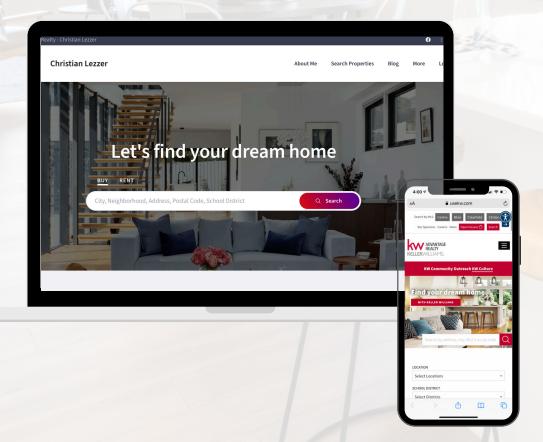


# Buyer's guide

Whether you're a first-time buyer or a seasoned expert, our team makes the entire buying process streamlined through clear, consistent communication. With us, clients have an entire experienced team on their side; as well as, trusted lenders, knowledgeable home inspectors, and local title experts. All clients will be armed with the best tools to become a homebuyer, and feel confidently informed every step of the way!



## MEET OUR team



Christian Lezzer 814.592.3121



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### HOME BUYER'S roadmap

Use this roadmap as a quick overview of the buying process. If you have any questions, please reach out to your realtor!

FINANCIALS FIND AGENT **TOUR HOMES** Start searching for Find a great agent that Determine what you can and touring homes you're comfortable afford, get a credit check working with and pre-approved for a loan INSPECTION NEGOTIATE Let your agent help OFFER you negotiate with Work with your Your agent will set up the seller agent to make a an inspection for you strong offer and them to attend LOAN APPROVAL APPRAISAL MOVING Receive your final approval Your lender will set up Set up your moving letter from the lender for an appraisal to be date with movers + done on the new home transfer utilities into your name CLOSING

Attend the closing meeting, get keys and celebrate!

### REAL ESTATE Temy

### PRE-APPROVAL

A pre-approval is a preliminary evaluation conducted by the lender to show that the buyer has the funds to purchase up to a certain amount. This is extremely helpful when you find a home you're ready to put an offer on.

#### **OFFER**

An agreement between a buyer and a seller to purchase a piece of real estate. This is sometimes referred to as a sales contract.

### CONTINGENCY

When an offer is accepted by the seller, but there are certain conditions that must be met before the sale is final.

### **CLOSING COST**

The fees that are paid at the end of the purchase by either the buyer, seller or both. These include taxes, insurance and lender expenses.

#### EARNEST MONEY

Also known as "good faith" money, this is money put up by the buyer into a trust or escrow account. This action shows the buyer is serious about purchasing the home and is applied toward your closing costs.

### TITLE SEARCH

A title search proves that the property is, in fact, owned by the seller. You can also purchase title insurance to make that no issues that arise later.

#### APPRAISAL

The appraisal is the value given to a property based on comparable properties that have recently sold. This is typically required by the lender in order to decide if the requested loan amount is in alignment with the value of the property.

### HOME INSPECTION

An inspection is a professional examination of the property's condition. Your agent can recommend a qualified home inspector for you.

#### **DISCLOSURES**

All seller's are required to fill out a property disclosure stating what they know about the property - good or bad.

#### **CLOSING**

This is the final step of your real estate transaction. At closing the funds from the buyer are provided to the seller and the buyer receives the keys. This process typically takes an hour.

Real estate is an imperishable asset, ever increasing in value. It is the most solid security that human ingenuity has devised. It is the basis of all security and about the only indestructible security. RUSSEL SAGE

### ten steps to BUYING A HOME

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03	TOUR HOMES	
04	MAKE AN OFFER	
05	NEGOTIATE OFFER	
06	INSPECTION	
07	APPRAISAL	
08	FINAL LOAN APPROVAL	
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10	SCHEDULE YOUR MOVE	
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# 1 FIND A GREAT agent

A real estate agent is a huge asset to you as you you go through the home-buying process. This is one of the biggest decisions of your life and you need a skilled professional guiding you through the process.

Your agent will be working with your best interests in mind and can help guide you through all the stages of home buying.



