

# HOME BUYING CHECKLIST

**GET YOUR FINANCES IN TIP-TOP SHAPE**

Pay off all (yes, all) of your debt and save 3-6 months of expenses in an emergency fund.

**FIGURE OUT HOW MUCH HOUSE YOU CAN AFFORD**

Calculate the home price that gives you a mortgage that's no more than 25% of your take-home pay.

**SAVE A 5-20% DOWN PAYMENT, PLUS ENOUGH FOR CLOSING COSTS**

Once your down payment is locked and loaded, save 3-4% for closing costs and \$500-\$2,000 for moving expenses.

**GET PRE-APPROVED FOR A 15-YEAR, FIXED-RATE CONVENTIONAL LOAN**

Decide on a lender and gather your important documents. After that, they'll handle the rest!

**FIND AN EXPERT REAL ESTATE AGENT**

Interview three agents and choose a top pro who has your best interests in mind, like a RamseyTrusted agent.

**LET THE HOUSE HUNTING BEGIN**

Talk to your agent about which questions to ask when viewing a home and tips on identifying one with plenty of potential resale value.

**MAKE A WINNING OFFER ON A HOUSE**

Don't worry if the seller counters your offer—that's totally normal. Let your agent advise you on when to give in and when to stand firm.

**GET A HOME INSPECTION AND APPRAISAL**

If the inspector finds a major problem, you can ask the seller to fix it, reduce the price, or cancel the contract altogether.

**WHILE YOUR LOAN IS FINALIZED, SECURE HOMEOWNERS INSURANCE**

Make sure that you find a good insurance agent to get you the best coverage at the lowest cost.

**CLOSE ON YOUR HOME—HOORAY!**

Bring a photo ID, anyone who is on the title, and a check made payable to the title or closing company for closing costs. Then, sign and bust out the confetti!