

HOME OWNERSHIP FACT SHEETS

Home Buyer Checklist

This checklist identifies the important factors to consider when choosing a home. In addition to being affordable, be sure the neighborhood and house meet the needs of your family.

For instance, if you have children, you may want to know if there are other children in the neighborhood or if schools and playgrounds are nearby.

As a working person, the distance and travel time to and from your place of employment or the availability of public transportation may be of concern. You may already know the type and size of home that you would like to purchase, but there are many other features of the house that you want to consider before deciding to buy a particular house.

Take this checklist along when you go shopping for your house. It will help you evaluate the neighborhoods and the availability and condition of various features of up to three homes in a side-by-side comparison. This checklist will help you remember which house has which features

Checklist Comparison

Home #1 Home #2 Home #3

Asking price _____

Real estate taxes _____

The Neighborhood

Near work _____

Near school _____

Near shopping _____

Near expressways _____

Near public transportation _____

Near doctors/dentists _____

Near churches _____

Garbage collection _____

Street lights _____

Sidewalks _____

Streets well maintained _____

Traffic volume _____

Parks _____

Neighbor' yards maintained _____

All utilities installed _____

Neighborhood covenants or restrictions _____

Near train tracks/airport _____

Area zoned residential _____

Near industry _____

Flooding danger _____
Proposed special assessments _____
Restrictive easements _____

The House

Age of the house _____
Number of stories _____
Wood frame _____
Brick frame _____
Wood and brick frame _____
Aluminum siding _____
Roof condition _____
Foundation condition _____
Overall exterior condition _____
Garage size _____
Number of bathrooms _____
Number of closets _____
Number of bedrooms _____
Oil heat _____
Gas heat _____
Electric heat _____
Hot water heat _____
Insulation _____
Central air conditioning _____
Energy conservation features _____
Age of heating system _____
Age of hot water heater _____
Capacity of hot water heater _____
Age of electrical wiring _____
Plumbing condition _____
Estimated water bill _____
Estimated heating bill _____
Estimated electric bill _____
Living room _____
Fireplace _____
Separate dining room _____
Family room _____
Window coverings - # of rooms _____
Carpeting - # of rooms _____
Kitchen eating area _____
Refrigerator _____
Stove/oven (gas/electric) _____
Garbage disposal _____
Dishwasher _____
Broken windows _____
Storm windows/screens _____
Washer/dryer outlets _____

Laundry space _____
Finished basement _____
Attic _____
Sump pump/drainage _____
Connected to sewer system _____
Patio _____
Backyard fence _____
Landscaping _____
Property boundaries _____
Security (dead bolt locks, smoke detectors) _____
Building code compliance (remodels &
additions) _____
Ability to expand or enlarge house _____