

Guide to Buying a Home



The

Home Buying Process

Made Easy



Closed!

— Buying Phase
— Closing Phase



Guiding your purchase

When we work together on your home-buying journey, my goal is for you to stay informed, be confident and have some fun along the way. I'll listen attentively to your wants and needs so I can help you find the home that not only matches your lifestyle and investment goals but also feels right. I want you to arrive at your new home feeling successful, hopeful, and happy.

Advising you before the transaction, I'll make sure you understand all the terms, processes and documents involved. I'll provide real-time market data and helpful information so you can make informed decisions. You can be confident you have a skilled negotiator working on your behalf and assured that all action items and communications are being handled thoughtfully and professionally.

DECIDING TO BUY A HOME IS A BIG STEP. HERE ARE SOME OF THE SERVICES I PROVIDE:

Share actionable market intelligence

Focus your home search

Explain contracts and documents

Refer you to a respected lender

Provide resources for a bridge loan or making a cash offer

Preview and tour homes

Refer you to an inspector and attend inspections

Write an intelligent offer that can win

Negotiate purchase terms and timetables

Coordinate the many moving parts of the transaction all the way through closing

Answer all of your real estate questions



How I Help You Buy Your Home

Helping you find and purchase a home is only one facet of my job.

MY SERVICES

- › Explain real estate principles, contracts and documents
- › Refer you to a reputable lender that can help you assess your financial situation and pre-approve you for a loan
- › Help you determine the types of homes and neighborhoods that most fit your needs
- › Arrange tours of homes that meet your criteria
- › Provide you with detailed information about homes you're interested in
- › Determine the market value of homes you're interested in
- › Assist you in writing and negotiating a mutually-accepted purchase and sale agreement
- › Accompany you to the inspection
- › Coordinate necessary steps after inspection
- › Work with the escrow company to ensure all needed documents are in order and completed in a timely manner

YOUR BENEFITS

- › Be more likely to find the home that meets all your criteria
- › Decrease the amount of time it takes to find your home
- › Understand all the terms, processes and documents involved
- › Have current market information to make informed decisions
- › Have a skilled negotiator on your side
- › Have peace of mind that all the details are being handled





How much house can you afford?

Financing

Determining how much you can afford before you begin your home search will save you valuable time. I can help you locate a lender who will assist you in finding a financing package that will best meet your needs. But there are a few steps you should consider beforehand to make the process as smooth as possible:

CREDIT REPORT

It's important to check your credit report before you see your lender because:

- › Lenders check this to determine the amount of loan you qualify for
- › It allows you to correct any mistakes in the report before lenders see it
- › If there are any blemishes in your report that are not errors, you should be prepared to explain them to your lender

You are entitled to one free request each year from each of the three credit bureaus. The best way to do this is to go online to AnnualCreditReport.com.

CREDIT SCORE

You may want to check your credit score at the same time you check your credit report (usually for a fee). This score influences how much lenders are willing to loan to you and at what interest rate.

DOWN PAYMENT

Most lenders will give better financing terms to borrowers that can put a 20 percent down payment on the purchase. If you are unable to do so, you will likely be required to purchase Private Mortgage Insurance (PMI) and perhaps pay a higher interest rate.

PREAPPROVAL

A letter of preapproval from a lender shows that they have checked all your documentation and are prepared to make you a loan. Getting preapproved prior to starting your home search saves you time by:

- › Keeping you focused on viewing only the homes that are within your budget
- › Helping you obtain your financing more quickly once you find a house you want to buy



