



The Essential House-Hunting Checklist for First-Time Homebuyers

Filling out this worksheet should help you narrow down your home search to properties that truly fit what you need and want from your first home. However, don't put too much pressure on yourself to anticipate all your future needs. Since the average person buys three homes in their lifetime, this likely won't be the last home you live in—just your home for right now.

What Type of Construction Would You Consider?

(Check all boxes that apply.)

Styles: Multifamily dwelling Single-family house Condo Townhome

Condition:

- A fixer-upper
- New construction
- Recently upgraded
- Requires a few renovation projects
- An older home that needs special care
- Other? Use the box below to write down other condition requirements:

Types:

- Cape Cod
- Bungalow
- Ranch
- Split-level
- Colonial
- Condo
- Townhome
- Victorian
- Other? Use the box below to describe your dream home:

Size range: _____ Sq. ft. to _____ Sq. ft.

What Features Do You Want in Your Home?

(Check all boxes that apply.)

How many bedrooms do you need? Primary #____ Guest #____ Kid #____

Are walk-in closets in bedrooms important? Yes No

How many bathrooms do you need? Full #____ Half #____

Do you want an en suite? Yes No

Do you want bathrooms that have been updated? Yes No

Would you like a formal dining room? Yes No

Do you need a separate office space? Yes No

If yes, use the box below to describe any special characteristics this office space should have:

Would you like to have an attic/eaves for storage? Yes No

Are there any additional features that you desire in your new home?

- Hardwood floors
- Open floor plan
- Bathtub
- Eat-in kitchen
- Stone countertops
- Kitchen island
- Stainless-steel appliances
- Fireplace
- Washer/dryer
- Central air
- Other? Use the box below to list out other must-have features for your new home:

What Features Do You Want on Your Property?

(Check all boxes that apply.)

Do you need a garage? Yes No

Do you want a deck or patio? Yes No

If no, is there a chance you might want to build one in the future? Yes No

Would you like a front porch? Yes No

Would you like a big back or front yard with landscaping? Yes No

Are you looking for a home with a pool? Yes No

If yes, does it have to be an in-ground one? Yes No

Do you require a fenced-in yard? Yes No

If yes, is this for:

- A pet?
- Children?
- Other? Use the box below to describe why a fenced-in yard is important to you:

Would you like a property that might allow you to add onto your home? Yes No

If yes, would that be for:

- Children?
- An older relative?
- Other? Use the box below to describe the reasons why you might want to add more space:

What Do You Want in a Neighborhood?

(Check all boxes that apply.)

What cities or towns interest you?

Use the box below to list preferred cities and towns:

How far are you willing to commute to work? ____–____ Miles ____–____ Minutes

How long do you see yourself living here? 0–5 years 6–19 years 20+ years

What else is important to you?

- Quality of school system
- Sense of community
- Low crime rate/safety
- Nearby parks and open spaces
- Walkability
- Proximity to restaurants, shopping, and entertainment
- Other? Use the box below to list out other things that would make the neighborhood perfect:

We, of course, hope that you can find all the things you want and need in a home in your price range. Typically, though, the only way to get everything on your list is by building your own home.

With this in mind, take a moment to review your worksheet answers and put a star (*) next to those things you consider “must-haves,” as opposed to “nice-to-haves.” This way, you will go into your homebuying search knowing which features you are willing to let go of, and which are non-negotiable.