

Ready to buy a home?

Owning a home can give you stability and security, and protection from rising housing costs.

Allow us to assist you in getting ready for the dream of owning a home. We understand it's a significant responsibility, as homeownership comes with additional expenses like property taxes, insurance, and repairs.

We created the following questions and examples to help you along the way.

If you want to buy a home, start getting ready

If you can answer "yes" to the questions below, you're probably ready to buy your own home:

- Do you have at least two years of regular, steady income?
- Is your income stable and consistent?
- Have you established a credit history?
- Do you have just a few long-term debts, like car payments?
- Have you saved money for a down payment?
- Can you pay a mortgage every month?
- Can you pay other costs, like insurance and taxes?
- Can you set aside money for other costs of home ownership, like closing costs, moving costs, new furniture, repairs, and home improvements?

Save for a down payment

Most lenders won't lend you the full price of a home. They want you to come up with some of the money yourself. That money is called a down payment.

By setting aside a portion of your paycheck each payday you will start to build your down payment.

There are mortgage programs that have low down payments or no down payment at all.

For example, imagine you want to buy a home worth \$200,000:

- A 20% down payment is \$40,000
- A 5% down payment is \$10,000
- A 3.5% down payment is \$7,000

In the event a 20% downpayment is unattainable, we may require mortgage insurance, elevating your monthly payment.

Mortgage insurance allows you to come in with less than a 20% down payment. Lenders often require this insurance to mitigate their risk.

Tips for good credit

There are no secrets or shortcuts to building a strong credit score. Follow these tips:

- Pay your bills on time, every time
- Don't even come close to "maxing out" your credit cards
- Be cautious about closing accounts that show a long history of on-time payments
- Apply only for credit that you need



Round Up

A super simple way to save towards your down payment is enrolling in Premier's Round Up feature. After you're enrolled, purchases made on your debit card will be rounded up to the nearest dollar, with the extra automatically deposited in your savings account.

Check your credit

To secure a favorable mortgage having a solid credit history is crucial. In certain loan scenarios, lenders typically require a minimum credit score of 620. There are programs that would go as low as 580.

Credit Sense

Monitor and build your credit score with Premier's Credit Sense. This free service helps you understand, monitor and improve your credit with real time information and strategies to maximize your score.

Get ready to shop around for a home loan

Choosing the mortgage you'll use to pay for your new home is an important decision. You can start by looking around for a network of people and information you trust to help you through the process. And, you can start gathering facts about your finances, so you'll have them ready at your fingertips.