

# My Florida Home Book

## A Guide for First-Time Homebuyers in Florida



**Hyun-Jeong Lee, Ph.D.**

**with Extension Faculty Members of Family and Consumer Sciences**

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## My Florida Home Book: Introduction<sup>1</sup>

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### "Welcome Home"

Are you planning to be a homeowner? How exciting! It will be one of the biggest moves of your life in many ways.

You can enjoy many benefits being a homeowner. However, to enjoy your homeownership for longer time, it is critical that you prepare yourself very well in order to manage your homeownership. Otherwise, your homeownership could change into be a horrible financial, physical, and mental disaster for you and your household. By studying this text, though, you have already started your endeavor on a positive note.

Members of the Department of Family, Youth and Consumer Sciences (FYCS), Florida Cooperative Extension, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences at the University of Florida (UF/IFAS) developed My Florida Home Book to assist you in making the best housing decisions for your situation, to prepare yourself well for homeownership when ready, and to maintain your home properly once it becomes yours.

My Florida Home Book consists of two major parts:

- Part I. Becoming a Homeowner
- Part II. Taking Good Care of Your Home

In Part I, you will learn various aspects of homeownership that you need to take into consideration before making a final decision to own a home. You will examine your readiness for new homeownership by learning the benefits and responsibilities of homeownership, assess your housing needs to make a right choice, and learn various financial aspects and processes that you have to know to be a successful homeowner.

In Part II, you will learn how to take care of your home. You will also learn how to keep your home healthy for you and your household members, when and how to inspect a home, the basics of home maintenance, how to save energy, and tips on how to be a good neighbor.

Our wish is to help you make the best decision for you and your family, and to share the tools that can help you enjoy your healthy and happy life in

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1. This document is CD038, one of a series of the Department of Family, Youth, and Community Sciences, Florida Cooperative Extension Service, Institute of Food and Agricultural Sciences, University of Florida. Original print publication date: June 2008. Electronic version published December 2008. Visit the EDIS Web site at <http://edis.ifas.ufl.edu>.
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your new home. We look forward to working with you as you prepare for this journey—the journey home.

Best wishes,



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