



A guide to building or **buying your own home**

Aruba Bank Your Mortgage Advisor



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Introduction

Having a home of our own is a dream many of us would like to see come true. Because of a lack of information, however, people sometimes make wrong decisions that may turn their dreams into nightmares. At Aruba Bank we want to make sure you are well informed, so you can realize your dreams with confidence. This is why we have compiled this booklet with essential mortgage information.

In these pages, we will help you plan the process of buying, building or renovating your home step-by-step.

You will also find practical tips to help you make the best decisions possible.

Our Senior Customer Service Representatives at our three conveniently located branches are ready to advise you and will gladly answer any questions you may have. When the time comes to purchase your new home, we will be here for you.



Building your home step-by-step

- 1 Ask for information at the bank.
- 2 Make a decision that matches your budget and your plans for the future.
- 3 Apply for a plot of land at the Infrastructure and Planning Department (D.I.P.) or
- 4 Buy a plot of land of your own.
- 5 Have the construction drawings made for your home.
- 6 Submit the construction drawings to the Public Works Department (D.O.W.) for approval.
- Have an appraisal of the construction drawings drawn up.
- 8 Ask a contractor for a building quotation.
- Fill out an application form for your mortgage at Aruba Bank. Upon approval, should you require insurance, you should:
- **1** Fill out an application form for life insurance.
- **1** Fill out an application form for fire insurance.
- 2 Have your life insurance approved by the insurance company.
- ¹³ Sign the loan agreement at Aruba Bank.
- 4 Apply for a water meter.
- **1** Sign the mortgage deed at the notary office.
- 6 Agree with the contractor on the date to start building.
- 10 The amount of the first construction phase will be credited to your account.
- Contact the surveyor as soon as the contractor finishes the first phase so that the surveyor can carry out an inspection and inform the bank to deposit the amount for the next phase; this process will continue until you reach the final phase.
- Start paying the interest on the loan amount.
- One month after you reach the final phase, you should start paying the monthly installments for the mortgage loan.

Items 19 and 20 depend on the conditions of the loan.

Building your home step-by-step

- 1 Ask for information at the bank.
- 2 Make a decision that matches your budget and your plans for the future.
- 6 Fill out an application form for your

mortgage loan

Renovate your home step-by-step

- Ask for information at the bank.
- 2 Take a decision that matches your budget and your plans for the future.
- Fill out an application form for your mortgage loan. If the mortgage loan is

Items 12 and 13 depend on the conditions of mortgage loan.

What is a mortgage

Most people apply for financing at a bank to buy, repair or build their homes. In return, the bank is given a guarantee, which is the right of mortgage on the home. A mortgage is a right you give the bank to auction your home, without judicial intervention, in case you do not comply with the monthly payments or other contractual obligations.

Types of mortgage loans

At Aruba Bank we offer:

Annuity mortgage

With this type of loan, you pay a fixed amount on a monthly basis, called an annuity. Part of this annuity is interest; the other part is to pay back the loan amount. At the beginning, you pay mainly interest. As the debt amount of the loan goes down, so does the interest part of the monthly installment.



Types of land

There are three types of land classifications:

Leasehold land

This is a land parcel you receive for a 60- year term. Every year, you will have to pay an amount of rent for using the land. After 60 years, the right of leasehold is renewed for another 60 years. The land never becomes your property.

Property land

A plot of property land is a plot that you own. You may sell the plot or build what- ever you want to build on it. Every year, you will have to pay property tax for this land.

Rental land

A plot of rental land is granted for planting or for breeding animals. Building is not al-lowed on this kind of land. No mortgage can be established on the plot.

Before accepting or buying any plot of land, it is always important to inspect it to make sure it doesn't become flooded or have any other defect.





The first step

If you want to build, buy or renovate your home, the first thing you should do is visit Aruba Bank. One of our Senior Customer Service Representatives will advise you on:

- The amount that can be financed according to your financial situation;
- Everything that needs to be done from the moment you apply for the loan until you sign at the notary office;
- The conditions of the bank for granting you a mortgage loan and all the expenses involved.

Our representatives will also advise you on the type of mortgage that matches your financial situation.

