

# MAVTEAM BUYER GUIDE

# BEFORE WE GET STARTED, THE BASIC DEFINITIONS

Everything you need to know about the representatives in the home buying process:



A **REALTOR®** is a licensed real estate agent and a member of the **National Association of REALTORS®**, a real estate trade association. **REALTORS®** also belong to their state and local **Association of REALTORS®**.



A **real estate agent** is licensed by the state to represent parties in the transfer of property. Every **REALTOR®** is a real estate agent, but not every real estate agent has the professional designation of a **REALTOR®**.



The MLS is a database of properties listed for sale by REALTORS® who are members of the local Association of REALTORS®. Information on an MLS property is available to thousands of REALTORS®.





# Listing Agent (Represents the Seller)

A key role of the Listing Agent or Broker is to form a legal relationship with the homeowner to sell the property and place the property in the Multiple Listing Service (MLS).



# Selling Agent (Represents the Buyer - you!)

A key role of the Selling Agent or Broker is to work with you as the Buyer to locate a suitable property and negotiate a successful home purchase.



# **Escrow Officer**

An unbiased third party that manages terms outlined in the purchase contract. An Escrow Officer also handles funds, title insurance, and signing of loan documents.



# Title Officer

Conducts a presale examination of the property to look for any discrepancies in records or documents that can interfere with the exchange. This third-party review protects both you as the Buver and Seller.



# Lender

The Lender works with you as the Buyer to arrange financing for the purchase of your home, if necessary.



# **Appraiser**

Inspects the property and determines the market-based opinion of value of the home.



# Home Inspector

Inspects the property and works directly for you as the Buyer.

# THE HOME BUYING PROCESS

# **START**

## 1 MEET WITH YOUR REALTORS® (that's us)

- Together, we will identify your ideal home, neighborhood, lifestyle, & budget in a Buyer Consultation
- Hire your REALTORS® (us) & sign Buyer-Broker Exclusive Employment Agreement

#### 2 GET PRE-APPROVED

- Contact your Lender for pre-approval
- Run the numbers & set a budget
- Prepare your credit

## 3 VIEW HOMES | GO SHOPPING

- We will set up a specific search of homes within your criteria
- Together, we will attend scheduled property showings
- We will adjust search criteria if needed

#### 4 MAKE AN OFFER

- We will research comparable sales in the area & prepare the best offer on your favorite home
- We will negotiate the best terms for you, if counter offers occur

## 5 ACCEPTED OFFER | TIMELINE

- Counter offer negotiations are complete and the offer is accepted by the Seller
- Both parties have signed, and you are under contract

#### **6 UNDER CONTRACT**

- Contract and earnest money are deposited with the Escrow company
- Escrow is opened and title search is ordered

# 7 INSPECTIONS

- We will schedule an inspection including home, wood, infestation, roof, and pool (if applicable)
- Together, we will review the findings of the inspection and negotiate any appropriate repair requests
- We will review and advise on seller disclosures, title commitment, CCRs, and HOA disclosures Secure homeowners insurance

## **8 LOAN APPROVAL PROCESS**

- Your Lender will order an appraisal to ensure the property is worth the loan amount and purchase price you agreed to pay
- Your Lender will help navigate your loan through underwriting
- A loan estimate (LE) is sent to you as the borrower from your Lender

# 9 PRIOR TO CLOSE

- Title company will send "proof of title"
- All necessary documents are signed and sent to your Lender
- Lender sends you as the borrower the final closing documents (CD) – 3 day wait period if hand delivered or electronically signed
- You will schedule the appointment for signing the final documents

# 10 CLOSING

- Together, we will attend the final walkthrough
- Documents are signed by both you as the Buyer & the Seller (you will bring the closing funds)
- Escrow company payoffs and collects any final information
- Documents are recorded at County Recorder
- We will hand over the keys to your new home







# **IDENTIFY YOUR REALTOR® PARTNERS**

We are honored to play an important role in assisting and representing you throughout the process of purchasing your home. Our #1 objective is to protect your interests as a fiduciary and ensure a smooth and successful transaction.

# Skills & Qualities You Can Count on Us For:

**Market Expertise:** We possess in-depth knowledge of the local real estate market, and can provide valuable insights into neighborhoods, property values, and market trends - helping you make informed decisions.

