

Tax Deed First-Deal Checklist

Buy the deed. Own the property. No lien-holder middle step.

Print it. Tape it to the wall. Check boxes as you go. When all 12 are checked, you own a property.

- ☐ **1 Pick your target state & parish/county**
Confirm it's a tax deed state (LA, TX, GA, PA, FL variants). Note redemption period rules.
- ☐ **2 Pull the tax sale list**
Call the sheriff/tax collector or scrape their site 30–45 days before sale.
- ☐ **3 Filter to 20–40 candidates**
Cut anything with structural teardowns, environmental risk, or unclear title.
- ☐ **4 Drive by the top 10 (or use Street View + aerials)**
Occupied? Roof condition? Neighboring comps? Score 1–5.
- ☐ **5 Pull title / tax history on top 5**
Look for federal liens, IRS liens, code enforcement, and prior tax sales.
- ☐ **6 Set max bid per property**
Use $ARV \times 0.65$ minus rehab and 9% selling costs. Never bid emotionally.
- ☐ **7 Attend the sale (in person or online)**
Bring certified funds. Have your bid card ready.
- ☐ **8 Record the deed within 10 days**
Take the sale receipt to the clerk. Get the recorded copy.
- ☐ **9 Serve redemption notice per state rules**
Miss this and the deed can be voided. Louisiana: 30-day + publication.
- ☐ **10 Wait out the redemption period**
LA: 3 years. TX: 6mo–2yr. Bank your interest if redeemed; otherwise proceed.
- ☐ **11 Quiet title action**
Hire a local RE attorney. Budget \$1,500–\$3,500. Takes 60–120 days.
- ☐ **12 List, rent, or flip**
Insurable title in hand — you're the owner. Execute your exit plan.