We recommend keeping the mortgage amount modest, so that you will not have to make great sacrifices with regard to your way of living. To find out how much you will have to finance, it's a good idea to draw up a personal budget first. This will enable you to figure out, for example, whether you will still be able to eat in a restaurant every month, or to travel every year. In your budget, you should include both your fixed and variable expenditures. Whatever is left can be used for your home loan. Bear in mind that a home loan has a very long tenure and that you should be able to live comfortably with it.

Monthly expenditures you should take into account when drawing up your budget include your average utility costs, supermarket groceries, personal loans, car loans, home loans, credit cards, insurance, gas, and savings. You should also consider home maintenance expenses, costs of the various insurance policies related to the mortgage, and your plans for the future, which may include building a fence or a swimming pool. In this booklet you will find a sample budget, which will help you figure out your monthly expenditures.

Once you know the amount of financing that you can receive for a mortgage loan, as well as the amount you wish to borrow, you can start looking for a plot of land.

If you do not have a land parcel in your possession, or if you are thinking of buying a home, you can start looking around for houses that match your budget.

To buy a plot of property land or a home, you can go to one of Aruba's real estate companies.

For a plot of leasehold land, you will need to fill an application with the Infrastructure and Planning Department (D.I.P.). As per March 5th, 2017 you need to go to the bank for budget calculation. The bank will issue a letter with the amount you quality for. This should be presented to (D.I.P) within one month.



The Loan amount

The loan amount will depend on your income, your debts, and the value of the home.

One of our Senior Customer Service Representatives will calculate the possible amount of the mortgage loan. He or she will also figure out the monthly installments and the mortgage term.

The loan may not exceed 80% of the value of the home (if already build) or the construction costs. In case the amount you wish to borrow exceeds 80% of the value of the home or the construction costs.

We can finance





Documents required to apply for a mortgage

To apply for a mortgage loan you will need to bring the following documents:

- Valid ID (passport, cedula or driver's license)
- Your pay slips of the last two months
- A letter of recommendation from your employer
- An appraisal not older than 6 months
- **Construction drawings of the home,** approved by the Public Works Department (D.O.W.)
- The contractor's quotation

Each case is assessed individually.

Appraisal

An appraisal is a report in which an expert establishes the value of the home or property.

In the appraisal, the expert (the appraiser) establishes the following values of the home: its market value, its foreclosure value, and its reconstruction value.

The **market value** is the value the home has on the market at that moment. It is the amount you could receive for the home if you decided to sell it. The market value varies depending on the demand for the type of home you have and its current condition.

The **foreclosure value** is the amount the bank would be able to collect in case the home had to be auctioned. Often, this is 80% of the market value. This is why the bank will not finance an amount exceeding 80% of the market value.

The **reconstruction value** is the amount it would cost you to rebuild the home. This amount is very important when you apply for your fire insurance policy.

The market value and the foreclosure value are very important to the bank when assessing the loan request.

Construction drawings approved by the Public Works Department

Once the construction drawings of your home have been made, you will have to submit them to the Public Works Department for approval. Without approval of the Public Works Department, you cannot start building the home as you will not receive a building permit.

When submitting your construction drawings to the Public Works Department, you must pay an AWG. 200.00 deposit. The total amount that you will have to pay for approval of the drawings depends on their size. You'll pay the difference when you pick up the drawings again at the Public Works Department after they have been approved.

Contractor's quotation

The bank requires a contractor's quotation, which has to specify the costs of materials and labor. The contractor also has to be asked to provide a letter of recommendation from people he has already built a house for.

A home is a big investment, which many of us make only once in our lives. That is why it is important to choose a good contractor. It will save you a great deal of unnecessary trouble. It's a good idea to gather information about the contractor and to ask for references from people that he has already built a house for.



Additional costs

Additional costs connected with a mortgage loan are:

- The closing fee
- Notarial charges
- Premiums for your life insurance
- Premiums for your fire insurance
- The surveyor's fee (in case you build or renovate a home)

The **closing fee** is an amount charged by the bank to cover administrative expenses connected with the mortgage loan. This amount is a percentage of the loan amount.