Start touring

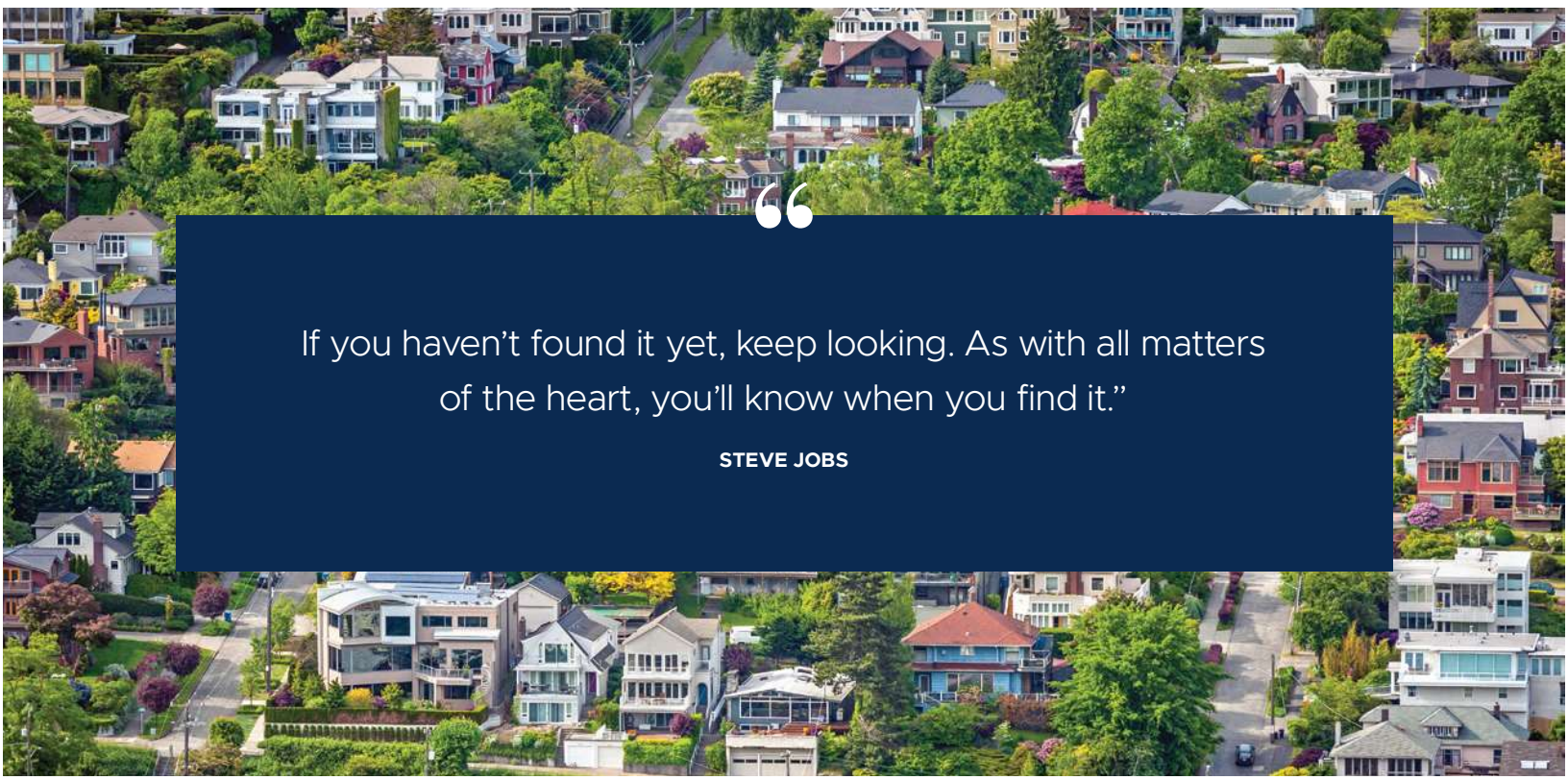
SETTING UP A SUCCESSFUL SEARCH

Once you've determined your budget and we have an idea of what you're looking for, we'll start touring listings. This process will help you get a sense of what you can expect from different types of homes, your price point and the vibe of various neighborhoods. It will also help me get a better sense of your wants and needs in order to continue refining our search.

While the market may be more competitive at certain times, I want you to feel comfortable with every decision you make. There is no right or wrong number of listings to view, nor is there a specific timeline you have to stick to during the search. To help you be confident in your selection, I'll lay out the pros and cons of each contending property. My advice will always be honest and backed up by relevant data.

