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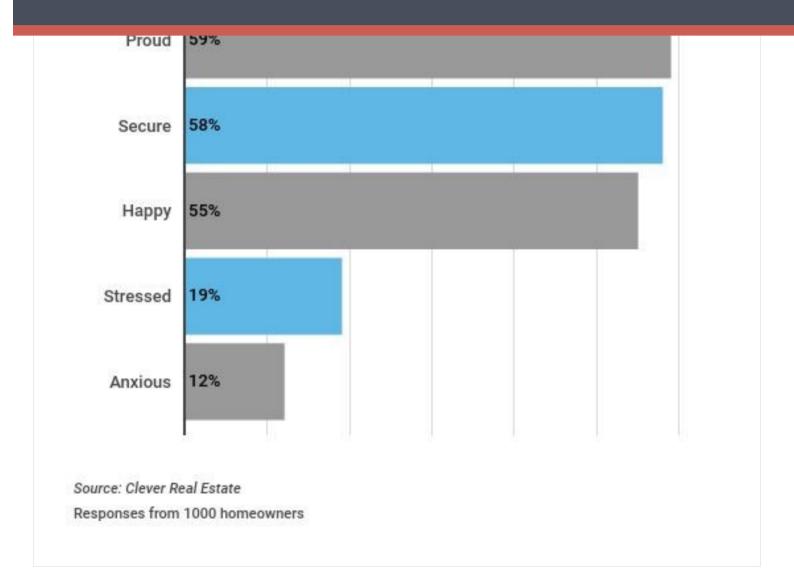
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two times as likely to use credit cards and three times as likely to use personal loans.

May. 12, 2019

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This study was originally published on the Clever Real Estate blog.

While many rent vs. buy calculators give a brief overview of costs, most don't consider all of the monthly expenses involved in purchasing a home. From repairs and renovations to HOA fees and landscaping, a true cost analysis of homeownership should include all the variables.

We surveyed 1,000 homeowners to learn not only how much they're spending to maintain their homes, but also gain a better sense of the incalculable costs and

benefits of homeownership.

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financing, as well as tax and insurance data broken down on the state level.

- What are the biggest regrets homeowners have?
- Are homeowners taking on too much debt to finance their home projects?
- What renovations and repairs are homeowners planning in 2019?
- Which states are the most expensive in terms of property taxes and home insurance premiums?

Read on for answers to these questions and more!

Key Findings

- The average U.S. homeowner spends \$2,676 on maintenance and repairs, \$6,649 on home improvements, \$2,600 in property taxes, and \$1,228 on homeowners insurance every year.
- 59

57

The most common repair projects run relatively cheap, but home buyers should be wary of buying a home with a history of more expensive problems (water damage, structural issues, septic tank leaks, or broken sewer lines). The all-important seller's disclosure details previous issues, so read up.

Of course, there are additional expenses outside of maintaining the home itself.

Our survey found that 77

Most respondents indicated having to replace multiple appliances, so new homeowners should budget appropriately.

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rates of home buyer's remorse. 43

1 in 3 homeowners planning renovations will use financing alone, which can lead to mountains of compounding interest if the debt isn't paid off quickly.

While home equity loans tend to have lower interest rates, averaging 5.76

The most popular projects include landscaping, new flooring, kitchen remodels, bathroom remodels, and new patios or decks. These projects aren't cheap: the average kitchen remodel costs \$22,134 and bathroom remodels cost around \$9,723.

What's more, there's a significant difference between what homeowners anticipate spending on planned projects and actual reported spending.

Homeowners often spend two or three times as much for a renovation project than budgeted.

"Even seemingly small projects that you do yourself with no labor costs wind up costing more than you expect. You oftentimes have to buy or rent a tool to do a repair and even seemingly small/cheap repairs wind up costing a good buck." — John Frigo, new homeowner

Our survey found that 1 in 3 homeowners were surprised by the cost of maintaining their home.

Where You Live Matters (A Lot)

"Location, location, location"

Taxes are an unavoidable part of homeownership, and they're an important factor in the infamous "rent vs buy" debate. The average homeowner in the U.S. pays 1.12

These property taxes add up quickly — a homeowner in New Jersey pays five times

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canes may mean weaker screet maintenance, ress randing for sentoors, etc.

Similar rules apply for homeowners insurance: Homeowners in states that are prone to natural disasters like tornadoes

and earthquakes tend to pay the most for home insurance.

Millennials are 4x more likely to use their homeowners insurance than Baby Boomer. Want to learn more? Check out our Millennial vs. Baby Boomer Homeowner Report for a full breakdown.

Homeowners can tweak their insurance policy to accommodate their budget by increasing their deductible or shopping around, but location is the biggest factor insurers use to determine risk — and costs.

A higher deductible also creates greater risk for the homeowner; when something serious does go wrong, you'll be footing more of the bill.

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