

## Renting vs. owning a home – which is right for you?

When considering whether or not to buy a home for the first time, it's best to take a moment to compare the advantages and disadvantages of owning a home versus renting. Although it can seem like a big step to take, owning a home may be the right choice for you. The table below compares some of the differences between renting and owning.

	Renting		Owning	
<b>Costs</b>	More fixed costs for the term of the lease	+	Variable costs	-
<b>Equity</b>	You will never gain equity	-	Over time you have the ability to build equity	+
<b>Mobility</b>	Once lease is up, you can just move – of course, once lease is up you can be forced to move	<b>Draw</b>	Generally, must sell or lease home if you want to move	<b>Draw</b>
<b>Up-keep</b>	Most costs are covered by the owner	+	Costs of work must be covered by you	-
<b>Initial investment</b>	Smaller amount of up-front cash	+	Generally calls for a larger up-front investment with a down payment	-
<b>Personalization</b>	Limited in what you can do to decorate or remodel	-	Remodel or decorate based upon your desires	+
<b>Taxes</b>	No tax advantages for renters	-	Homeownership can provide tax advantages unavailable to renters	+

Of course, purchasing a home is a big decision and you should always seek competent legal and/or accounting advice for details specific to your situation for more information prior to making any decision.

Contact us for more information on homeownership, title insurance and why Stewart Title is the right title company for you.