like to consider before making a decision.



Buyer Tip

Take notes after each showing. It helps you remember what you liked, what you didn't, and how each home compares.



Remember

There is no perfect home, but there is a right home for you—and I'm here to help you find it.



Pro Tip

Stay focused on your must-haves, ask the right questions, and keep your goals in mind. I'll guide you every step of the way!

Where We Are in the Process



MEET & PLAN



GET PRE-APPROVED



FIND YOUR HOME



MAKE AN OFFER



UNDER CONTRACT



INSPECTION



APPRAISAL &
LOAN APPROVAL



CLOSE &
GET KEYS

MAKING AN OFFER

Turning Interest into Opportunity

When you find the right home, I'll help you craft a strong, competitive offer that protects your interests and gives you the best chance of success.

1



STRATEGY SESSION

We'll review market conditions, comparable sales, and your goals to determine the best offer strategy.

2



OFFER PRICE

We'll decide on a competitive price that reflects the value of the home and current market activity.

3



TERMS & CONDITIONS

We'll discuss important terms such as earnest money, option period, financing, and closing date.

4



PROTECTING YOUR INTERESTS

I'll include contingencies and contract terms that safeguard you throughout the process.

5



SUBMITTING THE OFFER

Once we've finalized everything, I'll present your offer to the listing agent.

6



NEGOTIATION

The seller may accept, reject, or counter. I'll negotiate on your behalf to get the best terms.

7



OFFER ACCEPTED!

Once accepted, we'll move forward with inspections, lender processes, and all the steps to closing.

WHAT'S INCLUDED IN YOUR OFFER

- ✓ Purchase price
- ✓ Earnest money amount
- ✓ Option period
- ✓ Financing terms
- ✓ Appraisal contingency
- ✓ Home inspection contingency
- ✓ Closing date
- ✓ Special requests (if any)
- ✓ And more...



BUYER TIP

A strong offer is more than price. Clean terms, a solid pre-approval, and flexibility can make your offer stand out in a competitive market.



You don't have to navigate this alone.

I'll guide you, advocate for you, and make sure your offer puts you in the best position for a successful purchase.

UNDER CONTRACT

CONGRATULATIONS! YOUR OFFER WAS ACCEPTED.

Here's what happens next.

We're officially under contract! Now, we move through several important steps to make sure everything stays on track toward closing.



EARNEST MONEY

Your good faith deposit that shows the seller you're serious about buying the home. It's held in escrow by the title company and applied toward your closing costs.



OPTION FEE (IF APPLICABLE)

In Texas, most contracts include an option period (typically 7–10 days). The option fee gives you the right to terminate the contract for any reason during this time.

- It is paid upfront and is non-refundable if you do not terminate.
- If you terminate within the option period, the fee is not due to the seller.
- If you proceed with the purchase, the option fee is credited toward your closing costs.



IMPORTANT DEADLINES

Your contract includes key dates for inspections, appraisal, financing, and closing. I'll monitor every deadline so nothing is missed.



YOUR RESPONSIBILITIES

- Deliver earnest money & option fee by the deadline
- Schedule inspections within the option period
- Provide requested documents to your lender
- Respond promptly to all requests



MY ROLE

- Coordinate all parties & important dates
- Ensure your contract is followed correctly
- Negotiate on your behalf if needed
- Keep you informed every step of the way

YOUR CONTRACT TIMELINE AT A GLANCE



DAY 0

Offer Accepted

We're under contract!



DAYS 1–10

Option Period & Inspections

You may terminate for any reason during this time. Schedule & complete your home inspections.



DAYS 11–17

Lender & Appraisal

Lender processes your loan and orders the appraisal.



DAYS 18–24

Underwriting

Lender reviews everything & issues conditions.



DAY 25—CLOSING

Clear to Close

Final documents prepared & we're ready to close!



Buyer Tip

Communication is key! The faster we respond and provide what's needed, the smoother the process will be for everyone.



*Let's make
your next move
a great one!*



HOME INSPECTION

KNOWLEDGE TODAY, CONFIDENCE TOMORROW.

