

# The Top 10



**FAQs**

**for Moving  
to Fairfax**

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Because we want you to be successful in ultimately finding the right home for your family, we have put together the **Top 10 FAQs for Moving to Fairfax, VA**. In this document we have compiled information from multiple public websites, as well as from the Metropolitan Regional Information Systems (MRIS) – the MLS for area Realtors ®.

 **Equal Housing Opportunity:** Please know that, by law, we cannot recommend a school or a boundary over another.

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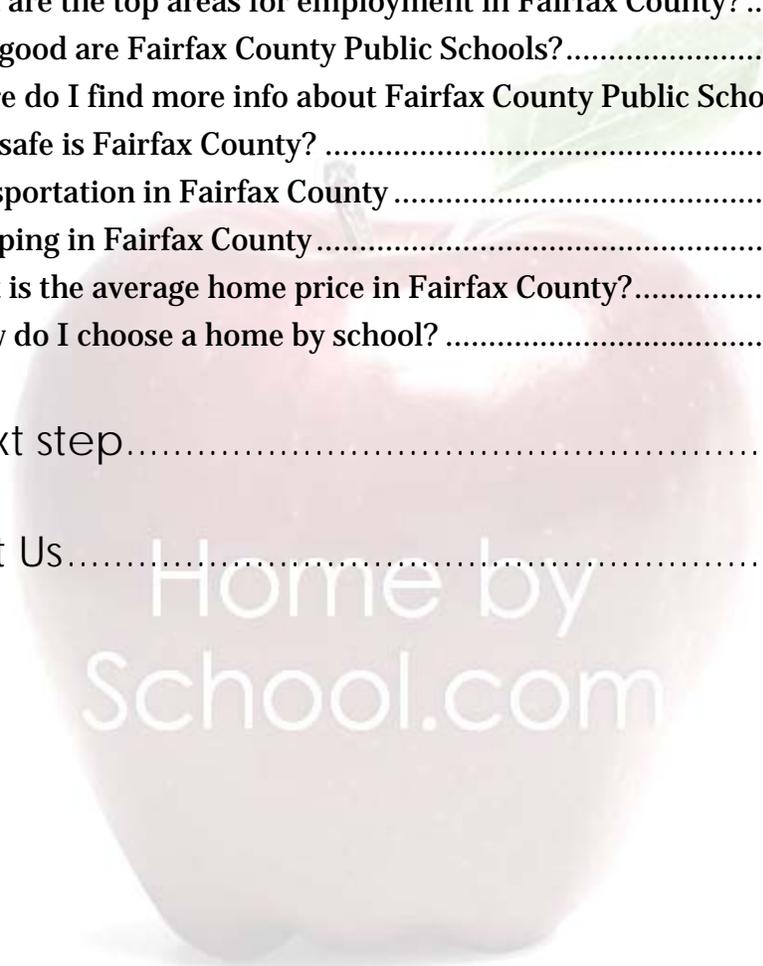
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# Table of Contents

The Top 10 FAQs (frequently asked questions) for moving to Fairfax, VA.....	1
1. Where is Fairfax County, Virginia? .....	1
2. Why move to Fairfax County?.....	2
3. What are the top areas for employment in Fairfax County? .....	3
4. How good are Fairfax County Public Schools?.....	4
5. Where do I find more info about Fairfax County Public Schools?.....	4
6. How safe is Fairfax County? .....	5
7. Transportation in Fairfax County .....	5
8. Shopping in Fairfax County .....	7
9. What is the average home price in Fairfax County?.....	7
10. How do I choose a home by school? .....	8
Your next step.....	9
Contact Us.....	10



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# The Top 10 FAQs (frequently asked questions) for moving to Fairfax, VA



Relocating to the DC area doesn't have to be overwhelming

The Washington, D.C. area has a constant influx of newcomers: military and government personnel, plus private sector employees, to name a few.

Ultimately, many of the people who relocate to the DC area choose to live in Fairfax County, Virginia. And every person relocating has to go through the

same discovery process: first choose a State, then a County, and finally the right home.

With all these people relocating into the area every single year, one would think that there would be a comprehensive resource to help them make the crucial decision of **where to live**.