**Property Search:** Based on your criteria and preferences, we conduct a comprehensive search for suitable properties. This includes exploring listings, attending open houses, and leveraging our network to find potential homes.



**Negotiation Skills:** One of the most critical roles of a Buyer's REALTOR® is negotiating on your behalf. We will aim to secure the best possible terms, including price, closing costs, and other conditions. Our ultimate goal is to ensure you get the best possible home at the best possible price.

**Contract Expertise:** Real estate transactions involve complex legal documents. While we are not licensed in law, we are well-versed in the intricacies of the contracts and can explain terms and conditions and will work to protect your interests and ensure that all contractual obligations are met.

**Property Valuation:** By analyzing comparable sales and market conditions, We will help you determine the fair market value of a property. This information is crucial when making an offer and negotiating with the Seller.

**Recommendation of Professionals:** We have a network of professionals, including mortgage brokers, inspectors, lenders, escrow officers, and more. We can recommend reliable and trustworthy individuals to assist in various aspects of the home buying process.

**Guidance Through Inspections:** We will help coordinate and attend property inspections, guiding you through the inspection process, ensuring that any issues are addressed and negotiating repairs or concessions with the Seller when necessary.

**Due Diligence:** We will assist in conducting due diligence on a property, including reviewing property disclosures, zoning regulations, and other relevant information. This ensures that you are well-informed before making a purchase.

**Closing Assistance:** We will work closely with you throughout the closing process, ensuring that all necessary paperwork is in order. This includes coordinating with the title company, escrow officer, and other parties involved to facilitate a smooth closing.

**Post-Purchase Support:** Even after the transaction is complete, we will continue to provide assistance. This could include recommendations for contractors, local services, or information about the community.

Once we've decided that we're a good fit and want to work together, you will sign a Buyer-Broker Exclusive Employment Agreement. This establishes our working relationship, and solidifies our commitment to your home buying process.

# **INV** YOUR **DREAM HOME**

	YOUR CUE	RRENT H	ОМЕ			
There are many important fac- involved in finding the perfec- lt's hard to remember them a you are put on the spot! This is designed to outline your in needs and desires in your needs	ct home.  Il when worksheet nportant  Like					
Describe how you want your home to feel:	future					
	Love					
Describe your future neighbo	orhood:					
	Live Without					
YOUR FUTURE HOME	Without					
Square Feet: Min	Max		# of Bedrooms:		# of Bathrooms:	
Price Range:	IVIdX		Parking Type/Spaces:		# OI Datillooms.	
Style of Home:			Roof Type: Tile	ПД	sphalt	
Floor Type: Wood Tile Carpet Lot Size:						
# of Stories:	Landscape Style:					
Home Age:	Zip Codes:					
			-1			
IMPORTANT FEATURES						
□ Formal Living Dear	□ Launda: Da are		Fangad Vard		Vaultad Cailings	
☐ Formal Living Room	☐ Laundry Room☐ Appliances	_	Fenced Yard Guest House	_	Vaulted Ceilings	
☐ Formal Dining Room ☐ Great Room	☐ Appliances				ı	
☐ Family Room			Garage Extra Parking		Large Closets Solar	
•	☐ Spa ☐ View		RV / Boat Parking		Extra Storage	
☐ Pantry ☐ Breakfast Area				Ц	LALIA SLUIAGE	
Other:	☐ Decks		Alarm / Security System			



# STEP 2 GET PRE-APPROVED

# RUN **NUMBERS**

- Determine what your most comfortable monthly budget is
- Get loan officer recommendations from your REALTOR®
- Understand your financing & pre-qualification options
- Consider the style of living & the cost of living in the neighborhoods you're interested in
- Go window shopping drive around the possible neighborhoods at different times of the day to experience it ahead of time
- Think about what you value most in your future home

# STEP 3 VIEW HOMES | GO SHOPPING

Now it's time to view homes and envision yourself living there!





Items to consider based on your home buying goals and objectives, before submitting an offer:



- Earnest deposit (the money a Buyer deposits that represents your good faith to make a purchase)
- Down payment (the money a Buyer pays up front to complete the purchase of a transaction)
- Ideal escrow period and closing date
- Inspection period
- Loan program
- Finance, cash purchase and financial contingency removal
- Seller Concessions
- Appraisal
- Title Company & Escrow Officer
- Homeowner's Association(HOA) fees(if applicable), Home Warranty & Taxes





# STEP 5 ACCEPTED OFFER | **CONTRACT TIMELINE**

For your reference: important points during the purchasing contract process.

