Loudoun County Division of Housing and Community Development

Home Cents
Seminar for New Homeowners
2017
Home Cents Overview

- Approximately 30 minutes

- Topics include:
  - Personal Finances
  - Preventing Foreclosure
  - Taxes
  - Home Maintenance and Repair
  - Community Resources
www.loudoun.gov/homecentsresources

Technical Difficulties?
Sahar Behboudifar, Community Development Specialist
(703) 771-5590

Accommodations and Language Assistance?Department of Family Services
(703) 777-0353/TTY-711
New expenses as a homeowner
Managing new debt
Your spending plan
Your savings plan
Being prepared for financial hardship
Record keeping

Maintaining your good credit

www.annualcreditreport.com

Home Cents 2017
Protect Your Largest Investment

- Maintenance and Repairs
  (Also see Section III of Home Cents)
- Refinancing and Equity
- Insurance

Home Cents 2017
Personal Finance Resources

FDIC Money Smart
https://www.fdic.gov/consumers/consumer/moneysmart/

Consumer Financial Protection Bureau – Your Money, Your Goals
http://www.consumerfinance.gov/your-money-your-goals/

Home Cents 2017
Preventing Foreclosure

- Contact your lender right away
- Contact an organization providing foreclosure prevention counseling
- Don’t leave your home!
Foreclosure Prevention Resources

NeighborWorks America (Foreclosure Counselors)
www.neighborworks.org/Homes-Finances/Foreclosure/Foreclosure-Counseling-(NFMC)

Making Home Affordable (US Department of Treasury and US Department of Housing and Urban Development)
www.makinghomeaffordable.gov
Foreclosure Prevention Resources

Freddie Mac – Credit Smart, including Preserving Home Ownership
http://www.freddiemac.com/creditsmart/

Federal Housing Administration (HUD) – Tips to Avoid Foreclosure

Homeownership Preservation Foundation
www.995hope.org

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Home Maintenance

• Refer to Google and YouTube.
• Safety first!
• Make sure you have proper clothes, eyewear, and tools.

If you get stuck, call your local handyman.

www.dpor.virginia.gov/LicenseLookup

Home Cents 2017
Monthly

- Change HVAC filters
- Clean HVAC clean out
- Clean garbage disposal
- Clean range hood or exhaust filters
- Inspect your fire extinguishers
- Inspect basement for leaks
Home Maintenance Schedule

**Quarterly**
- Test smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors
- Test garage door and lube springs
- Be sure to run water in unused spaces
- Check water softener

**Biannually**
- Test water heater’s pressure relief valve
- Clean house and inspect
- Replace batteries in smoke detectors and carbon monoxide detectors

*Home Cents 2017*
Spring and Summer: Things to Do

- Check, Clean, Inspect
  - Gutters
  - Exterior Drains
  - Roof for leaks
- Service HVAC system
- Repair and replace window screens
- Clear dead plants and shrubs away from house and electric lines

Home Cents 2017
Inspection and repair grout in bathroom and kitchen
Inspect for insects and bird nests
Clean and repair
- Deck
- Patio
- Window wells
- Dryer vents
- Exhaust
Clean the garage

Home Cents 2017
Flush hot water heater and remove sediment
Get heating system ready for winter
Turn off outdoor water faucets
Clean chimney. Hire a professional.
Inspect driveway for cracks and patch
Test sump pump
Get winter gear in order. Think snow!
Fall and Winter: Things to Do

- Check for ice dams and icicles
- Make sure electrical outlets and lights are working
- Check and tighten locks, handles, and knobs
- Check and repair caulking in water areas and on all trim
- Remove showerheads and clean out sediment
Home Maintenance Resources

National Center for Healthy Housing – Healthy Homes Maintenance Checklist

HUD Healthy Homes Maintenance Checklist
https://www.hud.gov/offices/lead/library/hhi/Healthy_Housing_CheckList.pdf

Home Cents 2017
Zoning and Building Permits

www.loudoun.gov/zoning

www.loudoun.gov/zoningenforcement

www.loudoun.gov/buildingpermits

www.loudoun.gov/homeownerguides

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Historic Districts

www.loudoun.gov/historic-districts

Home Cents 2017

Fire Safety

www.loudoun.gov/smokealarms

www.loudoun.gov/fireprevention
Homeowners Associations

An **HOA** is an affiliation of homeowners in a development that oversees enforcement of private covenants, or rules.

Loudoun County Homeowners Associations
[www.loudoun.gov/hoas](http://www.loudoun.gov/hoas)

Virginia Department of Professional and Occupational Regulation – Community Associations

Home Cents 2017
Road Maintenance

Virginia Department of Transportation
www.virginiadot.org/

Loudoun County Road Maintenance
www.loudoun.gov/roads
Taxes

- Real Estate Taxes
  - Assessment of taxes
  - Timeframes
  - Penalty

- Personal Property Taxes

www.loudoun.gov/taxes
- State and federal income taxes
- Benefits of homeownership
- Free tax preparation assistance
Tax Resources

VITA Free Tax Assistance

AARP Foundation Tax Aide
www.aarp.org/taxaide

IRS Tax Information for Homeowners – Publication 530

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Community Resources

Loudoun County Homebuyer Guide
https://www.loudoun.gov/homebuyer

Loudoun County Workforce Resource Center
https://www.loudoun.gov/wrc

Credit Counseling and Financial Literacy Resources
https://www.loudoun.gov/DocumentCenter/View/122182

Home Cents 2017
Community Resources

Loudoun Cares
Information and Referral Agency
www.loudouncares.org

Northern Virginia Regional Commission
Quick Guide to Services
www.novaregion.org

Home Cents 2017
Government Resources

www.loudoun.gov

Home Cents 2017
Home Cents Summary

Educate yourself now!

Don’t wait for hardship!

Utilize valuable resources!

Loudoun County Division of Housing and Community Development
www.loudoun.gov/housing
(703) 777-0353

Home Cents 2017
We appreciate your feedback!

www.loudoun.gov/homecents