



Ready to Make the Leap? Your Comprehensive First-Time Homebuyer Checklist is Here!

1. **Determine your budget:** Before starting your search, it's important to figure out how much you can afford to spend on a house. This will help you narrow down your search and avoid falling in love with homes that are outside of your price range. Determining your budget is best by working with a mortgage loan officer. You can also check out my calculators on my website at <https://www.lendingprof.com/calculators>.

My budget is: _____

2. **Check your credit score:** Your credit score is one of the most important factors that lenders will consider when deciding whether to approve your mortgage. Make sure your credit score is in good shape before applying for a mortgage. It is best to have a credit score greater than 680 to get the best rates, however you can have scores in the 500's and still get a mortgage. Note, the score you see on credit card statements and/or Credit Karma are not going to be the scores your mortgage lender will use, but it will be close.

My score is: _____

3. **Get yourself pre-approved for a mortgage:** Getting pre-approved for a mortgage will give you a good idea of how much you can borrow and what your monthly payments will be. This will also make you a more attractive buyer to sellers. No one wants to go shopping and find the perfect home and then find out they cannot buy it. Work with your mortgage loan officer to come up with that perfect amount and then stick with it.

My qualified amount is: _____

My Lender is: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____

4. **Research neighborhoods:** Research different neighborhoods to find the one that best suits your needs. Consider factors such as proximity to work, schools, shopping, and entertainment.

Research _____



5. **Make a list of must-haves:** Make a list of features that are essential for your new home, such as the number of bedrooms and bathrooms, a garage, a backyard, and a large kitchen.

My must haves: _____

6. **Find a real estate agent:** A good real estate agent can help you navigate the homebuying process and find homes that meet your needs and budget.

My Agent: _____ Phone: _____
Email: _____

7. **Start viewing homes:** Once you have an idea of what you're looking for, start visiting homes that are in your price range and meet your criteria.

My favorite home is located at: _____

8. **Make an offer:** When you find a home you like, make an offer. Your real estate agent can help you make a competitive offer that considers the current market conditions.

My offer amount is: _____

9. **Get a home inspection:** A home inspection is an important part of the homebuying process. It can help identify any potential problems with the home that you may not have noticed during your initial visit.

Home Inspection Contact: _____ Phone: _____
Date Scheduled: _____

10. **Close the deal:** Once your offer has been accepted, you'll need to complete the paperwork and finalize the sale. This will include signing the mortgage documents and transferring funds to the seller.

Closing Date: _____
Closing Location: _____

11. **Move in:** Congratulations, you're now a homeowner! Take some time to settle into your new home and enjoy the experience of owning your own place.



Move in date: _____

Overall, buying a home can be a complex process, but with the right preparation and guidance, it can also be a rewarding one. Use this checklist as a starting point but be sure to work closely with your real estate agent and other professionals involved in the process to ensure a smooth and successful homebuying experience.

Have more questions, reach out to Holly today and never have a question unanswered. <https://www.lendingprof.com> or email holly@lendingprof.com

