

HOME EQUITY FAQs

What is a home equity line of credit?

Our home equity line of credit allows you to borrow, repay, and re-borrow amounts secured by the equity in a home. The home equity line of credit has a variable interest rate during the draw period and a fixed interest rate during the repayment period.

What types of expenses can the equity in my home cover?

The equity in your home may be able to help you finance major expenses such as:

- Education expense
- Home maintenance and repair
- Home renovation and remodeling
- Travel expenses
- Debt Consolidation

What are the benefits of using the equity in my home to fund a major purchase?

Using the equity in your home may provide the following advantages:

- Home equity and mortgage interest payments may be tax deductible. Consult your tax advisor about the deductibility of interest.
- Lower your monthly payments. Interest rates on home equity financing are typically lower than credit cards, which could mean lower monthly payments.
- Benefit from greater financial control. If you're approved for a home equity line of credit, withdraw what you need, whenever you need it and only pay interest on the funds you use.

Do I have to own a home to get a home equity line of credit?

Yes, you must own a home to have a home equity line of credit. However, if you don't own a home and need financing, look into a personal loan or line of credit that doesn't require a home as collateral.

How much can I borrow?

The amount you can borrow is determined by the equity in a home. If you qualify, the maximum loan-to-value (LTV) is 89%. The minimum home equity line of credit amount is \$5,000. The maximum home equity line of credit is \$2,000,000 for owner occupied properties and \$250,000 for non-owner occupied properties.

Are there any fees to apply or closing costs?

There are no fees to apply or closing costs.

How long will it take to receive a credit decision for a home equity line of credit?

The average number of days from application to a credit decision will vary, however 2 – 3 business days is typical.

How quickly can I fund my home equity line?

The average number of days from application to closing will vary, however, 6 – 8 weeks is typical.

Am I eligible for a discount?

You may be eligible for a 0.25% interest rate discount with automatic payment from a Bank of the West checking account. Additional discounts are available based on the number of qualifying services you have with the bank. Contact a loan specialist to learn more about what discounts may be available to you at (866) 269-2327.

Are there options available to fix a variable rate?

Our home equity line of credit product offers a Fixed Rate Loan Option feature that lets you convert some or all of the balance on your home equity line of credit, up to the credit limit, to fixed rate loans; a maximum of three may be open at any one time. Please note a fee may apply each time a Fixed Rate Loan is established.

What are the risks of obtaining a home equity line of credit?

We will take a security interest in your home. You could lose your home in foreclosure if you do not meet your obligations under your Promissory Note or Agreement.

How can I apply for a home equity line of credit?

You can apply at a branch, over the phone by calling (866) 269-2327 or online at bankofthewest.com.



INSTALLMENT FAQs

What is an Installment Loan?

Our Installment Loan is a fixed-rate loan with a specified term. Payments will be the same each month and the loan will be paid off in a specified period of time.

How much can I borrow for an Auto Loan?

The minimum loan amount for a new or used auto loan is \$2,000 with a variety of repayment terms available.

How much can I borrow for a Boat Loan or RV Loan?

The minimum loan amount for a boat or RV loan is \$2,000 with a variety of repayment terms available.

Are there any pre-payment penalties or minimum interest charges for Auto, RV or Boat Loans?

Yes, there may be a minimum interest charge. This charge is state specific. Please check with a loan specialist to determine if this fee may be assessed.

What does a loan-to-value (LTV) mean?

LTV refers to the percentage (%) that results when the amount you want to borrow is divided by the value of the collateral (i.e. a car or boat). Thus, if your loan is for \$8,000 on a vehicle worth \$10,000, your LTV % would be \$8,000 divided by \$10,000 or 80%.

How is my collateral value determined?

Collateral value is determined using the NADA wholesale valuation book or purchase price, whichever is less.

Is there a loan fee, and if so am I able to finance the fee?

Yes, there may be a loan fee. Loan fees are state specific. Please check with your loan specialist to determine if a loan fee will be assessed. If you are charged a loan fee, you will have the opportunity to include it in the financing of the loan.

How long will it take to receive a credit decision for an Installment Loan?

The average number of days from application to credit decision will vary, however 2 – 3 business days is typical.

I am purchasing a vehicle from a private party. Is the seller required to be present when I sign my closing loan documents?

Yes, the seller is required to be present at loan closing, as there are documents which must be completed and signed by the seller at a Bank of the West branch.

How can I apply for an Installment Loan?

You can apply at a branch, over the phone by calling (866) 269-2327 or online at bankofthewest.com.

