

Comparison Shopping for a Home Equity Loan

Use this worksheet to help you shop for the best deal

Compare answers to these questions	Lender A	Lender B	Lender C	My Current Mortgage
What are the monthly payments?	_____	_____	_____	_____
What is the Annual Percentage Rate (APR)?	_____	_____	_____	_____
<i>the cost of credit expressed as a yearly rate; includes the interest rate, points, broker fees, and other credit charges</i>				
What is the interest rate?	_____	_____	_____	_____
<i>the cost of borrowing money expressed as a percentage rate</i>				
Will the interest rate change?	_____	_____	_____	_____
When?	_____	_____	_____	_____
How often?	_____	_____	_____	_____
By how much?	_____	_____	_____	_____
What will you have to pay in points	_____	_____	_____	_____
What will you have to pay in fees?	_____	_____	_____	_____
Application or loan processing fee	_____	_____	_____	_____
Origination or underwriting fee	_____	_____	_____	_____
Lender or funding fee	_____	_____	_____	_____
Appraisal fee	_____	_____	_____	_____
Document preparation and recording fees	_____	_____	_____	_____
Broker fees	_____	_____	_____	_____
Other fees	_____	_____	_____	_____
Are any of the application fees refundable if you don't get the loan?	_____	_____	_____	_____
How many years will you have to repay the loan?	_____	_____	_____	_____
Is this an installment loan or a line of credit?	_____	_____	_____	_____
Is there a balloon payment?	_____	_____	_____	_____
What are the total closing costs?	_____	_____	_____	_____
If you use a broker, how and how much will he or she be paid?	_____	_____	_____	_____
What is the penalty for late or missed payments?	_____	_____	_____	_____
What is the penalty if you pay off or refinance the loan early? ..	_____	_____	_____	_____
Does the loan include optional credit insurance?	_____	_____	_____	_____
<i>You don't have to accept optional credit insurance to get your loan. If you want optional credit insurance, ask about paying for it monthly instead of financing the premiums as part of your loan.</i>				
Can you afford this loan?	_____	_____	_____	_____