QUESTIONS TO ASK YOURSELF BEFORE YOU START LOOKING:

- How long do you see yourself living in your home?
- What features are most important to you in a home?
- What neighborhoods and home styles within your budget attract you the most?
- What is your commute tolerance?
- Do you have any specific lifestyle factors that your home must accommodate now?
- Considering any family or roommates, is your household likely to stay the same size?



“

If you haven't found it yet, keep looking. As with all matters of the heart, you'll know when you find it.”

STEVE JOBS

Putting together your offer

Before writing your first offer on a home, I'll guide you through its various components, including the Purchase and Sale Agreement, state-required forms, all contingencies, and what you'll need to prepare to back up an offer financially.

PREPARING THE OFFER

When you're ready to make an offer on a specific property, I will:

- Perform a market analysis to show how the home compares in value to recent listings and sales
- Work with you to devise a comprehensive strategy for your offer
- Tailor your offer to your comfort level and to the unique circumstances of the listing

PRESENTING YOUR OFFER TO THE SELLER

Once we've written up the Purchase and Sale Agreement and all associated forms, I will:

- Call the seller's agent to inform them that your offer is coming via email
- Tell them a little about you and briefly preview the offer
- Follow up to confirm they received your offer



SECURING YOUR INTEREST WITH A DEPOSIT

Earnest money is a “good faith” deposit submitted with your offer that shows the seller you are serious about purchasing their home.

- The amount of earnest money and the terms surrounding it can make a difference in how attractive the seller finds your offer.
- In a traditional real estate market, it's rare for a buyer to lose the earnest money. If the buyer willfully decides, however, that they no longer want to buy the house and has no legal reason for rescinding their offer, then the seller has the right to retain the earnest money.
- In a very competitive market such as ours, earnest money can convey the seriousness of your commitment to purchasing the property. For example, you may authorize that your earnest money be converted into a non-refundable deposit. This signals to the seller that you are all in and willing to risk your deposit in order to secure the purchase.



How Do Realtors® Help Buyers?

MARKET INSIGHTS

- › Provide market overview
- › Produce Comparative Market Analysis
- › Show what comparable homes are selling for
- › Provide relevant neighborhood information on:
 - › Schools
 - › Parks
 - › Dining
 - › Recreation
 - › Commute times
 - › Arts, culture & entertainment

BUYER NEEDS

- › Conduct pre-showing interview to determine needs
- › Help find the right home to purchase
- › Connect buyer with mortgage broker to determine how much home they can afford

- › Set up customized property search
- › Promote needs within office
- › Promote needs to sphere of influence showings

PREVIEW HOMES

- › Schedule showings
- › Show homes
- › Community tour

CONTRACTS

- › Explain Contract to Buy & Sell
- › Explain buyer agency agreement
- › Explain required disclosure documents
- › Explain deeds
- › Explain title work
- › Obtain & review qualification letter

COMMUNICATION

- › Explain the buying process
- › Review & arrange financing options
- › Guide through the inspection process
- › Guide through the appraisal process
- › Explain closing procedure
- › Schedule & manage vendors
- › Guide through TRID requirements
- › Track due diligence deadlines
- › Recommend providers & coordinate with:
 - › Lenders
 - › Appraisers
 - › Inspectors
 - › Title company

NEGOTIATION

- › Offer strategy
- › Price
- › Inspection resolution
- › Appraisal resolution
- › Title resolution
- › Multiple offers
- › Seller concessions
- › Earnest money
- › Inclusions & exclusions
- › Conditional sale contingency
- › Survey resolution
- › Due diligence resolution
- › Closing & possession date
- › Payment for failed or untimely possession





Answers to

Frequently Asked Questions

How does my offer get presented to the seller?

In today's electronic world, offers are sent via email to the seller's agent. I will call the agent to let them know it's coming and tell them a little bit about you and the details of your offer. Then I will follow up with the agent again to confirm receipt of your offer.

Does it cost me money to make an offer?

When you write the offer on the home you've chosen, you will be expected to include an earnest money deposit. The deposit is a sign of your good faith that you are seriously interested in buying the home.

Where does my earnest money go?

Once the buyer and seller have a mutually accepted offer, the earnest money is deposited into a trust account. That deposit becomes a credit to the buyer and becomes part of the purchase expense.

Is that all the money that's involved?

