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## Time is Running Out on First Time Buyer Tax Credit!

I'm sure many of you have already been hearing about the first time buyer \$8,000 federal tax credit. I stumbled across this [video from w homeowners.com](#) — a wonderful public web site full of resources for homeowners and I thought you might find it interesting. I learned something new! Did you know that you can get your tax credit now; you don't have to wait until next year to receive it. [Watch the video here!](#)

## Building Success 101

*Q: Is there a comprehensive home maintenance book or other resource you recommend?*

A: Home maintenance is a topic rich in printed and online resources. Among a library full of books, two of the best in terms of practicality and usefulness are the New Fix-It-Yourself Manual:

## Pride of Ownership

There is no feeling that matches that of homeownership. It's something we see all the time among our clients: a certain satisfaction and well-earned pride in their new home. It's not something that can be measured, like an interest rate or price appreciation, but pride in ownership is a powerful and worthwhile reason to buy a new home.

Of course, pride in ownership exists to a certain extent with regard to anything you've worked to afford and purchase. However, in our experience, it is strongest among those who have helped select, design, and customize a new home to their personal tastes and lifestyle needs.

As a professional builder, we exist to enable that process and foster that sense of pride. We offer home styles and floor plans to accommodate a variety of needs -- including features such as bonus spaces, dedicated home offices, garage workshops, and walk-in kitchen pantries, to name a few -- and then we coach our clients as they customize those features to precisely suit their specific needs, desires, and budgets.

That level of customization simply isn't possible with an existing home, whether it's an older home that's "ready" to occupy or one in need of remodeling. Building a new home is simply the only way to get what you really want and brings the greatest pride in homeownership.

What does that pride deliver? Beyond the satisfaction of customizing a home, pride in homeownership breeds a fierce desire to maintain what you've worked to accomplish and enjoy. While few people really enjoy home maintenance chores, owners who have had a stake in choosing (and buying) the products and systems that need to be kept fine-tuned are more likely to get out there and get the chores done. Beyond doing simple maintenance tasks, these are the homeowners who look for ways to maintain and improve their homes to help sustain or even boost their value.



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How to Repair, Clean, and Maintain Anything and Everything In and Around Your Home from the editors at Reader's Digest, and The Complete Photo Guide to Home Repair from Creative Publishing International. Both are available at online and retail booksellers. A good web site to check out is [www.hometips.com](http://www.hometips.com), which provides information as well as links to several other resources.

Owners with pride in homeownership express a feeling of commitment to their community. When you invest time, effort, and money to make a new house "your own", you put down deeper roots in your neighborhood and you are motivated to protect and improve your home's value.

Think about the new things you've purchased in your life, measures of success and achievement such as a new car, a new suit, or a new piece of furniture. You choose such things to meet your needs and lifestyle, ideally tailored to your specifications and afforded as a result of your hard work. A new house that you customize right from the beginning fosters a unique and strong pride in ownership that extends far beyond its financial value.

Warm regards,

*Brian*

Brian Gentry  
& the Gentry Family



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**Our Communities:**

