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Half-bath: A bathroom with a toilet and sink, but no tub or shower.

Home inspection: An examination of the structure and mechanical systems by a professional to determine a home's safety, defects, and potential repairs.

Home warranty: Insurance offering protection for mechanical systems and attached appliances against unexpected repairs not covered by homeowner's insurance. Coverage extends over a specific time period and does not cover the home's structure.

Homeowner's association dues: Monthly or annual fees owners of homes — usually condos, townhouses or co-ops — pay to their homeowner's association for services it supplies to common areas such as lawn care, pool maintenance, snowplowing, and general building maintenance.

Homeowner's insurance: Provides damage protection for your home and personal property from a variety of events, including fire, lightning, burglary, vandalism, storms, explosions, and more. All homeowner's insurance policies contain personal liability coverage, which protects against lawsuits involving injuries that occur on and off your property. It is required by most lenders.

HUD: The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development. Established in 1965, HUD works to create a decent home and suitable living environment for all Americans by addressing housing needs, improving and developing American communities, and enforcing fair laws.

HUD-1 Statement: Also known as the "settlement sheet," it is an itemized listing of closing costs. The closing costs can include a commission, loan fees and points, and sums set aside for escrow payments, taxes and insurance. It is signed by both the buyer and the seller, who may share closing costs.

HVAC: Stands for Heating, Ventilation and Air Conditioning. It is the home's heating and cooling system.