

# Homebuyer's Checklist

- 1) Get a free copy of your credit report. Visit [annualcreditreport.com](http://annualcreditreport.com)
- 2) Know your rights. Visit [hud.gov/buying/loans.cfm](http://hud.gov/buying/loans.cfm)
- 3) Research mortgage companies. Shop around for the best interest rates.
- 4) Know what loans are available for first-time homebuyers.
- 5) Get pre-approved.
- 6) Calculate your own budget to see how much you can afford.
- 7) Define your wants and needs in a house – new construction vs. resale.
- 8) Check out the local school districts.
- 9) Narrow down the area you want to live in.
- 10) Start looking at homes.
- 11) Talk to the neighbors in the areas you are looking.
- 12) Get a copy of the local crime report for your neighborhood.
- 13) Pick a REALTOR®.
- 14) Check comparable sales in the neighborhood.
- 15) Make an offer.
- 16) Start negotiating; be prepared to walk away if you don't get what you want.
- 17) Have your REALTOR® ask for the seller to purchase a home warranty.
- 18) Get the home inspected; know what to look for at your home inspection.
- 19) Sign the contract.
- 20) Apply for homeowner's insurance.
- 21) Set a closing date and know what the closing costs will be.
- 22) Do a final walk-through of the home.