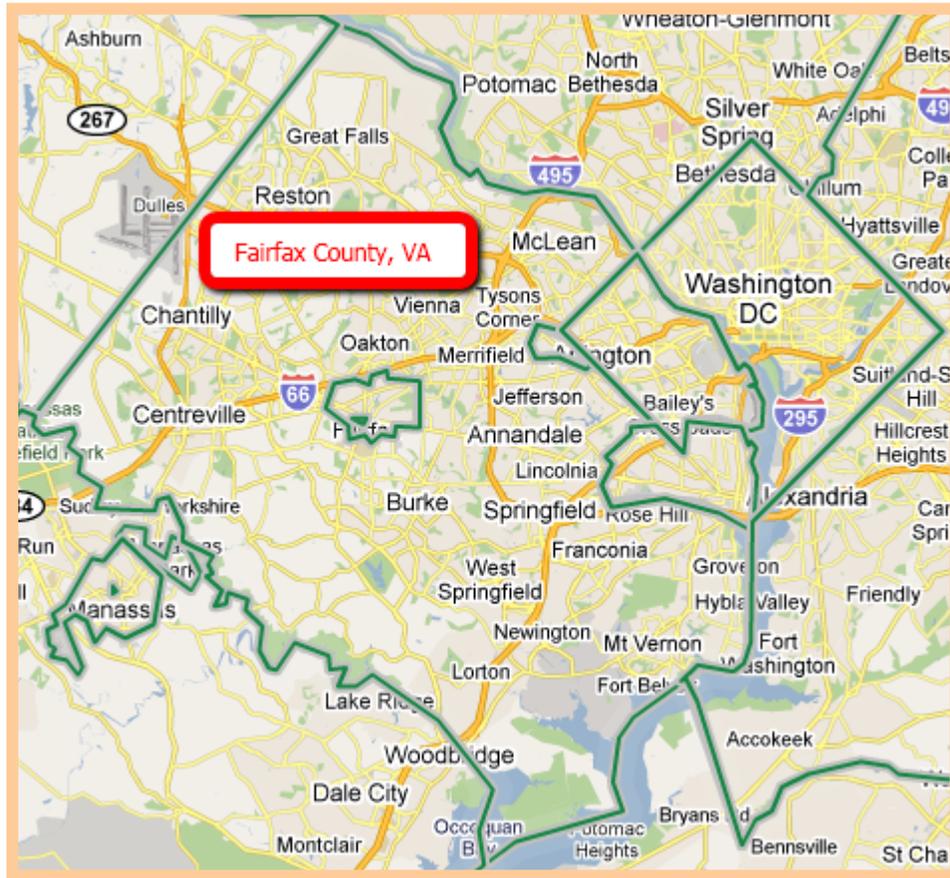
**Now there is!** This document on the Top 10 Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) is the first piece of the puzzle.

Below we have compiled short answers to the 10 most commonly-asked questions by people relocating to the DC metro area – with a focus on Fairfax County, Virginia:

## 1. Where is Fairfax County, Virginia?

Fairfax County is a western suburb of Washington, D.C. It is located west of Arlington County, east of Loudoun County, and north-east of Prince William County. The north-east side of Fairfax County is delimited by the Potomac River.

Here is a map showing Fairfax County and its surroundings:



## 2. Why move to Fairfax County?

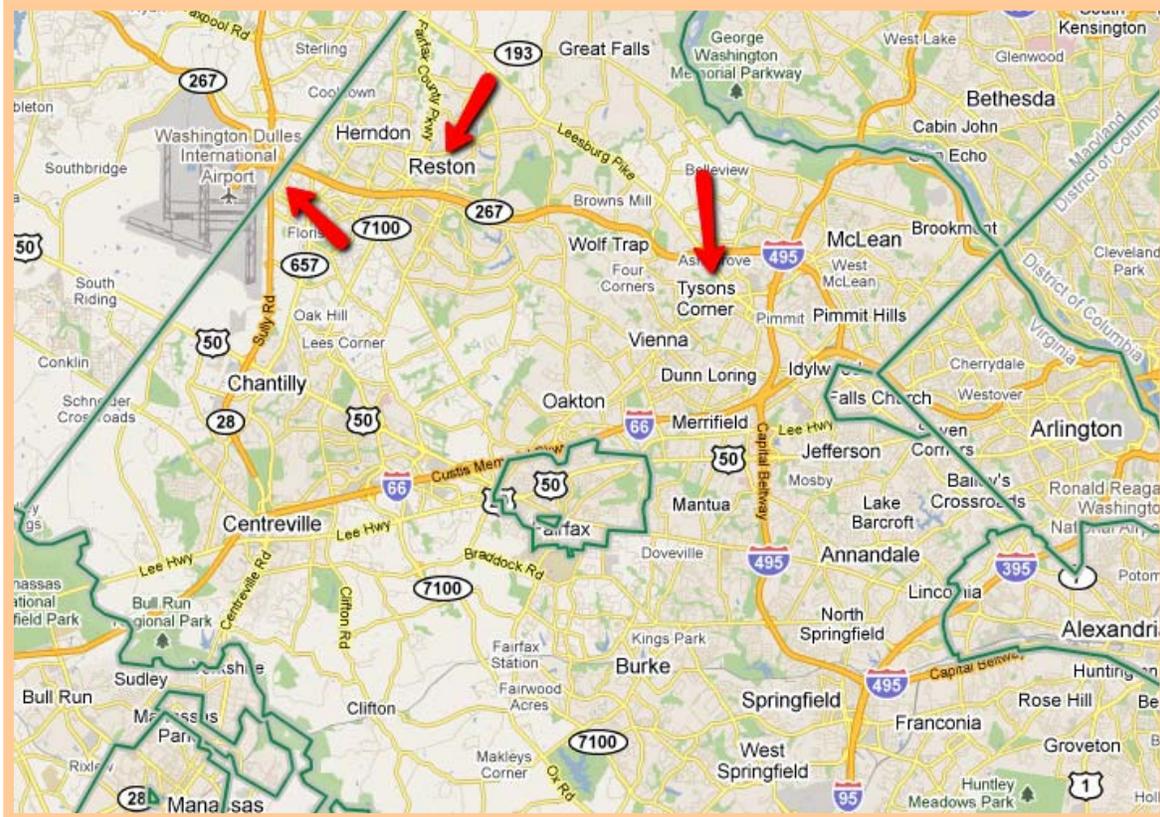
- Schools are highly ranked
- The crime rate is low
- The state income tax is lower than in Maryland or DC.