Some lenders require the cost of the appraisal and credit report at the time of the loan application.

Can I lose my earnest money?

Real estate contracts are complicated legal transactions. This is another area where having a knowledgeable and professional agent is a necessity. Rarely does the buyer lose the earnest money. Most often, if the transaction falls apart, there are circumstances beyond the buyer's control that cause it to happen. If the buyer willfully decides, however, that they no longer want to buy the house and has no legal reason for rescinding their offer, then the seller has the right to retain the earnest money.

What happens if I offer less than the asking price?

If you offer less money, the seller has three options. They can accept the lower offer, counter your offer or reject it completely. Remember that there could be another buyer who is also interested in the home you've chosen. If they happen to write an offer at the same time you do, the seller will have two offers to compare. There are usually many aspects of each offer to consider, but ultimately the seller will want to accept the best and most complete offer. In active real estate markets, homes often sell for their listed price. In hot markets, there may be many buyers vying for the same house, which sometimes drives the final sale price above the original listing price.

As a real estate professional, I can help you plan your strategy, based on the current real estate market in our area.

What if I need to sell my home before I buy a new one?

To put yourself in the best negotiating position before you find the new home you want, hire a qualified real estate agent to help you put your home on the market. Once you write an offer on a new home, your offer will be "contingent" upon the sale of your home. A buyer in this position may not have the same negotiating power as one whose home has already sold (or at least has an accepted offer). The seller may be hesitant to accept your offer because there are too many things that must happen before the sale can close.





Buyer's Terms

LOAN AMOUNT

The amount of the mortgage based on the purchase price, minus the down payment.

DOWN PAYMENT

Cash that the buyer provides the lender as their portion of the purchase price. The down payment is considered the buyer's equity (or cash investment) in their home.

POINTS

Fees charged by the lender to offset their interest rate, if it's below the prevailing market rate. One point equals one percentage point—so one point on a \$100,000 loan would be \$1,000.

APPRAISAL FEE

The amount paid for the lender's appraisal of the property.

CREDIT REPORT FEE

The fee charged by the lender to obtain a credit report on the buyer.

TITLE INSURANCE FEE

A one-time premium that a buyer pays for protection against loss or damage in the event of an incorrect search of public records or misinterpretation of title. The title insurance policy also shows what the property is subject to in terms of liens, taxes, encumbrances, deed restrictions and easements.

ESCROW FEE

The amount a buyer pays the escrow company or closing agent for preparing papers, accounting for all funds and coordinating the information between all parties involved in the transaction.

CLOSING COSTS

A general term for all the estimated charges associated with the transfer of ownership of the property.

PREPAID INTEREST

The amount of interest due on the loan during the time period between closing of escrow and the first mortgage payment, due at the time of closing.

PITI

The estimated house payment, including principal, interest, taxes and insurance.

PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST

The loan payment, consisting of the amount to be applied against the balance of the loan, and the interest payment, which is charged for interest on the loan.

TOTAL CASH REQUIRED

The total amount of cash the buyer will need, including down payment and closing costs.

PREMIUM MORTGAGE INSURANCE (PMI)

Insurance for the lender, to cover potential losses if the borrower defaults on the loan.

\$18B

WINDERMERE'S ANNUAL PROPERTY SALES IN KING COUNTY*

Why Windermere

Windermere's extensive network allows me to collaborate with the region's largest cohort of listing brokers so you never miss out on new inventory.

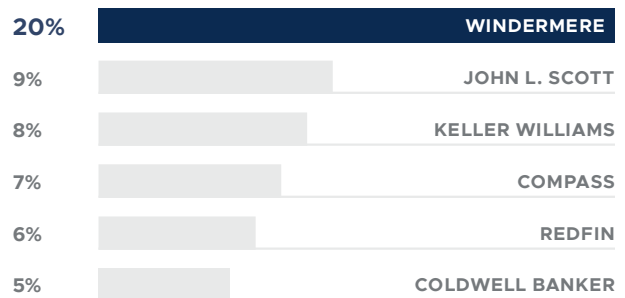
- Windermere typically has the most listings in the market at any given time. This is meaningful because with inventory so tight in our region, my network access to the most resale and new construction listings is a big advantage.
- My relationships with Windermere listing brokers serve to ease the communication, flow and vibe of transactions that otherwise could be taxing.

