



MDJ Mortgages

Building a better future



First-Time Buyer Checklist

***Steps to Prepare for Your
First Home Purchase***

✓ **Speak to a Mortgage Adviser – Start Here!**

This is the most important first step. Speaking to a qualified mortgage adviser early on can save you time, stress, and money.

At **MDJ Mortgages**, we'll help you understand how much you can borrow, what options are available, and guide you through each step of the journey. And if you're a first-time buyer, our advice is completely free.

✓ **Check Your Credit File**

Knowing what's on your credit report helps avoid surprises later. Use [Check My File](#) to view your full credit report across all major agencies (Experian, Equifax, and TransUnion).

If something doesn't look right or you're unsure what it means, just let us know — we're happy to help.

 **Tip:** You can also try **Experian Boost**, a free tool that can increase your score by adding regular payments (like subscriptions or phone bills) to your credit report.

✓ **Save for Your Deposit**

Most lenders ask for at least 5–10% of the property's value as a deposit. The bigger the deposit, the more mortgage options you may have — but there are low deposit mortgage deals out there too.

 *We can help you find the right deal based on your deposit size.*

✓ **Review Your Income & Spending**

Lenders will look at your income and monthly outgoings to assess affordability. A good place to start is reviewing your bank statements — we can help you work out what's manageable.

✓ Get Your Documents Ready

You'll typically need:

- Proof of income (payslips or SA302s if self-employed)
 - Photo ID (passport or driving licence)
 - Address history
 - 3+ months' bank statements
 - Details of any loans or financial commitments
- Getting these organised early helps avoid delays later on.

✓ Understand First-Time Buyer Eligibility

To qualify as a first-time buyer, you must never have owned a home before — in the UK or abroad. You'll also usually need to have the right to live in the UK permanently or on a long-term basis.

✓ Think About Additional Costs

It's not just the deposit — remember to budget for:

- Solicitor/conveyancer fees
- Survey costs
- Mortgage arrangement fees (if any)
- Stamp Duty (you may be exempt as a first-time buyer)
- Moving costs and furnishings

Need help or advice?

Get in touch with us at:

☎ 01256 518318

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We're here to help you take the next step on your homeownership journey



Mark Jones, trading as MDJ Mortgages Ltd - Mortgage and Equity Release advisor. Qualified Certs CII (MP & ER) and member of the Society of Mortgage Professionals and the Chartered Insurance Institute. We are regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority FCA no: 949077. MDJ Mortgages Limited is an appointed representative of Stonebridge which is a trading style of Stonebridge Mortgage Solutions Limited, which is authorised and regulated by the Financial Conduct Authority.

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*We typically charge a fee of £295 for the arrangement of your mortgage, but the precise amount will depend on your circumstances and will be discussed at the initial appointment. The fee will not exceed £1,000. For full details click [HERE](#)

*Your home may be repossessed if you do not keep up repayments on your mortgage.