



Budget Basics Worksheet

The first step in getting yourself in financial shape to buy a home is to know exactly how much money comes in and how much goes out. Use this worksheet to list your income and expenses below.

INCOME	
Take Home Pay (all family members)	
Child Support/Alimony	
Pension/Social Security	
Disability/Other Insurance	
Interest/Dividends	
Other	
Total Income	
EXPENSES	
Rent/Mortgage (include taxes, principal, and insurance)	
Life Insurance	
Health/Disability Insurance	
Vehicle Insurance	
Homeowner's or Other Insurance	
Car Payments	
Other Loan Payments	
Savings/Pension Contribution	
Utilities (gas, water, electric, phone)	
Credit Card Payments	
Car Upkeep (gas, maintenance, etc.)	
Clothing	
Personal Care Products (shampoo, cologne, etc.)	
Groceries	
Food Outside the Home (restaurant meals and carryout)	
Medical/Dental/Prescriptions	
Household Goods (hardware, lawn, and garden)	
Recreation/Entertainment	
Child Care	
Education (continuing education, classes, etc.)	
Charitable Donations	
Miscellaneous	
Total Expenses	
Remaining Income After Expenses (Subtract Total Income from Total Expenses)	

How Big of a Mortgage Can I Afford?

Not only does owning a home give you a haven for yourself and your family, it also makes great financial sense because of the tax benefits — which you can't take advantage of when paying rent.

The following calculation assumes a 28 percent income tax bracket. If your bracket is higher, your savings will be, too. Based on your current rent, use this calculation to figure out how much mortgage you can afford.

Rent: _____

Multiplier: x 1.32

Mortgage payment: _____

Because of tax deductions, you can make a mortgage payment — including taxes and insurance — that is approximately one-third larger than your current rent payment and end up with the same amount of income.

For more help, use Fannie Mae's [online mortgage calculators](#).