IN A COMPETITIVE MARKET, WINDERMERE GIVES BUYERS THE EDGE

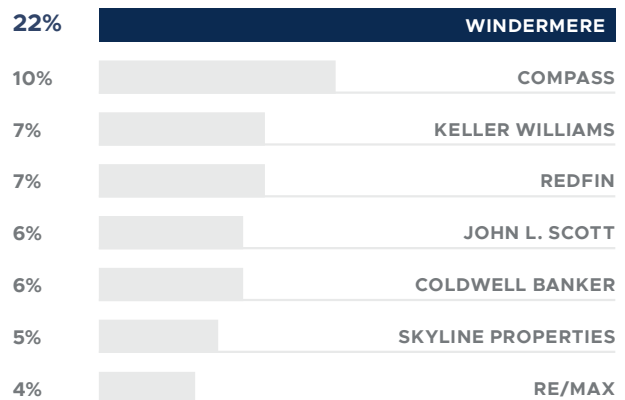
Buyers choosing Windermere increase their odds of succeeding in a competitive market because:

- Windermere brokers receive extensive training on how to (a) craft the most competitive offer for their buyer, and (b) position it to have the greatest appeal to the seller.
- Windermere brokers adjust their negotiating techniques based on real-time market conditions.
- A market-wide survey of Northwest MLS agents indicated that they are more confident about completing transactions with Windermere brokers than with brokers from any other firm.

WINDERMERE SELLS MORE KING COUNTY HOMES AND CONDOS*



SHARE OF WINNING BUYERS WHEN COMPETING AGAINST MULTIPLE OFFERS**



*Source: Trendgraphix. Data reflects dollar volume of King County homes and condos sold over a recent 12-month period.

**Multiple offers are factored based on home sales that close above list price. Market share data reflects sales of Seattle and Eastside single family homes over a recent 12-month period. Information gathered from but not verified by NWMLS.



FELIX CEBALLOS
REALTY GROUP

Felix@windermere.com
206-485-0355
FELIXSEATTLEHOMES.COM



Felix has helped hundreds of families and individuals throughout Greater Seattle and Eastside in all aspects of Real Estate, including buying, selling, investment, remodels, new construction/development, equestrian properties, land acquisition, property management and any other facet within the industry. With 7 years' experience in the industry and 15 years in corporate finance, marketing, analytics and consulting, he uses his strengths and diverse experience to go above and beyond expectations and ensure his clients deserve the best representation and guidance.

Felix uses a personalized approach, as each of my client's needs are unique and cater to ensure they have the best customer service possible. His clients work in a variety of industries and companies such as Amazon, Microsoft, Expedia, Phillips, Starbucks, Costco, T-Mobile, Google, Facebook, Twitter, Alaska Airlines, Boeing, Nordstrom and many more, as our economically robust region is home to some of the most successful companies on the planet. My greatest asset is that I enjoy working with a diverse group of people (both local and global) and help guide them to finding the most suitable properties.



