



Protecting Washington Homeowners & Buyers

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Buying A Home

Before you start shopping for a home, it's important that you understand the home buying process and the different types of loans that are available.

Learning the basics will help you throughout the complicated process and will help you avoid trouble.

Before You Buy - To Do List

- Attend A Free Homebuyer Education Seminar**
 Educate yourself by attending a free homebuyer education seminar sponsored by the [Washington State Housing Finance Commission](#).

[Washington State Housing Finance Commission Seminar Schedule](#)
- Take Advantage Of Free Counseling**
 Free pre-purchase counseling is available from the State of Washington.

 Contact the Washington State Homeownership Information Hotline at **1.877.894.HOME** for more information or [view a list of participating counselors](#) in Washington State.
- Follow The Eight Steps To Homeownership**
 Follow the Washington Homeownership Center's [eight steps to homeownership](#) in order, and as completely as possible, to ensure that your loan and home are the best possible fit for you and your family and that your homebuying experience is positive and without stress.
- Determine How Much You Can Afford**
 Determine how much home you can truly afford. How much will your monthly payments be? Take into consideration future changes in your household income. Are you anticipating a promotion at work that would increase your salary? Will you be adjusting from a double income family to a single income in the coming years? If the interest rate is adjustable - can you afford the larger payment if the rates increase? Consider these questions before you buy.
- Check Your Credit History**
 Before you start shopping for a home, check your credit history at [www.annualcreditreport.com](#). Fix any problems that you discover.
- Educate Yourself**
 Learn as much as you can about the home buying process and the different types of loans available. See the Washington State Department of Financial Institutions [Free Guide to Home Loans](#). It explains the complicated home buying process in detail.
- Verify That You Are Working With Licensed Professionals**
 Be suspicious if anyone tries to steer you to just one lender or real estate professional. Verify licenses for:

Real Estate Professionals - [Department of Licensing](#) 360.664.6505
 Mortgage Brokers - [Department of Financial Institutions](#) 1.877.RING DFI
 Banks, Credit Unions - [Department of Financial Institutions](#) 1.877.RING DFI

Talk To A Counselor
 Call 1.877.894.HOME

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Guide To Home Loans

DFI's free Guide to Home Loans contains information, tips, and resources for first-time home buyers.

DFI's Guide to Home Loans can be [viewed online](#) or [ordered from DFI's Web site](#) for free.



Sponsors



[www.dfi.wa.gov](#)



[www.wshfc.org](#)

Worksheets and Forms

- [Loan Comparison Worksheet \(PDF\)](#)
Worksheet for comparing different loans.
- [Loan Document Checklist \(PDF\)](#)
Checklist to make sure you have all the right documents to secure your loan.
- [Mortgage Shopping Worksheet \(PDF\)](#)
Use this worksheet when you speak to each lender or broker.

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