



THE ROAD TO *home*

A HOME BUYER'S GUIDE

PRESENTED BY:

Roy Fillyaw
REALTOR®

Smith &
Associates **Real Estate**



I AM ROY FILLYAW

YOUR LOCAL REAL ESTATE EXPERT

Roy Fillyaw is a dedicated real estate professional serving the Tampa Bay Area with Smith & Associates. Roy lives in St. Petersburg and is passionate about the people, activities, and lifestyle of the vibrant city.

Roy is committed to delivering exceptional client experiences throughout the buying and selling journey. With his expertise, eye for design, and genuine enthusiasm for the field, he is committed to guiding clients through the process of finding their dream homes.

For anyone seeking expert assistance in navigating the luxury real estate market in the Tampa Bay Area, Roy is poised to offer dedicated support and valuable insights every step of the way.

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Smith &
Associates **Real Estate**

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meet THE TEAM



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Luxe Title

TITLE AFFILIATE

Fast and Accurate Closings! Locally owned and operated, LUXE Title Services resources are right here in Tampa Bay, allowing a smooth closing process from start to finish. Full-Service Title Insurance Agency Committed to Providing the Best Possible Customer Experience.



NFM Lending

MORTGAGE AFFILIATE

Jane Floyd is a top producing branch manager at NFM Lending. With over 30 years of experience in the mortgage industry, she has consistently been recognized for her high level of production earning top 1% of mortgage originators in America as well as six national rankings on the Scotsman Guide's Top Originators lists including 2022 and 2023. Jane's focus on her core values of integrity, growth minded, takes initiative, teamwork and a 'wow' customer service has allowed her to build a skilled team of professionals helping over 14,000 families in the Tampa Bay Area navigate the home loan process.



Signature Insurance

HOMEOWNERS INSURANCE AFFILIATE

The right insurance, at the right price. Experience how easy it is to secure your policy. Uncover better coverage in just 3 simple steps

10^{steps} TO BUYING A HOME

1

FIND THE RIGHT AGENT

2

PREPARE FINANCES

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GET PRE-APPROVED

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START HOME SHOPPING

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SCHEDULE THE MOVE

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CLOSING DAY



1 FINDING THE RIGHT *agent*

Buying a home is one of the most significant purchases in a lifetime. It is essential to have an experienced agent in your corner, always looking out for your best interest. A buyer agent's fiduciary responsibility is to represent the buyer and to ensure that they are protected.

After all, a seller has someone in their corner. A listing agent has an allegiance to the seller. Their goal is to get the seller top dollar for their home. There is incredible value in having someone working for YOUR best interests when buying a home.



GETTING YOU IN THE DOOR

We will narrow down the homes that fit your unique wants and needs and get you in the door! I look at dozens of homes every week, and I can help you identify potential problems within a home.

When repairs or changes in price need to be made, I will be your guide and handle requesting any repairs or changes in price to the sellers.

STAYING ON TOP OF THE PAPERWORK

Buying a home involves many types of documentation. I have the experience and knowledge to navigate real estate contracts. Ensuring that nothing is overlooked, and that you truly understand what a paper means before ever signing on the dotted line.

ON YOUR SIDE

A buyer's agent will represent your best interests. With a pulse on the local market and a sound understanding of how various amenities effect the value of a home, we will make sure we submit a competitive offer on the right house for you.

NEIGHBORHOOD EXPERT

I work daily in neighborhoods with inspectors, contractors, and negotiating with sellers. I have the market knowledge you need to get you the home of your dreams at the best price! Understanding the local real estate market is essential when it comes time to make an offer on a house.

PROBLEM SOLVER

I will work hard to protect all of your interests and take on any issues that may arise throughout the entire process. I work tirelessly to make sure buying a home is a fun and stress-free process.

AFFORDABILITY

The seller typically pays the commission for both the seller's agent and the buyer's agent.

UNDERSTANDING THE

Exclusive Buyer Agreement

The Exclusive Buyer Brokerage agreement is the contract that you sign when you begin your house hunt and start looking at properties. This form establishes what is known as an exclusive agency relationship between you and your Smith Associate. This means that:

- Your Smith Associate is committed to putting your needs first as a client and doing whatever it takes to get you your ideal home with the best possible pricing and terms.
- You are selecting the associate to represent you in the negotiation and full contract process.
- Terms of payment between you and your associate are understood by both parties and exchanged only at the time of successful closing.