The home inspection gives you a clear picture of the condition of the home so you can make informed decisions.



WHAT DOES AN INSPECTOR DO?

A licensed inspector evaluates the home's major systems and components.



MAJOR VS. MINOR ISSUES

We focus on MAJOR ITEMS that impact the safety, structure or function of the home—items that could be costly to repair or affect your decision to move forward.

We use the acronym **PEACH** to check the major systems:



We also evaluate big-ticket items like the **Roof** and **Foundation**, which are critical to the home's long-term value and safety.



REPAIR NEGOTIATIONS

If major issues are found, we can negotiate repairs, seller credits, or a price adjustment based on the terms of the contract.



INSPECTION REPORT EXPECTATIONS

You'll receive a detailed report with photos. I will walk you through it so you know exactly what it means.



BUYER TIP

No home is perfect. The goal is to understand the home's condition so you can make confident, educated decisions that are right for **YOU**.

I'M HERE TO:

- ✓ Explain the report in plain English
- ✓ Help you understand the options
- ✓ Negotiate on your behalf
- ✓ Protect your best interests

You're not just buying a home.

YOU'RE BUILDING YOUR FUTURE.

WHAT TO EXPECT



Schedule:

Typically during the option period (Days 1–10).



Attend (if possible):

Highly recommended! You'll learn so much about your future home.



Review:

We'll go over the report together and prioritize any concerns.



Negotiate:

If needed, we'll present your requests to the seller.



Move Forward:

Once we resolve any issues, we keep moving toward closing with confidence.



An informed decision is always the best decision.

APPRAISAL & LOAN APPROVAL

One Step Closer to the Keys

During this stage, your lender reviews the property and your financial information to confirm everything meets the loan requirements.



WHAT IS AN APPRAISAL?

An appraisal is an independent opinion of the home's market value completed by a licensed appraiser.

- ✓ Confirms the value supports the loan amount
- ✓ Based on recent sales, condition, location, and features
- ✓ You will be notified of the results



WHAT IS UNDERWRITING?

The underwriter reviews your financial information and the property to make sure everything meets the loan requirements.

- ✓ Verifies income, credit, assets, and employment
- ✓ Confirms the home meets lender guidelines
- ✓ May request additional documentation
- ✓ Issues final approval when conditions are met



YOU MAY BE ASKED FOR:

- Updated bank statements
- Recent pay stubs
- Employment verification
- Additional documents, if needed



HELPFUL TO KNOW

Respond quickly to any requests from your lender. This helps keep your loan on track and gets you closer to closing day!

Where We Are in the Process



Buyer Tip

Stay patient and avoid financial changes until you receive final approval from your lender.





CLOSING DAY

The Day You Become a Homeowner



You've made it! Closing day is the final step in your homebuying journey. Here's what to expect so you can feel confident and prepared.



WHAT TO EXPECT



FINAL WALK-THROUGH

- Usually completed within 24 hours before closing.
- Confirm agreed-upon repairs are complete.
- Ensure the home's condition hasn't changed.



SIGN YOUR DOCUMENTS

You'll sign:

- Loan documents
- Closing disclosures
- Final paperwork

Your title company will guide you through each document.



RECEIVE YOUR KEYS

Once documents are signed, funds are received, and the transaction is funded and recorded—

Congratulations!

You officially own your new home!



CLOSING COSTS

Bring the amount provided by your title company.



Always verify wire instructions by calling your title company using a trusted phone number before sending funds.



Buyer Tip

Take your time.

Don't feel rushed while signing.
Ask questions if anything is unclear.
I'm here to help every step of the way.

This is the start of your next chapter.

I'm so happy for you!

Where We Are in the Process



UNDER CONTRACT



INSPECTION



APPRAISAL &
LOAN APPROVAL



CLOSING DAY



WELCOME HOME

You Did It!



The keys are yours and a new chapter begins.
Here are a few important things to know
as you settle into homeownership.