The notarial charges consist of

- The notary's fee
- Costs of registration at the Mortgage Registry
- Costs of inspection at the Mortgage Registry
- Debt certificate stamp
- Costs of certificate of measurement
- Transfer tax

You can reserve 2 to 3% of the amount of the mortgage loan for notarial charges.

When buying a home or plot of your own, you will also have to pay transfer tax. This is a tax you pay the government for transferring the home, equaling minimum 3% of either the value of the home or the tax value (whichever is higher) This tax is paid at the notary when signing the transfer of ownership deed.

Life insurance

Once your mortgage has been approved, you will have to apply for a life insurance policy. If the loan was approved based on the income of two people, both before the insurance policy reaches maturity, the amount for which you are insured will be paid to the bank and/or your heirs.

Endowment insurance

You pay a premium and when the insurance policy reaches maturity, the amount for which you are insured will be paid to the bank.

Mixed insurance

You pay a premium that includes a part to cover risk and a part that you save. Upon maturity, the insurance company will pay you the part you have saved. For example, you are insured for a total amount of AWG 150,000, of which AWG 125,000 is to cover risk and AWG 25,000 are savings; in case you should pass away before the policy expires, the insurance company will pay the bank or your heirs the total amount for which you were insured.

Fire insurance

The bank requires you to take out fire insurance for the home, in case it burns down. Depending on the cause of the fire, the insurance company will pay the bank or you the amount for which the home is insured.

Insurance of household effects

The bank does not require this insurance, but we do highly recommend it. In case of re or theft, among other things, your belongings will be insured. You can arrange for the bank to debit the premiums for all these insurance policies to your current account every month.

Surveyor's fee

In case you build a home, the bank will appoint a surveyor to conduct a progress survey. This is an



Higher amount

If you are thinking of taking out a second mortgage loan in the future, it is a good idea to take out the first mortgage for an amount higher than the amount of the loan. This will make the process for the second mortgage faster and less expensive. You will pay a bit more the first time, but you will benefit from this when you take out the second loan.

Life insurance premium

We also advise you to take out your life insurance for an amount higher than the amount of the loan and for a longer term. It will often be more expensive to raise the amount of your life insurance in the future, depending on your age and your health at that moment.

Mortgage conditions

Make sure you are duly informed about the mortgage conditions. Find out, for example, if the bank will charge a penalty if you pay before the due date or whether it is allowed to make extra payments.

Tax benefits

The interest paid on a mortgage loan is deductible from your income tax. The same applies to the closing fee, the notarial charges, and the premiums for your life insurance.

Visualize the size

While making the construction drawings for your home, it is very important that you are able to visualize the size of every space in your house. Visit a home with the same space and walk around inside to make sure that this is what you really want.

Include the fence

When building your home, it is advisable to include the fence in the amount of the mortgage loan. Why? Because it increases the value, privacy, and security of your home (especially if you have small children) and protects your landscaping.

Life insurance at a young age

It is advisable to take out life insurance when you are young, regardless ofwhether you have taken out a mortgage loan. When you take out life insurance at a young age, monthly insurance payments will be much lower, and the insurance will be easier to take out. Bear this in mind if you are a parent. You can take out life insurance for your children when they are teenagers. It will cover them during their studies, and they will be able to use it for their mortgage loans later on.

Fire insurance

The most important insurance is re insurance. Insure





your home for its construction value. In case of re or another disaster, you will recover the money to build a home of the same value. If you increase the value of your home by expanding or renovating it, make sure you visit our insurance department to adjust your re insurance.

Insurance of household effects

Insurance of furniture and inventory is very important. Bear in mind that you should insure these items separately. Taking out re insurance for your home does not mean that your furniture and inventory are automatically insured as well. You will need to mention them separately. The insurance of household effects covers your furniture, electrical appliances, home decoration, and even jewelry in case of re, theft, and other natural disasters.

Wage tax relief

You can choose between receiving the money you pay in interest on your mortgage loan later when you fill out your tax return, or in advance by filling out a wage tax relief form. How does this work?

