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Assessing Your Housing Needs

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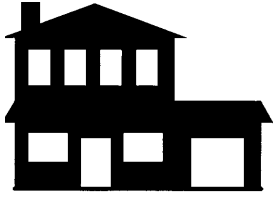
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HOME OWNERSHIP
FACT SHEETS

Assessing Your Housing Needs

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Where to Begin

The first step in buying a home is knowing what type of housing best suits your family needs. Housing needs vary according to family life stages, or your perception of what you need in a house.

Family Life Cycle Stages - Where do I fit?

- ___ **Young Single Adult** - Apartment living is common. Locations close to work or school and recreation.
- ___ **Middle-Aged, Single Adult** - May prefer ownership, condominium seems preferable. Location near recreational facilities and work are important.
- ___ **Single-Parent Family** - Single family homes. Location near work, shopping, and schools is important.
- ___ **Young Married Couple** - Mobility is high, rentals may be preferred. Locations close to work.
- ___ **Expanding Family** - From first child until last child reaches adolescence. Single family home. Locations near shopping, schools, parks, and recreation.
- ___ **Launching Family** - When first child reaches adolescence until last child leaves. Single family home. Locations with best advantages for children.
- ___ **Empty Nest/Active Retirement** - Children have left home, but not retired. Couples may want to maintain ties with neighbors and community and may want room for return visits of children.
- ___ **Restricted Retirement** - Location near services is important; meals, transportation, and medical.

Life Style Needs

To determine living patterns, consider the portion of time the family and its members devote to various activities at home. Rank these activities in order of importance for your family with 1 being the most important.

- ___ Social activities outside the household.
- ___ Family activities.
- ___ Individual activities (study, hobbies, work).
- ___ Private activities (dressing, bathing, personal time).
- ___ Work activities (meals, laundry, cleaning, gardening, school or employment interests).
- ___ Leisure activities (television, computer use, games, music).

What We Want In A House

Families want and need different things in a house. The following checklist may help you and your family identify the features you want. Check any which apply.

Location

- City
- Suburb
- Country
- On bus route
- Near employment
- Near schools or church
- (Other)_____

Square Footage

- Under 1000
- 1000-1500
- 1500-2000
- 2000-2500
- 2500-3000
- 3000+

Type

- Single family
- Apartment
- Townhouse
- Condominium
- Mobile Home
- Manufactured Home
- (Other)_____

Bedrooms

- 1-2
- 3-4
- 5+
- Master

Age

- New Construction
- 1-3 years
- 4-7 years
- 7-20 years

Bathrooms

- 1-1½
- 2-3
- 3+

Style

- 1 story
- 2 story
- 3+
- Ranch
- Split level
- Contemporary
- (Other)_____

Other Rooms Needed

- Den/library/office
- Basement
- Laundry
- Dining

Construction

- Brick
- Frame
- Block
- (Other)_____

Kitchen Features

- Refrigerator
- Range/oven
- Microwave
- Disposal
- Compactor
- Island or bar
- Pantry
- Eating area

Inside Features

- Fireplace
- Vaulted ceiling

Outside Features

- Deck or patio
- Garden
- Security lighting
- Off street parking
- 1 car garage

- _____ Beamed ceiling
- _____ Built in vacuum
- _____ Specialized lighting
- _____ Intercom
- _____ Room for piano
- _____ Room for hobbies
- _____ (Other)_____

- _____ 2 car garage
- _____ RV or Boat parking
- _____ Landscaping
- _____ Fence
- _____ Pool
- _____ Tennis court
- _____ Basketball court
- _____ Sprinkler system
- _____ View
- _____ (Other)_____

Type of Heating/Cooling System

- _____ Electric
- _____ Gas
- _____ Oil
- _____ Wood
- _____ Central
- _____ Room
- _____ Zoned
- _____ (Other)_____

Other Considerations

Adapted from: Glenda M. Herman, Etta Mae Westbrook, and Martha W. Keel, University of Tennessee Extension Service
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