Click this link for a longer explanation of the above three reasons [why move to Fairfax County Virginia](#).

Once you decide that Fairfax is worth considering, you might want to know where most of the jobs are:

### 3. What are the top areas for employment in Fairfax County?

**Tysons Corner** is the largest concentration of office space in Northern Virginia, followed by Reston Town Center and the Dulles Corridor. Of course, many people also work in Arlington County (for example, at The Pentagon) and several others go downtown to work in Washington, D.C.



Fairfax also has office buildings and retail scattered all throughout the County, so it's possible to find a job pretty much anywhere in the County.

We mentioned earlier that the schools are highly ranked - let's look at more detail:

## 4. How good are Fairfax County Public Schools?

Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) are, on average, pretty good. Newsweek has ranked over one-third of Fairfax High Schools in the top 10% of the top 1500 public high schools across the US (the top 1500 is about 5% of the total). In addition, Newsweek's 2009 report ranked the median of all FCPS high schools in the top 12%.

Aside from FCPS, which is the largest school district in Northern Virginia, there are a couple of smaller districts within or right next to Fairfax County's boundaries:

- Falls Church City Public Schools and
- Alexandria City Public Schools

See [how Fairfax County Public Schools compares with nearby districts](#).

If you want to see how each school district is doing from the point of view of the Virginia Standards of Learning (SOL), visit the [Virginia School Report Card](#) on the Virginia Department of Education website.

## 5. Where do I find more info about Fairfax County Public Schools?

If you want to know the basics about Fairfax County Public Schools, click here to download the [2012-13 Handbook "Building the Future... Child by Child"](#) from the official [Fairfax County Public Schools website](#)

This handbook includes details for:

- Registering your child for school
- Before- and after-school care
- Special programs



Fairfax County  
Public Schools

## 6. How safe is Fairfax County?



The FBI's Uniform Crime Report Part I ranked Fairfax County as one of the best in the US

According to the Fairfax County Police, the County's crime rate is among the lowest in the US for urban areas. In fact, the County's violent crime rate was the second lowest in the FBI's Uniform Crime Report Part I.

Here is the link to the [Fairfax County Police Department](#) website. In it, you can find detailed statistics as well as crime prevention & awareness programs.

Now let's explore the transportation options available in Fairfax County:

## 7. Transportation in Fairfax County

### Airports

Fairfax County is served by two area Airports:

- Washington Dulles International Airport (IAD) and
- Ronald Reagan Washington National Airport (DCA)

### Public Transportation - Metro

In terms of public transportation, there are currently 3 Metro lines that serve Fairfax County:

- The **Orange Line** which extends west from DC and ends at the Vienna Metro Station right around the middle of Fairfax County (in Vienna, VA).
- The **Blue Line** shares several stops with the Orange line through DC and then continues south along Alexandria, VA and finally ending in Springfield, VA (still within Fairfax County).
- The **Yellow Line** connects the southern part of DC with Alexandria, VA. This line also shares several stops with the Blue line along the eastern side of Fairfax County.
- The Silver Line (temporary name) is currently being built and it has been planned to start at the DC Armory following along the current

Orange and Blue lines until separating from the Orange line at the East Falls Church Metro station. The Silver Line will eventually serve Tysons Corner, Reston, Washington Dulles International Airport, and the Ashburn community of Loudoun County.

It's important to note that currently, because of the suburban nature of Fairfax County, the Metro is mostly used by commuters to go into the City. (In Fairfax, the Metro is not usually used by people to travel between stations as one would do in the city.)

