New Buyer Checklist: From Start to Closing

# 1. Preparing to Buy

This stage focuses on understanding your financial position, legal obligations, and what you're looking for in a home.

* ☐ Check your credit score (if financing).
* ☐ Set a budget.
* ☐ Determine your source of funds: (Mortgage Financing / Cash Purchase).
* ☐ Prepare proof of funds if funding through cash purchase.
* ☐ Get Pre-Approved / Secure Pre-Approval letter if funding through mortgage or similar.
* ☐ Sign a Buyer-Broker Agreement.
* ☐ Create a list of must-haves.

# 2. House Hunting

Once your financials and legal requirements are set, it's time to look for your dream home.

* ☐ Start browsing online listings.
* ☐ Attend open houses or schedule showings.
* ☐ Work with a real estate agent.
* ☐ Evaluate the neighborhood.

# 3. Making an Offer

Once you've found the right property, it’s time to submit a formal offer.

* ☐ Determine a competitive offer price.
* ☐ Include proof of funds (if cash buyer) or mortgage pre-approval letter.
* ☐ Submit your offer.
* ☐ Prepare for negotiation.

# 4. Inspections & Appraisal

After your offer is accepted, you’ll move to the inspection and appraisal stage.

* ☐ Hire a home inspector.
* ☐ Review the inspection report.
* ☐ Order an appraisal (if financing).
* ☐ Negotiate repairs or adjustments.

# 5. Financing, Documentation, & Final Preparations

This stage ensures your financing is finalized and all legal documents are ready.

* ☐ Lock in your interest rate (if financing).
* ☐ Submit final documents to your lender.
* ☐ Secure homeowners insurance.
* ☐ Review the closing disclosure.

# 6. Closing

This final step completes the transaction, and you officially become a homeowner.

* ☐ Do a final walkthrough.
* ☐ Sign closing documents.
* ☐ Pay closing costs.
* ☐ Receive the keys to your new home!