### Correct YOU WITH THE RIGHT HOME

Agents often have access to information about homes going on the market before the public. They can also arrange open houses and tours of homes that match your criteria.

OF NEIGHBORHOOD

Agents will be able to offer insightful details about the neighborhoods you are considering.

Attention TO DETAIL

The process of buying a home requires a good deal of paperwork. Your real estate agent will help you fill out all documents and get them submitted properly.

NEGOTIATOR

Agents deal with any difficult conversations that need to happen. They will also help you submit a strong offer and negotiate with the seller on your behalf.

Expert GUIDE

Realtors are there to help you with any questions you have along the way. They offer an objective opinion when you're analyzing the features you're looking for.

## 2 FINANCIALS

Lenders recommend that you spend no more than 3-5 times your annual income on a new home. You can find many mortgage calculators online, which provide a great starting point.

When calculating, don't forget to include extra expenses like attorney fees, home inspection and appraisal costs and money for any home improvements.

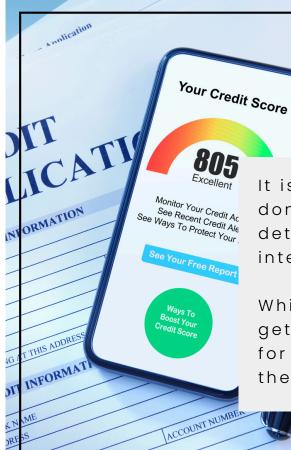
The Loan Officer will look at three things when establishing your ability to purchase. Credit, Income, Assets.

CREDIT - Make sure to take a look at your credit currently. Try to avoid excessive credit inquiries between now and when you are going to apply for your loan.

INCOME - Remember this, if you are a salaried employee you will need to be in your job at least one full year. Commission based earnings need to be there for 2 full years.

ASSETS - Cash in the bank, retirement accounts, and all of your other assets will be considered when the Loan Officer inputs your information in the automatic underwriting system. If you keep cash under the mattress, now might be the time to get it in the bank so it will show your true net worth!





### CREDIT CHECK

It is important to have a credit check done as this will be a factor in determining your mortgage approval and interest rates.

While sometimes a score in the 500's can get you a loan, ideally you want to aim for 620 or above. The higher the score the lower the interest rate.

### PRE-QUALIFIED & PRE-APPROVED

Many times these terms can be used interchangebly in different areas. You will want to ask your real estate agent which is more credible in your market and then apply.

Either way, being pre-qualified or pre-approved shows the seller that you're serious and that you most likely have the funds to purchase the home should you choose to place an offer. Pre-approval can also help you budget as you will know exactly what you can afford.

This pre-approval does not guarantee a loan will be offered so you still want to be careful with your spending during this time. Don't make any large purchases, change jobs or apply for new credit cards during this time.

# 3 TOUR Loney

Make a list of all the things you need and want in a new home. Think about how many bedrooms and bathrooms you need. Do you want a big kitchen or is a fenced-in yard more important to you?



lone searching tips.

- Take photos with your phone while visiting each house.
   Organize the photos at home with the address of the property so you can remember details later.
   Focus on the things you can't change like the neighborhood,
- lot or size of bedrooms.
   Test things as you walk through the home. Open and close windows, turn faucets on and flush toilets to make sure
- everything is in working order.



# 1 MAKE AN offer

Once you've found the home you want, the next step is to make an offer. We will look at comparable properties in the area and decide on a strong first offer.

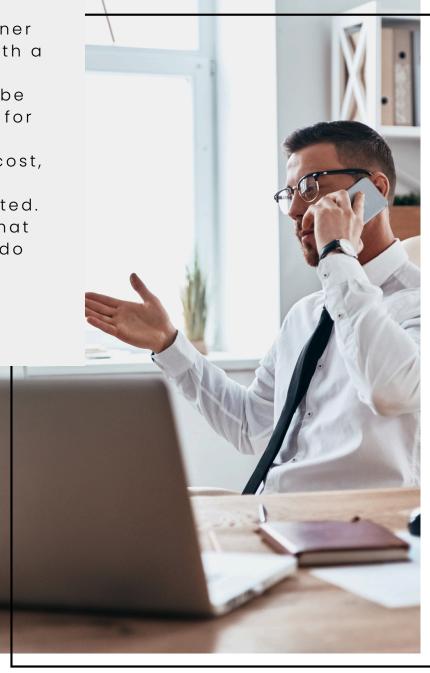
Some homeowners price a little high expecting to negotiate so we will take that into consideration as well.

