

Congratulations!
You've decided to buy a home.

This is a major life decision that requires careful planning.



One important question you must consider:

Would you like the option of a lower down payment on your home? **If the answer is yes,** you should know about private mortgage insurance (MI).

BASICS OF PRIVATE MORTGAGE INSURANCE

What is private mortgage insurance?

Private mortgage insurance, or MI, lowers the risk to the lender making a loan to you. Without the protection of MI, lenders normally require a borrower to make a down payment of at least 20% of a home's purchase price, which can mean years of saving for some borrowers.

Why does my lender need private MI on my loan?

By limiting the lender's risk, private MI enables the lender to make low down payment mortgages affordable and available to you.* MI also increases a borrower's buying power. A borrower with \$20,000 available for a down payment can choose among several options, including:

Your Buying Power with a \$20,000 Down Payment

WITHOUT MI	WITH MI	
<p>You could make a 20% down payment on a \$100,000 home.</p> 	<p>You could make a 10% down payment on a \$200,000 home.</p> 	<p>You could make a 5% down payment on a \$400,000 home.</p> 

* Consult with your lender for a homebuying decision that makes financial sense for you.

BASICS OF PRIVATE MORTGAGE INSURANCE

Who pays for this insurance?

Your lender takes care of applying for MI coverage on your loan after determining the kind of plan that best fits your needs.

Typically, the lender will send the MI premium payment to the mortgage insurer, similar to the way a mortgage servicer may pay the property taxes and homeowner's insurance premium.

The cost may be added to your monthly principal and interest payment (along with your property taxes and homeowner's insurance) or premiums may be financed into the loan amount. Premiums may be payable monthly, annually or in a single upfront payment, depending on the payment plan.

Why is it called private MI?

It is called "private" because it is offered through private MI companies. Similar products are available from public agencies such as the Federal Housing Administration (FHA) or Veterans Administration (VA).

What are the advantages to using private MI instead of the public programs?

- MI can be canceled when certain conditions are met.**
- Most FHA insurance premiums aren't cancelable — so borrowers pay more over the entire life of the loan.
- FHA requires both upfront and monthly premiums.
- For borrowers with good credit profiles who make at least a 5% down payment, private MI coverage is usually less expensive than FHA.

Will this policy make mortgage payments in the event of my death or disability?

No. Credit life insurance and credit disability insurance protect you from losing your home in the event of death or disability, according to the terms of the insurance policy. MI protects only the lender in the event you lose your home due to default.

How is the cost of MI calculated?

Your MI premium is based on the amount and terms of the mortgage and will also vary according to other factors such as the amount of your down payment, the credit history of the borrower(s), type of loan and level of insurance coverage required by your lender.***

How are premiums paid?

The premiums may be paid in several different ways:

- A monthly plan, where no initial premium may be required but a regular monthly premium is added to your monthly mortgage payment and sent to the MI company by your lender. This plan can minimize the funds needed at closing.
- An annual plan, which is less expensive than monthly MI, requiring you to pay an initial premium at closing and a renewal premium each year. The renewal premium will be included in your monthly mortgage payment and put into escrow for annual collection. The initial premium may be financed into the mortgage loan. You may receive a refund of the unearned premium when the coverage cancels.
- A single-premium plan, where the entire premium is paid at one time, up front and depending on the amount of your down payment, may be financed into the loan amount at closing. This option generally minimizes the borrower's monthly mortgage payments, and a portion may be refundable in the event your loan is paid off or meets the MI cancellation requirements outlined below.
- Premiums may also be paid by your lender without directly passing along the cost to you. In such circumstances, the lender may offset the cost of MI by increasing the finance charges for the loan by a corresponding amount.

Are private MI costs paid for the life of the mortgage?

Not when the MI is borrower-paid. The Homeowners Protection Act of 1998 requires lenders to cancel mortgage insurance when a home loan amortizes to 78% of the home's original value, subject to certain conditions.

When specific cancellation requirements are met, borrowers have the right to request cancellation of their private MI. Certain high-risk mortgages are treated separately. For more detailed information about the Homeowners Protection Act, please consult your lender's mortgage loan specialist.***

Ask your loan officer about the various private MI products and payment options available from Arch MI.

** See the Homeowners Protection Act of 1998 for more information.

*** Certain other conditions apply. Consult your lender.