

For these reasons, we call home ownership the best “investment” most people ever make. But, we believe when it is done right, as outlined in this book, home ownership becomes an “intentional investment” that lays the foundation for a life of financial security and personal choice.

There are solid financial reasons to support your decision to buy a home, and, among these, equity buildup, value appreciation, and tax benefits stand out. However too often, people will talk themselves out of making one of the best financial decisions of their lives for reasons that when fully examined just don't make much sense. Listed here are the most common fears that might keep some first-time home buyers from making the transition from renter to home owner along with the facts that will push you past them. Those who have the most fulfilling lives base their decisions on facts, not fears.

FEARS AND FACTS ABOUT BUYING YOUR FIRST HOME

Fear #1: I can't afford to buy a home now.

Fact: Actually, you can't afford not to buy a home now.

First, there is always a home you can afford to buy that will be a smart purchase for you—the only questions are what and where to you. If it's “what” that matters to you, then keep pushing out the “where” until you find it. If it's the “where” that matters to you, then keep narrowing your “what” until you find it. No matter what features it has or where it's located, there is always a good buy for you

Second, if you are paying rent, you can afford to buy. From a financial point of view, in the United States, the tax savings on mortgage interest alone usually makes up most of the difference between rent and a mortgage payment.

Third, the earlier you buy, the earlier you will benefit from equity buildup and will be well-positioned for any future appreciation. The fact remains, the sooner and more seriously you begin the process of buying your home, the sooner you'll find the best buy for you.