# 5 NEGOTIATE offer

Many times after the initial offer is presented the owner will come back with a counter-offer.

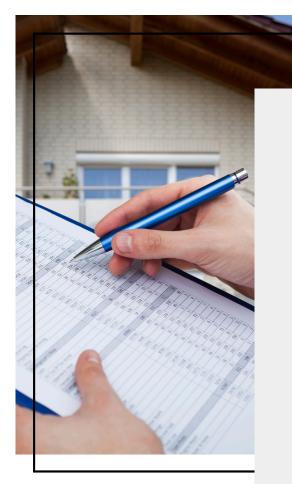
As a buyer, don't be afraid to bargain for what you want.

Whether that be cost, a new roof or the whole house painted. You don't know what they're willing to do unless you ask.



## 6 INSPECTIONS

It's always a good idea to add a contingency clause into your offer stating that you have a certain amount of time to have the property inspected. This gives you the right to back out of the agreement if you and the seller can't agree on repairs.



Plan to attend the inspection and be prepared to ask any questions you have.

You will receive a report of findings, but it's sometimes easier to see the issue and hear the information directly from the inspector.

After the inspection is complete, decide if there are any pressing issues you want to negotiate with the seller.

Be careful to not be too picky, but also not let major concerns go unaddressed.

### 7 APPRAISAL

K	Your lender will require an
	appraisal of the home before finalizing the loan.
	The home appraiser will take
tial Appra	into account the neighborhood,
Residential Appra Residential Appra Resident with an accurate, and adea City	housing market, age and condition of the home, etc.
Lender/client Will all City	A property title search will
Owner of Public Record	ensure that the sellers are truly
Owner o:	the owners of the property and any leins or judgments are
7/	disclosed.
Special Assessment	
Special Notation (describe)	
nold Journey	

# 8 LOAN approval

The loan is only fully complete after the lender approves the loan. You will receive a final approval letter after they review your income, credit report and employment status once more.

Home owners insurance is also required before the mortage company will finalize the loan.

### 9 SCHEDULE YOUR nove



You will want to get movers scheduled as soon as possible. Make sure to avoid scheduling the move and closing on the same day if possible. If you will be doing renovations, start getting quotes from contractors. Make sure you set up the transfer of utilities for closing day.

### 10 CLOSING

Closing is the final step for you to become the legal owner of your home. You will take a final walk-through just before closing to assure that negotiated work has been completed and everything is in working order. The closing process itself requires a lot of paperwork and patience. Be prepared with your government issued photo ID, cashier's check and any other documents required by the title company or loan officer. Don't forget to re-key all the locks and change the garage door opener code when the property is officially yours. Congratulations on your new home!

### MORTGAGE fendery



#### | Nittany Mortgage

### Will Beauseigneur

1251 S Cedar Crest Blvd Ste. 107 Allentown, PA 18103 Phone: 814-592-0284



#### I CNB Bank

31 S 2nd St, Clearfield, PA 16830

Phone: 814.765.9621



### | Homesale Mortgage

#### **James Ream**

150 North Pointe Blvd, Lancaster, PA 17601

Phone: 484.824.3630

# SETTLEMENTcompaniez

#### l Universal Settlement Services



1331 E. Market Street, Clearfield, PA 16830 **ENIVERSAL** Phone: (814) 689-1741



#### l Central Land Transfer

278 W Hamilton Avenue, State College, PA 16801 Phone: (717) 857-7772



#### l Falcon Settlement Inc.

3215 Bee Line Hwy, DuBois, PA 15801 Phone: 814.365.5455

## HOME inspectors



### | WSI Home Inspections

Bill Swatsworth

Phone: 814.762.2494

Email: swatsworth@wsihi.com



### | Millstone Home Inspections

Troy Baughman

Phone: 814.771.7737

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