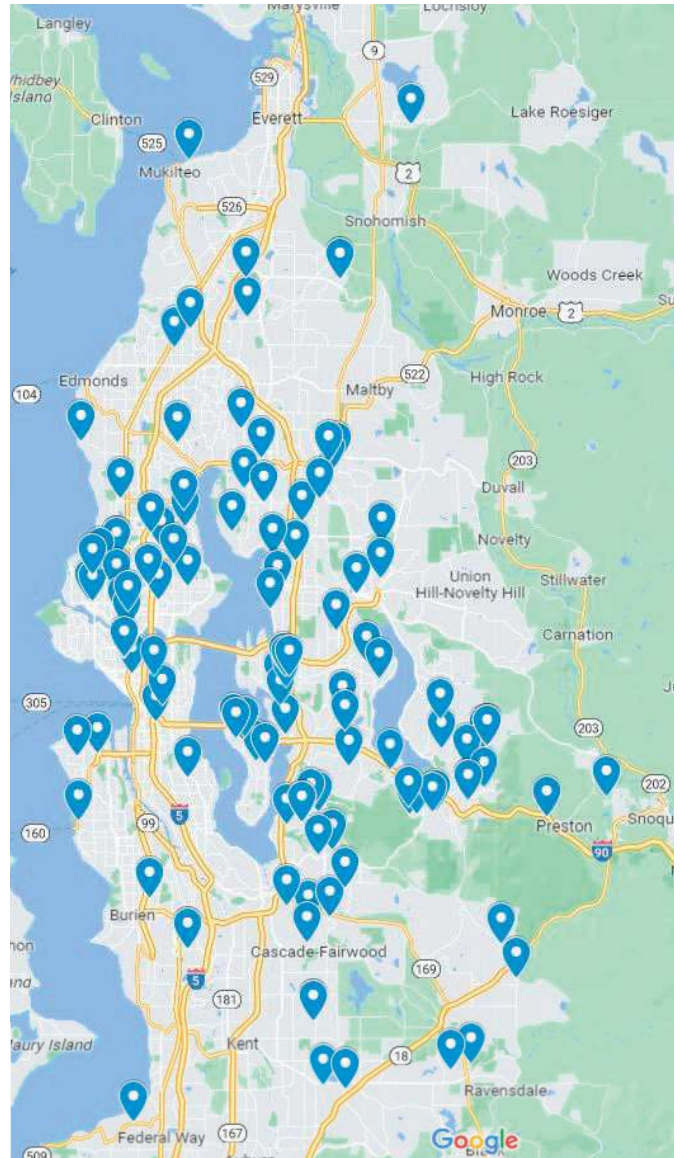
STATISTICS

AREAS OF SERVICE

- Bellevue
- Medina
- Clyde Hill
- Yarrow Point
- Kirkland
- Issaquah
- Redmond
- Woodinville
- Sammamish
- Mercer Island
- Newcastle
- Renton
- Fall City
- Preston
- Maple Valley
- Seattle
- Shoreline
- Bothell
- Mill Creek
- Lynnwood
- Edmonds
- Mukilteo
- Kenmore
- Duvall
- Carnation
- Snoqualmie
- North Bend
- Snohomish
- Monroe
- Lake Stevens

HIGHLIGHTS

- 40+ families and individuals helped per year.
- Sold over \$200M in real estate over the last 7 years with prices from \$300,000 to \$4,500,000



HOMES SOLD IN THE GREATER SEATTLE AREA IN THE LAST 3 YEARS





CLIENT TESTIMONIALS



"I bought and sold my house with Felix. Super consistent, knowledgeable and PATIENT. He is very thorough in everything he does. The best part is works extremely hard to get us the best deal. He not only helped us navigate the convoluted real estate contracts and processes, but he is a strong negotiator...which is super rare to find a broker that cares enough to go the extra mile. I HIGHLY RECOMMEND Felix as your listing agent or buying agent."

- Greg T.



"I came to Felix at crunchtime with a complicated home sale that needed to happen on a tight timeline. Other realtors had told me it couldn't be done.

But Felix was confident he could make it happen and he did! He is motivated, creative, very knowledgeable, and has the drive to make things happen. His "can-do" attitude and professionalism have made him my realtor for life. If you want the best in the business, call Felix."

- Jason W.



"We contacted Felix to assist us in the sale of a rental home in the Seattle region. The rental home required significant remodeling before being put on the market because it had been leased for nearly 30 years. Felix was in charge of updating the house because I live in Florida. He hired the team, decided what needed to be changed, and made sure everything was finished quickly. He really works miracles. The house was quickly sold after he and his staff quickly turned things around. Along the journey, he kept us updated, and all of his advice was right on. He went above and beyond and was the ideal choice. I would highly recommend Felix!"

- Vicky S.



"Felix is an all-star. He always went above and beyond to make sure that I got the best deal, and that I knew what was happening at every step of the way. As a first time home buyer/seller, Felix was a dream to work with, and always answered all of my questions. I felt lucky to have worked with him - highly recommend!"

- Maggie H.



See more of Felix's reviews!