UNDER CONTRACT	1-5 DAYS	10 DAYS	14 DAYS	18 DAYS	21-27 DAYS	28 DAYS	CLOSED
<b>\</b>							
LENDER	PROCESS						
	Your loan application is submitted to Lender	Lender orders appraisal and receives results of full-blown credit report	You are to provide all requested information to Lender	Appraisal complete  Lender may request additional information	Lender submits loan package to Underwriting for approval	Loan Approved  Lender documents sent to Escrow	
HOME IN	ISPECTION						
	Arrange for Home Inspection	Home Inspection completed per your request					
		completion of home inspection items					
INSURAN	NCE PROCESS						
	Contact Insurance Agent regarding homeowners insurance options for subject property	Contact Insurance Agent to select policies	Follow-up with Insurance Agent to ensure policy will be in effect on date of property possession				
TITLE &	ESCROW PROCESS	5					
	Contract and earnest money received by Escrow Title Search completed by Title & Escrow HOA ordered if applicable	Title & Escrow may require additional information from Seller and/or Buyer to clear title requirements  HOA documents due back from HOA company if applicable	Escrow completes and provides title request to Lender if applicable	Escrow prepares documents for closing	Once all requirements are met, title is clear and ready to move to the closing	Finalize Settlement Statement/Final balancing with Lender	
MOVING	PROCESS						
	Research and schedule moving company	Pick up moving boxes Begin packing items not needed in the next 30 days		Begin setting up telephone, cable, etc. at new property address	Change utilities, water, etc. (after loan is approved) effective on date of possession		

Every transaction is unique. This is a general timeline of various milestones once you enter escrow.



# NIV STEP 6 UNDER CONTRACT | DUE DILIGENCE

# **CONTRACTUAL RIGHTS**



The Arizona Association of REALTORS® (AAR) Residential Resale Real Estate Purchase Contract gives you the right to conduct physical, environmental, and other types of inspections, including tests, surveys, and other studies - of the premises at your expense to determine the value and condition of the premises. You must perform any inspections, test, surveys, etc., and investigate any material matters that are a concern during the inspection period. The Contract also states that you shall provide the Seller, upon request and at no cost to the Seller, copies of all reports concerning the premises when received.

# **GENERAL PROFESSIONAL INSPECTION**



In a home inspection, a qualified inspector takes an in-depth, unbiased look at the premises: (1) to evaluate the physical condition, i.e., structure, construction, and mechanical systems; (2) to identify items that need to be repaired OR replaced; and (3) to estimate the remaining useful life of the major systems, equipment, and structure. The inspection gives a detailed report on the condition of the structural components, exterior, roofing, plumbing, electrical, heating insulation and ventilation, air conditioning, and interiors.

# **ADDITIONAL INSPECTIONS**



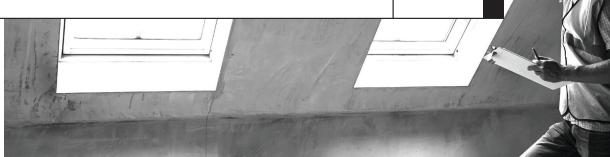
After you've reviewed the findings of your general home inspection, the inspector may recommend a specialized home inspection. Specialized inspections include roofers, plumbers, electricians, pool technicians, HVAC technicians, and more. You may also want to consider:

### **HOMEOWNERS INSURANCE**

Call the current insurance agent to find out preliminarily what insurance cost and coverage will be, and any additional information like if the home resides in a zone requiring additional coverage, etc.

### HOA

If applicable, work with your REALTORS® to have an understanding of the HOA's reserves and assessments, if the home is in good standing, etc.



# M'STEP 7 TAKING TITLE

# YOU'VE AGREED TO TERMS & CONDITIONS!

As an escrow holder, **Title & Escrow's** duty is to act as the neutral third party. They hold all documents and all funds, pursuant to the purchase contract and escrow instructions, until all terms have been met and the property is in insurable condition. They do not work for the Seller OR for the Buyer; rather, they are employed by ALL parties and act only upon Mutual Written Instruction.

# **Opening Escrow**

Occurs once we submit a fully executed contract with your earnest money deposit.