[Map Image Source](#)



### Public Transportation - Bus

There are several Bus options in Fairfax County. The best way to figure out how to get somewhere using the bus and/or the Metro rail is to use the Washington Metropolitan Area Transit Authority (WMATA) [trip planner](#).

However, even though there are several public transportation options, many people in Fairfax County prefer to drive their own vehicle.

Driving is especially convenient when going shopping...

## 8. Shopping in Fairfax County

Fairfax County has plenty of great areas for shopping. From inside malls, to outside shopping areas, and lots of free-standing stores as well as stores in strip malls.

Some of the larger inside malls are:

- Tysons Corner Center,
- Tysons Galleria,
- Fair Oaks Mall, and
- Springfield Mall



Some of the outside shopping areas include: Reston Town Center and Fairfax Corner.

Tysons Corner Center  
image from Wikipedia

Now that we have reviewed some of the shopping wonders of Fairfax County, let's look into housing:

## 9. What is the average home price in Fairfax County?

The average home price in Fairfax County varies significantly by area but, in general, the average sold price is about \$500,000.

### **Kinds of homes in Fairfax County**

Throughout the Northern Virginia area, you'll primarily find three kinds of homes:

- **Condos (apartment style)**  
The average sold price for condos is of about \$225k
- **Townhomes (attached single family homes)**  
The average sold price for townhomes is \$350k

- “Single family homes” (detached homes)  
The average sold price for detached homes varies between \$420k and \$635k

In general, some areas in Fairfax County which are further east (and closer to DC) are more expensive to live in, as well as areas which are near the Metro lines or near the main office centers.

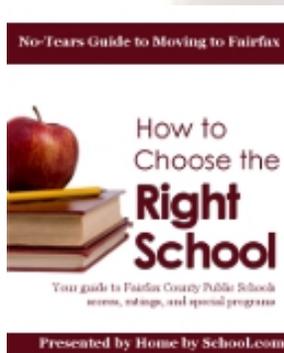
## 10. How do I find a home by school?

Many buyers want to select a home based on the right school for their needs. And school boundaries in Fairfax County are very strict, so buyers must:

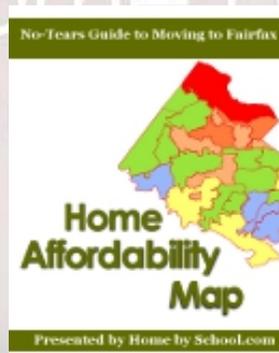
- First, choose the right school,
- Then, select a home inside a specific school boundary

Choosing a school in a new area can be a daunting task, and then cross-referencing the selected school with available homes for sale can be simply overwhelming.

We have made this process easier through **The No-Tears Guide to Moving to Fairfax**, which you received when you subscribed to us.



**How to Choose the Right School in Fairfax**  
Your guide to Fairfax County Public Schools' Scores, Ratings, and Special Programs.



**The Fairfax VA Home Affordability Map**  
The time & money saving Fairfax VA Home Affordability Map is an easy-to-read map of home values by Fairfax High School District.



**How to find a Home by School in Fairfax**  
A unique way of searching for homes; based on their assigned school boundary.

**The No-Tears Guide to Moving to Fairfax VA** contains three free downloads. Be sure to review the first two downloads so that you can Choose the Right School before looking at homes for sale.

Here is the link to download [How to Choose the Right School, and The Affordability Map](#). (Click the link first, then, after you log in, click on the link again to go to the Welcome page to download the reports).

Once you are ready to find homes for sale in a specific school boundary, click the following link to get detailed information about each of the areas (i.e. school boundaries) in Fairfax County: [How to Find a Home by School: Using the Fairfax County Map](#), and to find active homes for sale in each of the boundaries.

## Your next step



If you are moving to Fairfax, Virginia, you'll want to save yourself over 97 hours of research by using **The No-Tears Guide to Moving to Fairfax VA**.

Part of The No-Tears Guide is a unique home search tool that allows you to see homes for sale **INSIDE** of a school boundary (not just homes ~near~ the school, or in the same zip code as the school):

[How to Find a Home by School: Fairfax County Map](#)

Click on "How to Find a Home by School" to log in to the Map

If you are looking for certain information and are having trouble locating it, give us a call at (703) 480-6576 and we'll be happy to help.

We look forward to helping you find the Right Home by School,

Marina Brito  
Home by School Specialist  
RE/MAX Premier

# Contact Us

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Happy house hunting!

 **\*\* Equal Housing Opportunity \*\*** 

Everyone is welcome to find a home by school boundary. A school boundary is simply a geographical area, just like a zip code or a postal city.



P.S. If you find anything that bugs you, please click on the bug to send me an email. Nothing is too small or too big. And if I can, I'll be sure to fix it.



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 Equal Housing Opportunity 