- 1. You go online and print the form. At the bank, you pick up the interest letter of the year in which you are going to pay interest. Fill this out on the form, together with your income and hand it back to the Tax Collector online.
- 2. The interest letter is being sent every year in Jan. to you
- 3. Fill out the form
- 4. Send to Dept. Di Impuesto online
- 5. We will receive this doc. back

This way, your employer will take into account the interest you are paying to the bank and lower the amount of tax that is withheld from your salary every month, meaning that your net monthly income will increase.

Notary is the only person authorized

A mortgage loan passes through a notary office. A notary is the only person authorized to establish a mortgage. The notary will draw up two deeds: one for transferring the home or plot of your own, and another to establish the right of mortgage.

Term of payment

The term of payment of a mortgage loan maybe up to 30 years or up to the age of retirement. It is advisable for your mortgage loan to expire before you reach the age of retirement. When you retire, your monthly income goes down. If you have not paid off your loan yet, your monthly expenditures will be the same, but your monthly income will be less.

When buying a home or plot of your own, minimum 3% of either the value of the home or the tax value on amounts lower than 250,000 (whichever is higher) and 6% on amounts higher than 250,000. In case the house is your main residence you will pay 3% on amounts below 250,000 and 6% on the difference should the value of the main house be higher than 250,000. This tax is paid at the notary when signing the transfer of ownership deed.



6. Hand it to your employer

Technical data and finishings

At all time the approved building maps must be consulted

01. Foundation

The measure out of the floor plan: minimum 5m of the boundaries of the site plan or the distance as stated on the approved building plan. DOW must agree with the layout before start excavating or pouring the concrete foundation. If the foundation is constructed on rock, a layer of sifted granite must be laid first and there is no need to excavate. All reinforcement bars of the concrete should be clean of dirt before pouring. The cement cover for all steel bars should be minimum 3 cm. If excavating is necessary the depth should be at least 60 cm below ground level or as stated on the approved building maps. A plastic construction foil to protect the concrete is recommended. It is recommended to use pre-mix concrete as the quality is mostly guaranteed, otherwise the concrete mixture should be in volumes of 1:2:3, cement/sand/chippings. Broken stones or chippings #3 and #4. Cement: Portland cement. Sand: must be clean.

02. Walls till first floor

The concrete blocks 4" and 6" are bonded in such a way that the vertical joints should be in the middle of the blocks. Horizontal joints are approx. 2 cm and if applicable the vertical joints 2 cm. Walls should be erected vertical and using of a water level is appointed. The inside of walls of the foundation beneath the first floor is cement rendered lightly and after curing sealed with foundation coating. The outside of the walls will be

plastered normally, thickness approx. 1 cm. The outer walls should be plastered till ground level. Sewage pipes and other lines if necessary must now be placed.

03. Soil filling

The soil filling beneath the first floor should be of sifted granite and sufficiently packed by machine, termite treated by professional pest controllers, the wire mesh and also if needed electrical pvc pipes must be placed before pouring the concrete. Recommended slope for sewage line is 1 to 200. Soil filling of the excavation of the cesspool or septic-tank is not always recommended. Cover wire mesh according drawings and the mesh should be supported by spacers.

04. First floor slab

The thickness of the floor slab should be at least 8 cm and level finished. The floor slab is reinforced with mesh reinforcement. Also is recommended to place a plastic foil before pouring. Concrete: as above mentioned. Broken stones: #4 and 5. The floor should be at least trowel finished. After pouring the concrete the floor must be wet regularly for at least twice a day for two days.

05. Erection till concrete ring beam

The walls are vertically erected according to the ground floor plan. The beginning of the ring beam is at the top of the ten row erected concrete blocks. If doorframes and window frames are used it is recommended to





place them after plasterwork to minimize damages to them. If wooden frames are used all connections with concrete blocks or columns must be protected with a layer of red lead painting.

06. Pouring concrete ring beam

The conventional way is to use marine plywood which can be rented by foot. This formwork must be carefully placed and sufficiently supported and secured with steel nails. Pay attention to sufficient cement cover all over of the reinforcement bars. When the concrete is poured this should be packed. Also pay attention to place the anchors of the roof construction before pouring the concrete.

