# THE AGENCY REAL ESTATE

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#### THE FIRM

PROPERTY MANAGEMENT

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#### **REALTY & MANAGEMENT**

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#### **BUYING A HOME**

Use this Reference Guide to Figure Out How Much Home Can You Realistically & Comfortably Afford

#### What Makes Up A Monthly Mortgage Payment?

Principal. Interest. Taxes. Insurance

MORE THAN JUST YOUR PRINCIPAL AND INTEREST...don't forget taxes, insurance, and depending on your down payment amount, private morgage insurance (PMI)

## Setting a Budget

You need to put a budget together. Even if you 're pre-qualified for a mortgage loan, you need to know how much of a monthly payment will work comfortably with your lifestyle and long-term financial plans.

**Step 1:** KNOW YOUR INCOME AND EXPENSES - Add up your monthly exepneses and deduct that amount from your net monthly income.

**Step 2:** SET YOUR PRIORITIES - Seperate your expenses into "need to have" and "like to have" categories.

**Step 3:** TRACK YOUR SPENDING - Keep track of where your money goes each month and balance your budget.

Use Our Affordablity Calculator on our website under Resources to help you make the best decision for your circumstances.

## Mortgage Payment Ratio

REMEMBER - It Is Not About The Maximum You Can Borrow, It's About How Much You Can Comfortably Afford

OK, OK...you get it...so how do you get to a starting point? Here's the formula:

# GROSS MONTHLY INCOME X 28% = MANAGEABLE MONTHLY PAYMENT

## Debt-to-Income Ratio

BUT... Don't forget that you also need to consider your TOTAL DEBT, not just your monthly mortgage payment.

A good rule of thumb is to spend no more than 36% of your gross income on your total debt...think things like car payments, credit card payments AND your mortgage.

#### **GROSS MONTHLY INCOME**

36% (Benchmark)
= MAXIMUM MONTHLY CREDIT
PAYMENTS

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