

Some great tips before you start your home search.

Build Your Red File.

A red file contains all your important financial documents. You will need it to secure financing for your property. The typical red file should contain:

- Financial statements
- 401K statements, life insurance, stocks, bonds, and mutual account information.
- Bank accounts
- Investments
- Credit cards
- Auto loans
- At least 3 Recent pay stubs
- Tax returns for two years
- Copies of leases for investment properties

Check Your Credit Score.

Your credit score will have a huge impact on what type of property you can buy, and at what price. Your lender will research your credit ratings from the three credit reporting agencies Equifax, Experian and Trans Union and provide an assessment of what you can afford.

Be Careful With Your Finances.

Now is not a good time to make sudden career changes or large purchases. You want to approach your property purchase from a position of financial stability.