Your Escrow Officer reviews the contract, confirms receipt of the earnest money, orders the commitment for title insurance, and prepares the documents required to close escrow (payoffs, HOAs, etc.) All of the documents are double checked by your Escrow Officer.



WHAT IS

# **TITLE INSURANCE**

#### **DEFINITION:**

A contract where by the Insurer, for valuable consideration, agrees to indemnify the Insured for a specified amount against loss through defect of title to real estate wherein the latter has an interest either as a purchaser OR otherwise.

#### **PURPOSE:**

Title insurance services are designed to afford real property owners, lenders, and others with interest in real estate, the maximum degree of protection from adverse title claims OR risks. The financial assurance offered by a title insurance policy from the title company is, of course, the primary aspect of title protection. The policy affords protection both in satisfying valid claims against the title as insured and in defraying the expenses incurred in defending such claims.

# **The Title Search**

Title & Escrow companies work to eliminate risks by performing a search of the public records OR through the title company's plant. The search consists of public records, laws and court decisions pertaining to the property to determine the current recorded ownership, any recorded liens, encumbrances OR any other matters of record which could affect the title to the property. When a title search is complete, the title company issues a commitment for title insurance detailing the current status of title.

# MY A LITTLE MORE ABOUT TAKING TITLE



#### \* This guide is provided as a complimentary resource for real estate consumers. We are not in a position to give legal advice. If you have questions OR would like opinions on which way to hold title that would best benefit you, then you should obtain the assistance of an Attorney OR other qualified professional.

# Common Ways of Holding Title to Real Property in Arizona

# **Community Property**

Community property is a method of co-ownership for married persons only. Arizona is a community property state. This is a statutory presumption that all property acquired by a married couple is community property. Upon death of one of the spouses, the deceased spouse's interest will pass to the surviving spouse by either a will OR intestate succession.

# **Community Property with Right of Survivorship**

Community property with right of survivorship is a version of holding title between married persons that vests the title to real property in the surviving spouse when it is expressly declared in the Deed. This vesting has the tax benefits of holding title as "community property" and the probate avoidance features of "survivorship rights".

# Joint Tenants with Right of Survivorship

Joint tenancy with right of survivorship is a method of co-ownership that gives title to the real property to the last survivor. Title to real property can be acquired by two OR more individuals either married OR unmarried. If a married couple acquires title as joint tenants with right of survivorship, they must specifically accept the joint tenancy to avoid the presumption of community property.

# **Tenants in Common**

Tenants in common is a method of co-ownership where parties do not have survivorship rights and each owns a specific undivided interest in the entire title.

# **Sole and Separate**

Sole and separate may be a way to take title and is a real property owned by a spouse before marriage OR any acquired after marriage by gift, descent OR specific intent. If a married person acquires title as sole and separate property, their spouse must execute a Disclaimer Deed.

# **Corporation**

Corporation may be a way to take title if the corporation is duly formed and in good standing in the state of its incorporation.

# **General Partnership**

A general partnership may be a way to take title if duly formed under the laws of the state of the formation of the partnership. A partnership is defined as a voluntary association of two OR more persons as co-owners in a business for profit.

# **Limited Partnership**

A limited partnership may be a way to take title and is a partnership formed by two OR more persons under the laws of Arizona OR another state and having one OR more general partners and one OR more limited partners. A certificate of limited partnership must be filed in the Office of the Secretary of State, a certified copy of which must be recorded.

# **Trust**

Trust may be a way to take title and is a fiduciary arrangement that allows a third party, or trustee, to hold assets on behalf of a beneficiary or beneficiaries. You must provide the name of the trust, date of the trust, and Trustee names as referenced in your Trust Agreement.

# 

#### **OPENING ESCROW**

Items needed to open escrow:

- Contact info for Buyer, Seller, Agents & Title Company
- Fully executed Purchase Contract
- Earnest money deposit
- Copy of listing
- New Lender information
- Existing loan payoff information
- HOA Information



#### **POLICY ISSUED**

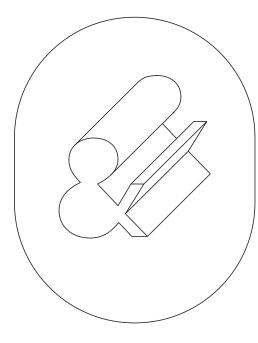
- Purchaser receives Owner's Title Insurance Policy from Title & Escrow
- New Lender receives ALTA Loan Policy from Title & Escrow

#### **DISBURSEMENT OF FUNDS**

All disbursements are made in accordance with the settlement statement

#### PROCESSING ESCROW

- Escrow deposits earnest money funds
- Escrow orders preliminary title report from title department
- Escrow requests payoff OR assumption information, homeowner association information, etc.



