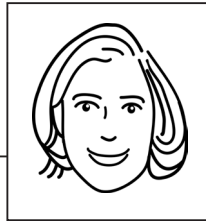


We **Talk** to You Throughout the **Book**



*It seems to me
that our houses
talk to us.
What do you hear?*

Annie



*Some houses are
by lakes. Some are
on hills. Many are
in cities. Some are
farmhouses.
Tell all about yours!*

Christy

*Thank you,
Gina Kellogg and
Andrea Waters for
editing this book.*



How This **Book** Works

Because your house is likely your biggest asset, you have many reasons to keep track of repairs and renovations. This book is designed to help you set a baseline value for your home and track the value of any improvements you make. It should also help you track the various upkeep activities required of every home.

Our goal is to help you manage your home via our customized worksheets designed to track projects, maintenance and projected replacements. Your house also may have a history from before you owned it. That history, coupled with your improvements, could be helpful when you sell your house. You can capture all that information in this book!

The chapters are organized in categories related to components of your home. In each chapter, we guide you with questions that you'll answer. You may include as much detail as you like!

The book is easy to fill out and walks you through the key elements of a typical house. We start with its background and move through broad categories, including the interior, exterior, roof, structure and systems. You need only fill in those parts that apply to your house.

As every house ages, maintenance is required to keep it in good working order. Some will be cosmetic; some will be structural; and some will be mechanical. Things around your house will break, wear out and become outdated. This book helps you keep track of all those items. It also helps you track the age of your home's components enabling you to anticipate and budget for needed maintenance, replacement and upgrades. Along the way, you can note warranties, guarantees and maintenance plans you purchase to help maintain your investment.

Keep this journal in a handy place! Be sure to add paper-clips or sticky notes to the worksheets so you can flip to them quickly. They are the key to keeping track of all your hard work in organizing, maintaining and improving your home.

Enjoy!

Emergency **Shut Offs**

Back-Flow Valve (sewer):

Location _____

Description _____

Instruction _____

Back-Flow Valve (sprinkler):

Location _____

Description _____

Instruction _____

Electricity:

Location _____

Description _____

Instruction _____

Gas:

Location _____

Description _____

Instruction _____

Water:

Location _____

Description _____

Instruction _____

Other:

Location _____

Description _____

Instruction _____

NOTE: Remember local shutoff valves at appliances, stools, sinks, etc.

Also see additional details in **Safety and Security** on page 241.

About My **House**

STREET ADDRESS

CITY / STATE / ZIP

LEGAL DESCRIPTION - BLOCK, LOT NUMBER, ETC.

OWNED BY

DATE PURCHASED

MY REAL ESTATE AGENT

SELLER'S REAL ESTATE AGENT

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PART ONE

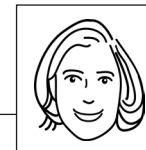
**THE HISTORY OF
THIS HOUSE**





CHAPTER 1

Why I Built or Bought This House



I always wanted to build a house but haven't worked up the courage yet!



We bought a house located in a cool neighborhood where we could walk everywhere – to dinner, the market, dry cleaners, interesting shops, the library and the bank. So handy!

In **the** Very **Beginning**

Did you build this house new? If **NO**, skip to page 16

If **YES**, complete the following:

How we found this piece of land.

Did this property match your original expectations or did you end up choosing something different?

Was it close to great schools, family, friends, work or convenient to a favorite shopping area?

Was it located among lots of trees and away from the busyness of life?
Or did you choose a more urban setting?

What kind of life did you visualize for yourself in this location?

Did you have several builders from which you chose?

How did you make your decision?

Would you do it all over again?

Have you been thrilled with the outcome?

What would you change?

Length of construction process:

The smoothest part of the process:

Construction challenges:
