



**REAL PROPERTY, PROPERTY MANAGEMENT
AND RELOCATION SPECIALISTS**

EAGLE REALTY

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Broker and Owner

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HOUSING TIPS FOR NEW RESIDENTS OF THE U.S. VIRGIN ISLANDS

www.eaglerealtyvi.com

1. Electricity costs and Power Outages: WAPA uses fuel oil to make electricity. We pay fuel charges plus use. When gas prices increase, WAPA bills increase. Power outages are frequent. Many seek housing with or will purchase a generator.
2. Cistern Water: Conserve when using water. Only source is rainwater. Cistern capacity is often unknown. One must buy water when cistern is empty.
3. Transportation Options: Safari (\$2 NOT RECOMMENDED), Weekly arrangement with Taxi, Rental Car, Bus. You may buy used cars inexpensively sometimes. Check local marinas and auto body repair shops.
4. Internet, Cable, W-Fi: AT&T and Sprint are universal. Others may not work here. VIYA (cable, Wi-Fi and cell) CHOICE (wireless, cell) Broadband VI (wireless) SmartNet (wireless) Direct TV (satellite), DishNetwork (satellite)
5. Banking: Off-island checks, cashier's checks, money orders take 11 days to clear. Local account is the best. **ALWAYS carry cash!** When power outages occur, credit/debit card machines do not work.
6. Online Ordering and Shipping: Many vendors on the U.S. mainland **do not** ship to the U.S. Virgin Islands. Check shipping options first, when on websites. We are an international destination for UPS and FedEx, and the charges are more expensive than on the mainland. U.S. Postal Service here handles Priority Mail and Express Mail, however U.S. Customs Inspections sometimes cause delays. It is best to plan for 2nd day arrival of Express Mail or FedEx just in case. You may receive shipments by boat. Check EconoCaribe, Crowley, Tropical, Boynes Trucking and Barge Services.
7. Mold/Mildew: The climate is tropical. When we experience lots of rain, moisture levels in our homes increase. To manage moisture indoors, you may use Damp Rid in closets, under beds and windows. It is advisable to wipe down walls and corners with bleach or other mold/mildew killing disinfectant periodically. Pay attention to the location of the home you select, as some parts of the island have more moisture than others. Those with allergies, asthma and respiratory distress may want to be extra careful since the mold count in our air may exceed acceptable levels for extended periods of time.
8. Medical Air Services Association (MASA): Please call us Jamila Harris of Eagle Realty at (340) 643-3253 for details about this service, which includes, but is not limited to, emergency air ambulance in case of the need for specialized medical attention.