#### TITLE EXAMINATION

- Property and parties are researched by the
- Preliminary Title Report is typed and sent to Escrow Officer, Agents, Seller, Buyer and Lender

#### **ESCROW CLOSING PREPARATION**

- Preliminary title report received by Escrow Officer and is reviewed for any surprises, i.e. tax liens, judgments, unknown liens of record, discrepancies in legal description, delinquent taxes, access problems, etc.
- Escrow informs Agents if additional information is needed to clear any surprises revealed by the Preliminary Title Report
- Escrow follows-up on receipt of the following if needed, per purchase contract:
  - Termite Report
  - Home Protection Plan (Warranties)
  - Buyer's Hazard Insurance New Loan Package
  - Payoff Information
  - Repair Bills
  - HOA Documents
  - Septic (if Applicable)
- Loan documents are received and the Escrow Officer processes the file to reflect closing and advises Agents of funds that are needed for closing
- Closing appointment times are set for Buyer and Seller with Escrow Officer
- Inform all parties executing documents to bring a valid government issued picture I.D. (drivers license, passport, etc.)
- Inform Buyer to bring in a cashier's check OR wired funds for closina

### **EXECUTION OF DOCUMENTS**

- Buyer and Seller meet with Escrow Officer and After all parties have executed the necessary execute all documents
  - Optional hired professional mobile notary upon request

# **RECORDATION**

- have ascertained that conditions are met, original documents are recorded
- Once documents are recorded, Escrow notifies Agents
- Agents will make arrangements for you to receive your keys

After Escrow receives all funds needed and

documents, Escrow returns the loan package to the new Lender for review and funding

**LENDERS FUNDS** 

Lender funds the loan and Lenders' check OR wired funds are sent to Escrow for processing

MAVTEAM

# **IM** LOCAL SERVICES **DIRECTORY**

#### UTILITIES

(APS) Arizona Public Service 602.371.7171 OR 1.800.253.9405 www.aps.com (SRP) Salt River Project 602.236.8888

www.srp.com

# GAS

Southwest Gas 877.860.6020 www.swgas.com

Mesa Gas 480.644.2221

#### WATER

Apache Junction 480.982.6030 Avondale 623.333.2005 Buckeye 623.386.2196

Carefree 480.488.9100

Cave Creek 480.488.6617

Chandler 480.782.2280 El Mirage 623.933.1228

Fountain Hills 480.837.9522

Gilbert 480.503.6800

Glendale 623.930.3190

Global Water 520.568.4452

Goodyear 623.932.3910

Guadalupe 480.730.3080

Litchfield Park 623.935.9367

Maricopa Dom Water Improv. Dist 520.568.2239

Mesa 480.644.2221

Paradise Valley\* (sewer) 480.348.3518

www.ci/paradise.valley.az.us/

Paradise Valley water service is through a private water company called: EPCOR 1.800.383.0834 www.epcor.com

Peoria 623.773.7160

Phoenix 602.262.6251 www.phoenix.gov/residents/

Queen Creek 480.358.3450

Scottsdale 480.312.3111

www.scottsdaleaz.gov/eservices

Surprise 623.222.7000

Tempe 480.350.8361

# **TELEPHONE**

Century Link 1.866.209.3277 www.centurylink.com Cox 866.961.0155

### **CABLE**

Cox Communications 623.594.1000 OR 1.800.683.0084 www.cox.com/arizona

Direct TV 1.855.345.7002

Paradise Valley also doesn't provide trash service. Owner must sign up with PV approved trash companies. Visit Town website and click on "How do I..." and sign-up for "Garbage Collection" for a list of approved collection companies.