07. Second floor slab if applicable

Special attention should be paid to the reinforcement bars or high quality mesh reinforcement before pouring the concrete and the DOW-inspector must be invited to inspect the work before pouring. If needed electrical pipes and sewage pipes must be placed before pouring. The slab is level finished. When the concrete is poured this should be packed.

08. Roof construction

After pouring the ring beam or the second floor only galvanized nails are to be used for permanently works. All timber must be wolmanize treated. All rafters or other wood materials which are connected to concrete or masonry must be protected with a layer of red lead painting. Also the anchors of the rafters must be protected against rust. The slope of the roof is at least 15 degrees for corrugated cement fiber sheets, shingles or clay baked roof tiles. When construction plywood is used this must be nailed with galvanized nails firmly. All the head of the nails should be protected by red lead. When corrugated sheets are applied placing the sheets must be from west to east taking into account our wind direction. Shingles and clay baked roof tiles must be secured by nails or screws into the construction plywood. After this stage one can get officially for a house number of the Government.

09. Plastering

Before plastering all necessary electrical and water pipes must be placed. The plasterwork should be as much as possible per wall, overlapping should be avoided. Plasterwork placed direct in the sunshine should be wet regularly. Volumes cement / sand must be 1:3.

10. Floor tiles

It is recommended to start from the middle of the room as if cutting the tiles at the end is necessary the floor is placed symmetrical. All tiles shall be placed at the same height and horizontal, while the tickness of all joists shall be equal. If after some days the floor tiles sound hollow, those tiles should be replaced. It is recommended that the joists will continue in the next rooms. Remember to use grout especially for filling for the joints.

11. Closing the house

At this stage the doors, door frames, windows and window frames all will be placed as the house can be locked before continuing further construction. It is recommended to protect the doors and frames with cardboard or hardboard against transport material and also the windows and frames when painting. If fix glass is used in frames all connections must be fully filled with sealant.

12. Ceiling/electrical wiring

All wooden lath-work shall be placed horizontal and nailed using galvanized nails. The construction timber against the wall are nailed with steel nails and protected with red lead. Place gypsum board with care and smooth finish is required by filling all screw heads and joists with compound. Before painting all boards must be finished with sandpaper. Other materials like softboards and plywood can also be used for finishing the ceiling. The finishing of the ceiling should be done after finishing of the electrical wiring and approval of DTI is settled.

13. Electrical, Water, Gas supply, cable TV

Appropriate arrangements with DTI, Elmar, WEB, Aruba Gas Supply and Cable TV should be made to1 assure the supply of the infrastructure of the house in time. The copper pipes should be sealed with ducting tape or PVC-pipes.

14. Paintwork

All inner and outer walls should be painted at least with two layers after the prime layer. The outer walls should be treated with prime exterior sealer for fresh walls. The walls before painting should be sanded and clean of dust or any other grease. The floor and ceiling must be protected with plastic foil or other material before painting. Normally paint of water basis is sufficient.

15. Cabinets

This item and for example closets in the bedrooms must be handled with care like furniture. Also the cabinet should be ordered in time, but the priorities of your budget must be taken into account.

16. Septic tank or cesspool

Must be placed at least 1,15 m from any foundation. Recommended two 6" pvc pipes plus screw-threads. Volume must be at least 7 m3 and can be built up with concrete blocks or prefab. The inside must be plastered and sealed with foundation sealer or concrete sealer. Also the septic tank or cesspool must be provided with a deventilate pipe of 2" PVC.

17. Cleaning the site

Remove waste materials regular as a clean yard will upgrade your house.



Requirements for non-residents to apply for a mortgage

Product features

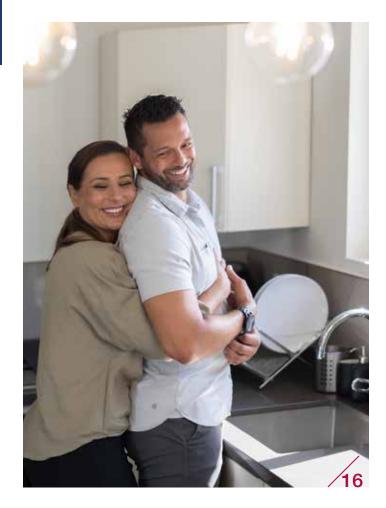
- **60% financing** of the residential home's existing market or construction offer (for homes to be constructed)
- **7-30 year mortgage loan terms** until the client's age of 65*
- Attractive interest rate, annuity based
- Up to 12 months to construct a home
- Construction funds disbursed over 6 phases with control reports at each phase
- Fire insurance premium payment plans up to 10 months
- 1.87% closing fee on the amount financed

* Mortgages typically end at the client's retirement age of 65. However, the maturity date of a mortgage can occur at a higher client's age depending on income and local life insurance coverage.

