

Buying a Car

Honk – Honk... Get in, we're going car shopping!!!! Here at community first we know that no matter if you're a gear head or just need to get to work, a vehicle will almost always be a large part of your life. Even though we need them so badly, vehicles can sometimes be the root of our worst headaches. Some of the best ways to prevent those headaches start before you even buy the car.

The following tips are useful for both cash buyers and financing customers.

Know your budget:

- **Payments:** Experts suggest that your car payment should not exceed more than 10% of your net monthly income. (\$3,000 monthly income means \$300 maximum car payment)
- **Insurance and maintenance:** Experts suggest that you should spend no more than 15-20% of your net income on insurance and maintenance.

Know what vehicle you're looking for:

- **Make your car fit you:** Your family size, commute distance, parking availability, or even regional weather patterns may influence what vehicle is best for you.
- **Know the facts:** once you find a few vehicles that fit you; research common issues, recalls, safety ratings, and fuel efficiency.

Avoid an expensive repair:

- **Maintenance:** Find a reputable mechanic near you and schedule regular oil changes and yearly tune ups.
- **Warranty:** Look at the vehicles warranty information prior to buying. Know if the warranty is still valid, how long its valid for, and what it offers. Also be sure to investigate what could potentially void your warranty.