#### **AUTOMOBILE INFORMATION**

Emissions Testing 602.771.2300 Motor Vehicle Division 602.255.0072

#### DOG LICENSING

602.506.7387

#### **POST OFFICES**

Valley Wide 1.800.275.8777 www.usps.com/

#### **VOTER REGISTRATION**

602.506.1511

#### THE ARIZONA REPUBLIC

602.444.1000

#### **RECYCLING AND SOLID WASTE**

Solid Waste Mgmt. Dept. 623.974.4791 OR 480.373.0062

Waste Management 602.268.2222 Recycling Assoc. Maricopa. 520.568.9428

#### **CONSUMER SERVICES**

Better Business Bureau 602.264.1721 AZ Attorney General 602.542.5025 AZ Registrar of Contractors 602.542.1525

#### TRANSPORTATION

Bus Lines —

Super Shuttle 602.244.9000

Phoenix Transit 602.253.5000

Dial.A.Ride 800.775.7295

Limousine —

Carey 602.966.1955

Desert Rose 623.780.0159

Scottsdale 800.221.5065

Starlite 800.875.4104

Vincent 480.348.9990

Taxi Cab —

AAA 480.966.8294

Courier 602.232.2222

Yellow 602.252.5252

# **LIBRARIES**

Apache Junction 480.474.8555 Carefree 480.488.3686

Cave Creek 480.488.2286

Chandler 480.782.2814

El Mirage 602.652.3000

Fountain Hills 602.652.3000 Gilbert 602.652.3000

Glendale 623 930 3530

Litchfield Park 623.935.5053

Maricopa 520.316.6960

Mesa 480.644.3100

Peoria 623.773.7555

#### LIBRARIES (Cont.)

Phoenix 602.262.6372 Queen Creek 602.652.3000 Scottsdale 480.312.7323

Sun City 623.652.3000

Surprise 602.652.3000

Tempe 480.350.5555

Youngtown 623.974.3401

#### FIRE DEPARTMENT

Apache Junction 480.982.4440

Carefree 480.488.0347

Chandler 480.782.2120

El Mirage 623.583.7988

Fountain Hills 480 837 9820

Gilbert 480.503.6300

Glendale 623.931.5600

Goodyear 623.932.2300

Litchfield Park see Goodyear

Maricopa 520.568.3333

Mesa 480.644.2101

Paradise Valley 480.348.3631

Peoria 623.773.7279

Phoenix 602.253.1191

Queen Creek 480.644.2400

Scottsdale 480.945.6311

Sun City 623.974.2321

Sun City West 623.584.3500

Surprise 623.222.5000

Tempe 480.858.7230

Youngtown 623.974.3665

#### POLICE DEPARTMENT

Apache Junction 480.982.8260

Carefree 480.876.1000

Chandler 480.782.4130

El Mirage 623.933.1341

Fountain Hills 602.876.1869

Gilbert 480.503.6500

Glendale 623.930.3000

Litchfield Park 623.932.1220

Maricopa 520.568.3673 Dispatch

520.316.6800 Admin

Mesa 480.644.2211

Paradise Valley 480.948.7418

Peoria 623.773.8311

Phoenix 602.262.6151

Queen Creek 602.876.1011

Scottsdale 480.312.5000

Sun City 623.972.2555

Sun City West 623.584.5808

Surprise 623.222.4000

Tempe 480.966.6211

Youngtown 623.974.3665



Congratulations, you're a homeowner! We've crossed the finish line!



We recommend that you keep all records pertaining to your home together in a safe place, including all purchase documents, insurance, maintenance and improvements.

# **Loan Payments**

If you have questions about your loan payments or taxes, contact your mortgage company.

# **Home Warranty Repairs**

If you have a home warranty policy, call your home warranty company directly for repairs. Have your policy number available when you call.

# Recorded Deeds

Title & Escrow will mail the original deed to you after closing.

# Title Insurance Policy

Title & Escrow will mail your policy to you after closing.

# **Property Taxes**

You may not receive a tax statement for the current year on the home you buy. However, it is your obligation to make sure the taxes are paid when due. Check with your mortgage company to find out if taxes are included with your payment. For more information on your Maricopa County property taxes, contact:

Maricopa County Tax Assessor 602.506.3406

Maricopa County Treasurer 602.506.8511

Post —— Closing Checklist	Give forwarding address to post office	When is trash day?
	Have new address recorded on driver's license and car registration	When is recycling day?
	Update charge and credit card accounts	Have you updated all utilities that you may nee (cable, internet, electric, gas, trash, etc.)?
	Update subscriptions & recurring shipments	Do you have the mailbox, pool, and any other keys that may be necessary?
	Let your friends & family know you've moved	keys that may be necessary: