

What Do I Want In a House?

It's important to think about what you want in your first home **before** you shop. This will allow your real estate agent to only show you homes that fit **your** needs. Here's a checklist to help:

What you can comfortably spend:

(Found on the "Calculating How Much Home You Can Afford" Slide) _____

Type of Home:

_____ Single-Family Home

A single-family home is a home occupied by one household or family. It is the most private type of home you can own.

_____ Condominium

A building or complex of buildings with individually owned apartments or houses inside. You pay Homeowners Association (HOA) fees to cover costs of maintenance and upkeep. These fees are not tax deductible.

_____ Planned Unit Development (PUD)

A building development designed for grouping of land uses (such as housing), where buyers own individual houses and lots, but common areas are reserved and managed by HOA. Usually accompanied with HOA fees.

_____ CO-OP

Typically an apartment-style building owned by a corporation. You buy stock in the corporation and then have the right to live in a unit. You must first be approved by the building's board of directors before you can own.

Features

_____ Number of Bedrooms

_____ Number of Bathrooms

_____ Garage (Number of Cars)

_____ Fence (Check if applicable)

_____ Pool (Check if applicable)

_____ Yard (Check if applicable)

Other: _____

Things to Consider:

Schools: If you have kids or plan to in the future, check the public school ratings near your home.

Safety: Check the crime rate by talking to your real estate agent and local police.

Traffic: Think about your commute to work and how busy the streets are. Is it easy to run errands?

Privacy: Do you prefer neighbors to be close or far? Talk to neighbors to see what the neighborhood is like.

