

*[Taking  
the time  
to  
prepare  
for your  
Life's  
transition  
creates a  
smoother  
journey.]*

Relocating Preparation Tips

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## Will I Purchase My Home Or Rent?

You're relocating to Northern Virginia and you're not sure if you want to purchase your home or rent? Before you decide where you want to live I recommend the following:

1. How much can I afford to spend on a mortgage or rent? Northern Virginia's cost of living is much higher compared to many other areas. Before you bust your budget by paying 80% of your monthly salary towards rent research your salary with the cost of living calculator.
2. Shop around. The market is on your side right now. You have more opportunity to negotiate a better deal because of motivated homeowners.
3. Northern Virginia is credit centric. In order for you to turn on your utilities, phone, and process a rental application most likely you're required to go through a credit check. Planning is essential when preparing for your home to be ready for your new transition. Take the time to [review your credit report](#) so you and your family can be comfortable in your new home as soon as you move in.



## Tips to Finding a Motivated Seller/Renter

1. Look for a vacant home. A vacant home means someone is paying mortgage and/or taxes. I'm sure the owner will welcome additional income.
2. Look for deals that a buyer had backed out. Unfortunately mortgage contracts fall through.
3. Let the seller talk will reveal more to than you expect. The more they reveal the more you can use as a negotiating tool.
4. Overgrown lawn not given TLC. An overgrown lawn in Northern Virginia is rare so if you see one look into it. You may find a motivated seller/renter.
5. Don't compromise what you're looking for. There is a variety of homes available. If you don't find the one you're looking for be patient and it will come.

*Your planning will create a smoother transition to moving to Northern Virginia. Don't arrive to Northern Virginia unaware of the critical factors that require you to have a good start to healthy and happy living.*

# Relocating Checklist

Task	Complete/Working	Date
Find a Home		
Research Child's School		
Copy of Family Medical Records		
Submit Change of Address to Family Doctor		
Change of Address for Post Office		
Change Address for Banks		
Change Address for Department of Motor Vehicles		
Renew Vehicle Registration / Inspection at New Location		
Register for Electric Service		
Register for Water Service		
Register for Telephone Cable, Internet Service		
Stop Utility Services		
Garbage Pickup Schedule		