The terms of the agreement are negotiable, typically last for 12 months and are cancelable at any time in writing from either party. As of August 17th, 2024, all real estate brokers providing home buying services to a buyer will be required to have the buyer execute an Exclusive Buyer Brokerage Agreement before touring any homes.

2 *prepare* FINANCING

HOW MUCH HOUSE CAN YOU AFFORD?

Mortgage lenders recommend you do not buy a home that is more than 3 to 5 times your annual household income. If you are not purchasing a home with cash, you will need a mortgage pre-approval provided by your mortgage lender. A lender will work with you to get a loan that meets your needs. Some buyers are concerned with keeping their monthly payments as low as possible, others want to make sure that their monthly payments never increase.

CHECK YOUR CREDIT

A mortgage requires a good credit score. You can improve your score by:

- Paying down credit card balances
- Continuing to make payments on time
- Avoid applying for a new credit card or car loan until you have been approved
- Avoid making big purchases until you have been approved
- If possible, avoid job changes until you have been approved

SAVE CASH FOR A DOWN PAYMENT & OTHER EXPENSES

In order to make your dream of buying a home a reality, you will need to save cash for your down payment, earnest money, closing costs & home inspector.

- A Down Payment is typically between 3.5% & 20% of the purchase price
- Earnest Money is money you put down to show you're serious about purchasing a home. It's also known as a good faith deposit.
- Closing Costs for the buyer run between 2% & 5% of the loan amount
- A Home Inspection costs \$300 to \$500



3 *get* PRE-APPROVED

Being pre-approved, unlike being pre-qualified, means you've actually been approved by a lender for a specific loan amount. You will need to provide documented financial information (income, statements, assets, debt & credit reports, etc.) to be reviewed & verified by the lender.

GET
qualified



INCOME QUALIFICATIONS

QUALIFYING INCOME

- W-2 Income/Salary
- Income from part-time jobs
- Income from a second Job
- Overtime & Bonuses
- Seasonal jobs
- Self-employed Income
- Alimony & child support (Documentation required)

NON-QUALIFYING INCOME

- Income from the lottery
- Gambling
- Unemployment pay
- Single bonuses
- Non-occupying co-signer income
- Unverifiable income
- Income from rental properties

NEEDED *documents*

- W2'S FROM THE PAST 2 YEARS
- 3 MONTHS WORTH OF PAY-STUBS
- BANK STATEMENTS (PAST 3 MONTHS)
- PREVIOUS 2 YEARS OF TAX RETURNS
- LIST OF YOUR DEBTS & ASSETS
- DIVORCE DECREE
- ADDITIONAL INCOME DOCUMENTS

TYPES OF mortgage loans

	WHO QUALIFIES	DOWN PAYMENT	UPFRONT MORTGAGE INSURANCE	MONTHLY MORTGAGE INSURANCE	MINIMUM CREDIT SCORE
VA Department of Veteran Affairs	Veterans Personnel with honorable discharge Reservists & National Guard Surviving Spouses	NONE	NONE	NONE	580
USDA Department of Agriculture	Someone who is buying a home in a USDA -designated rural area.	NONE	2% of the loan amount. Can be rolled into loan amount.	REQUIRED	640
FHA Federal Housing Administration	Anyone who meets the minimum credit and income levels.	At least 3.5% of purchase price	1.75% of loan amount	REQUIRED	580-640
203K Federal Housing Administration	Anyone who plans to purchase a fixer-upper or needs to renovate their home and meets credit & income requirements	At least 3.5% of purchase price	1.75% of loan amount	REQUIRED	580-640
CONVENTIONAL 97	Depending on the program, available first time home buyers (a buyer who hasn't owned in the last three years) can put 3% down with a Conventional 97 program.	Varies from 3%-20% of purchase price	NONE	REQUIRED	620
SELECT SMART PLUS	Anyone who meets lenders credit, income & debt level requirements	Varies from 3% -20%, but typically ranges from 5-20%	NONE	REQUIRED	620



4

start HOME SHOPPING

START TOURING HOMES IN YOUR PRICE RANGE

Time to start shopping! We will take notes on all the homes we visit. It can be hard to remember all the details of each home, so take pictures or videos to help you remember each home, and review the notes you have written. Once we have found THE house for you, we will present an appropriate offer based on recent sales and current buyer activity in the area, as well as the value of the property in its current condition. Negotiations may take place after the offer is presented.



tip

We will make sure to check every little detail of each house

- Test the plumbing
- Test the electrical system
- Open and close the windows & doors to make sure they work properly

Evaluate the neighborhood and surrounding areas

- Are the surrounding homes well maintained?
- How much traffic is on the street?
- Is it conveniently located to schools, shopping, restaurants, & parks

WHEN TO MAKE AN OFFER:

So you have found THE house! Congrats! In today's market when the demand is higher than the amount of homes available it is important to act fast!

HOW MUCH TO OFFER:

We will sit down and look at recent sales and current buyer activity in the area, as well as the value of the property in its present condition. Putting all this information together, we will determine the price that you would like to offer.

SUBMITTING AN OFFER

There are some components to an offer that makes it more appealing to the sellers.

- **Put Your Best Foot Forward**

We will work together to discuss your options and create your very best offer. Depending on the circumstances, you may have only one chance to make a good impression.

- **Put Down a Healthy Earnest Deposit**

A large earnest money deposit shows the seller you are serious

- **Cash Talks**

A transaction that is not dependent on receiving loan approval is more attractive to a seller

- **Shorter Inspection Periods**

Try shortening the inspection period to 10 days

- **Write the Seller a Letter**

We will make your offer stand out by writing a personal letter to the seller, explaining why you fell in love with their home.

- **Offer to Close Quickly**

Many sellers prefer to close within 30 days.

**AFTER YOU SUBMIT AN OFFER****THE SELLER COULD**

- **ACCEPT THE OFFER**

- **DECLINE THE OFFER**

This happens if the seller thinks your offer isn't close enough to their expectations to further negotiate.

- **COUNTER-OFFER**

A counter-offer is when the seller offers you different terms. If this happens, you can:

- **ACCEPT THE SELLER'S COUNTER-OFFER**

- **DECLINE THE SELLER'S COUNTER-OFFER**

- **COUNTER THE SELLER'S COUNTER-OFFER**

You can negotiate back and forth as many times as needed until you reach an agreement or someone chooses to walk away.

OFFER IS ACCEPTED - CONGRATS!

You will sign the purchase agreement and you are now officially under contract! This period of time is called the contingency period. Now inspections, appraisals, or anything else built into your purchase agreement will take place.





6 *order* AN INSPECTION

During the inspection period, we will schedule an inspection with a reputable home inspector to do a thorough investigation of the home. Once this is complete, the inspector will provide us with a list of their findings. You can take the issues as-is or request the seller to address some or all of the findings. We will be mindful and reasonable on smaller items while being very cautious and vigilant of potentially significant issues.

7 *negotiate* FINAL OFFER

Issues typically arise after the home inspection, and those issues tend to result in another round of negotiations for credits or fixes.

1. Ask for credit for the work that needs to be done.

Likely, the last thing the seller wants to do is repair work.

2. Think “big picture” and don’t sweat the small stuff.

A tile that needs some caulking or a leaky faucet can easily be fixed. Repairs are still up for negotiation and perhaps a small credit would help with closing costs.

3. Keep your poker face.

The listing agent will be present during inspections and revealing your comfort level with the home could come back to haunt you in further discussions or negotiations.

8

APPRAISAL

ordered

Your lender will arrange for a third party appraiser to provide an independent estimate of the value of the house you are buying. The appraisal lets all parties involved know that the price is fair. The loan file then moves on to the mortgage underwriter.

If approved you will receive your final commitment letter that includes the final loan terms & percentage rates.

PROPERTY TITLE SEARCH

This ensures that the seller truly owns the property and that all existing liens, loans or judgments are disclosed.

HOME OWNERS INSURANCE

You'll need insurance for the new home before closing. This will protect against things like fire, storms, and flooding



scheduling YOUR MOVE

AFTER SIGNING

- Finalize Home Mortgage
- Schedule Home Inspection
- Declutter! Sort through every drawer, closet, cupboard & shelf, removing items you no longer need or like. Donate or sell items that are in good condition
- Get copies of medical records and store them with your other important documents
- Create an inventory of anything valuable that you plan to move
- Get estimates from moving companies

4 WEEKS TO MOVE

- Give 30 days notice if you are currently renting
- Schedule movers/moving truck
- Buy/find packing materials
- START PACKING

3 WEEKS TO MOVE

- Arrange appraisal
- Complete title search (Title company will do this)

2 WEEKS TO MOVE

- Secure Home Warranty
- Get quotes for home insurance
- Schedule time for closing
- Contact utility companies (water, electric, cable)
- Change address: mailing, subscriptions, etc.
- Minimize grocery shopping
- Keep on packing

1 WEEK TO MOVE

- Obtain certified checks for closing
- Schedule and attend a final walkthrough
- Finish packing
- Clean
- Pack essentials for a few nights in new home
- Confirm delivery date with the moving company. Write directions to the new home, along with your cell phone number

✓ **CLOSING DAY**

Closing is when you sign ownership and insurance paperwork and you receive your new home's keys! Typically, closing takes four to six weeks. During this time, purchase funds are held in escrow, where your money is held safe until the transaction is complete.

✓ **CLOSING DISCLOSURE**

Lenders are required to provide you with a closing disclosure, at least three days before closing. This will show you what your final loan terms and closing costs will be. You will have three days to review the statement. This is done to ensure that there are no surprises at the closing table. If there is a significant discrepancy between the loan estimate and the closing disclosure, we must notify your lender and title company immediately.

✓ **FINAL WALKTHROUGH**

We will do a final walk through the home within 24 hours of closing to check the property's condition. This final inspection takes about an hour. We will make sure any repair work that the seller agreed to make has been done. We will be sure to:

- Make sure all appliances are working properly
- Run the water in all the faucets and check for any possible leaks
- Open and close garage doors with opener
- Flush toilets
- Run the garbage disposal and exhaust fans

✓ **CLOSING TABLE**

Who will be there:

- Your agent
- The seller
- The seller's agent
- A title company representative
- Your loan officer
- Any real estate attorneys involved in the transaction

The closing typically happens at the title company. You will be signing lots of paperwork so get your writing hand warmed up! Some of the papers you will be signing include: the deed of trust, promissory note, and other documents

✓ **CLOSING COSTS**

Closing costs can vary depending on your home's purchase price and where you are located. You can generally expect your closing costs to be around 3% to 4% of the home's sales price. These closing costs can sometimes be shared with the seller.

✓ **BRING TO CLOSING**

- Government-issued photo ID
- Copy of the sales contract
- Homeowner's insurance certificate
- Proof of funds to cover the remainder of the costs

✓ **RECEIVE YOUR KEYS**

Congratulations! It was a lot of hard work but you are now officially homeowners!! Time to throw a party and get to know your new neighbors!

REVIEWS



"I can't say enough good things about my experience with Roy Fillyaw at Smith and Associates Real Estate! Despite juggling multiple clients, he made me feel like I was his top priority from start to finish. His attention to detail and genuine care were evident in every interaction. I truly appreciated how he listened to my needs and provided expert guidance throughout the process. His dedication made a potentially stressful experience so much easier and enjoyable. I am incredibly grateful for his hard work and support. If you're looking for a realtor who goes above and beyond, I highly recommend Roy Fillyaw!"

"Roy did an outstanding job with all the obstacles with the seller always found a solution to what problems arises . Great communication didn't matter what time of the day I called he alway went above and beyond to make sure we closed in time."

"Roy was an absolute pleasure to work with, he was extremely knowledgeable and helpful. He went above and beyond to help us find our dream home. He was available every step of the way and did anything he could to make the process easier."

"What can I say, I haven't met a realtor like Roy! I had the best house hunting experience with him. He is super professional and committed to the client. I definitely recommend him to anyone for either buying or selling a house. Thank you Roy. I can't wait for our next house!"

WHAT TO EXPECT

HONESTY & TRANSPARENCY

INTEGRITY

RESPECT

TIMELY & REACHABLE

ACTING IN YOUR BEST INTEREST





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