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.
- **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+

Other Rooms Needed
___ Den/library/office
___ Basement
___ Laundry
___ Dining

Style
___ 1 story
___ 2 story
___ 3+
___ Ranch
___ Split level
___ Contemporary
___ (Other)_____________

Kitchen Features
___ Refrigerator
___ Range/oven
___ Microwave
___ Disposal
___ Compactor
___ Island or bar
___ Pantry
___ Eating area

Construction
___ Brick
___ Frame
___ Block
___ (Other)_____________

Outside Features
___ Deck or patio
___ Garden
___ Security lighting
___ Off street parking
___ 1 car garage

Inside Features
___ Fireplace
___ Vaulted ceiling
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Feature</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Beamed ceiling</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Built in vacuum</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Specialized lighting</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Intercom</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Room for piano</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Room for hobbies</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Other)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Type of Heating/Cooling System**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Heating/Cooling System</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Electric</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Gas</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Oil</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Wood</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Central</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Room</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Zoned</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Other)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Other Considerations**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Consideration</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>View</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(Other)</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Adapted from: Glenda M. Herman, Etta Mae Westbrook, and Martha W. Keel, University of Tennessee Extension Service
Last Revision 1/00

Utah State University is committed to providing an environment free from harassment and other forms of illegal discrimination based on race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age (40 and older), disability, and veteran’s status. USU’s policy also prohibits discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation in employment and academic related practices and decisions.

Utah State University employees and students cannot, because of race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, disability, or veteran’s status, refuse to hire; discharge; promote; demote; terminate; discriminate in compensation; or discriminate regarding terms, privileges, or conditions of employment, against any person otherwise qualified. Employees and students also cannot discriminate in the classroom, residence halls, or in on/off campus, USU-sponsored events and activities.

This publication is issued in furtherance of Cooperative Extension work. Acts of May 8 and June 30, 1914, in cooperation with the U.S. Department of Agriculture, Jack M. Payne, Vice President and Director, Cooperative Extension Service, Utah State University (EP/DF/04-02)