SET UP UTILITIES

Don't forget to set up or transfer your:

- Electricity
- Water
- Gas
- Trash
- Internet



HOMESTEAD EXEMPTION

If you plan to make this your primary residence, you may qualify for a homestead exemption which can lower your property taxes.

Check with your county appraisal district.



HOME MAINTENANCE

A little upkeep goes a long way!
Create a simple plan to:

- Change air filters regularly
- Clean gutters
- Check smoke detectors
- Service your HVAC annually



IMPORTANT DOCUMENTS

Keep these in a safe place:

- Deed
- Closing Disclosure
- Loan Documents
- Homeowners Insurance
- Warranties & Manuals



MARK YOUR CALENDAR

Don't miss important deadlines:

- Property tax due dates
- Homeowners insurance renewal
- Warranty expirations
- Maintenance reminders



ENJOY YOUR HOME!

Make it your own and create memories that last a lifetime.

You're home!



Buyer Tip

Homeownership is a journey, not a race.
Give yourself grace, ask questions,
and remember I'm always here for you.



I teach the process so you can own the outcome.



EDUCATE. EMPOWER. MOVE.

real

BEYOND CLOSING

*I'm Your REALTOR® for Life,
Not Just for Closing Day.*



Buying your home is just the beginning.
Whether you have a question next month
or years from now, I'm here to be your
trusted real estate resource.



HOME VALUE REVIEWS

Stay informed about your
home's value and the
local market.



TRUSTED REFERRALS

Need a contractor, plumber,
electrician, painter, or landscaper?
I'm happy to recommend
trusted professionals.



REAL ESTATE QUESTIONS

Not sure about exemptions,
taxes, remodeling, or refinancing?
Reach out anytime.



MARKET UPDATES

I'll help you understand
what's happening in the market
so you're always informed.



YOUR NEXT MOVE

Whether you're buying again,
selling, or investing, I'll help you
create a plan that fits
your goals.



STAY CONNECTED

I love celebrating milestones,
seeing home updates, and
staying in touch long
after closing.



Thank you

for trusting me to guide you through
one of life's biggest decisions.
It has been an honor to be
part of your journey.



Buyer Tip

REAL ESTATE IS A RELATIONSHIP, NOT JUST A TRANSACTION.

Keep my contact information handy—
I'm always just a call, text, or email away.





THANK YOU

*for trusting me with
such an important journey.* 



It is truly an honor to walk alongside you
as you take one of life's biggest steps.
Your trust means everything.

My promise is to continue
educating, empowering, and guiding
you every step of the way.

I'm here for you—today, tomorrow,
and long after you get the keys.

Let's make your next move 
YOUR BEST ONE YET!



LOVE MY SERVICE?

If you had a great experience,
I would be so grateful
if you left a **Google Business Review!**



 **Find me on Google:**
Sury Romero, REALTOR® - Real Broker, LLC
*Your review helps others feel confident
in making their next move!*



LET'S STAY IN TOUCH!



CALL OR TEXT
551.200.8145



EMAIL
SurySellsRealEstate
@gmail.com



WEBSITE
SurySellsHomes.com



INSTAGRAM
@Sury.Romero.Realtor



FACEBOOK
Sury Romero, Realtor



GOOGLE BUSINESS
Sury Romero, REALTOR® -
Real Broker, LLC

“

I teach the process
so you can own the outcome.

”

E D U C A T E . E M P O W E R . M O V E .

real



HOME SEARCH

Notes

Use this page to take notes during your home search so you can compare your options and make the best decision for you.

01

HOME ADDRESS:

PRICE:

DATE:

OVERALL RATING



LOVED:



CONCERNS:

PROS:

CONS:

02

HOME ADDRESS:

PRICE:

DATE:

OVERALL RATING



LOVED:



CONCERNS:

PROS:

CONS:

03

HOME ADDRESS:

PRICE:

DATE:

OVERALL RATING



LOVED:



CONCERNS:

PROS:

CONS:



Buyer Tip

Take notes during each showing while it's fresh in your mind. It will help you stay organized and confident in your decision.



“

I teach the process
so you can
own the outcome.

”