Product Conditions for Non-residents (not registered in the Civil Register of Aruba)

- Minimum client age is 21
- A work contract with proof of income over a period of 12 months (i.e.W-2 tax returns, or income declaration from an internationally recognized accounting firm)
- Two signed recommendation/introduction letters from the applicant's financial institutions (bank, stock brokerage firm, etc) addressed to Aruba Bank N.V.
- Photocopy of the applicant's and spouse's passport and driver's license
- An appraisal report from a recognized appraiser on Aruba (report cannot be older than 6 months since date of report publication)
- 40% down payment on the residential home's market value/sale price or construction offer

- A local re insurance policy for the reconstruction value of the residential home brokered by Aruba Bank N.V.
- A local life insurance policy equal to the amount of the mortgage broke red by Aruba Bank N.V. and as first beneficiary. Life insurance will have to be confirmed by the insurance company before first dis bursement can be made or signing of the mortgage deed
- A mortgage deed established and registered on Aruba ceded to Aruba Bank N.V.
- Three monthly payments on a deposit/ savings account at Aruba Bank N.V. as an eventual payment reserve
- Loan payments are made via a checking account at Aruba Bank NV.



Budget

For the month: _

Income	Per year	Per month	Real income
Salary			
Salary spouse / partner			
Bonus			
Vacation money			
Other			

Expenses	Per year	Per month	Real expenses
Evenences fixed			
Expenses fixed			
Rent / mortgage			
Carloan			
Personal loan			
Credit card			
ArubaCard			
Creche			
Cable television			
Savings			
Pocket money for children			
Groundtax*			
Insurances*			
Number plate of car*			
Gas*			
Total Expenses Fixed			

Expenses variabele		
Supermarket		
Take-away food		
Gasoline / Bus		
Donations		
Setar / Telefon		
Setarnet		
Prepaid card		
WEB		
Elmar		
School money		
Sports		
Clothes		
Personal		
Pest control		
Gifts		
Recreation		
Eating at restaurants		
Housekeeper		
Maintenance car*		
Mauintenance house*		
Dentist*		
Other		
Vacation		
Total Expenses Variabele		
Total Expenses		
Surplus / Deficit	 	

* = Expenses per year/ three monthly

Importants contacts

Appraisers:

NewLeaf Notary J.E. Irausquin Boulevard 22 Phone (+297) 280 0233 info@newleafaruba.com

Notaris Helmeyer Elleboogstraat 11-13 Phone (+297) 280 2020 info@notarishelmeyer.com

Johnson Notary Services Caya Dr. J.E.M. Arends 13 Athene Building Unit 1 Phone (+297) 280 9950 info@johnsonnotary.com

Notary office Mr. M.J. C. Tromp Santa Cruz 35 Phone (+297) 585 3500 info@notaristromp.com

Notary Office Yarzagaray L.G. Smith Boulevard 12 Phone (+297) 582 2850 info@notarisaruba.com

Notary Office Rodriguez-Taekema N.V. Bilderdijkstraat 16-2 Phone (+297) 588 2400 notarisrodriguez@setarnet.com

Other important authorities:

Infrastructure and Planning Department (D.I.P.) Sabano Blanco 71 Phone (+297) 583 3000

Public Works Department (D.O.W.) Paardenbaaistraat 2 Phone (+297) 582 4700

W.E.B. Aruba N.V. Balashi 76 Phone (+297) 525 4600

Elmar N.V. Wilhelminastraat 110 Phone (+297) 523 7100



Do you want your own home? Visit on of our mortgage advisors at one of our branches and we will be delightful to help you.

Make E-appointment.





Aruba Bank N.V.

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