Home inspection tips

By Buzz Currie

A home inspection is a professional, objective, visual examination of the condition of a home. The following components or systems should be included in the inspection and functional checks should be carried out where appropriate.

Roofing, exterior, structure, electrical, heating, cooling, plumbing, insulation, ventilation, and interior.

Each of these areas will be discussed in future articles with hints of what to look for along with tips on minor maintenance and repairs.

The inspection should be followed with a written report of the condition of the components as observed at the time of the inspection. The report may be reviewed from time to time as a reminder of items to monitor and maintenance that will be required in the future. A home inspection should not be confused with an appraisal, a municipal code inspection, or a guarantee of any kind.

Home inspections are not intended to point out every small problem or defect in a home. Minor or cosmetic flaws, for example, should apparent without the aid of a professional. The home inspector's service to the client is primarily one of education. The client should accompany the inspector during the inspection and have details explained as they go along. Do not hesitate to ask questions, it will help you to understand the written report.

The goal of the inspector is to provide the client with a better understanding of the physical condition of the home in order to make a well-informed decision. Usually, you have decided to buy the house

House and Home



before you call an inspector but you just want an inspection, don't sign the contract unless it contains an inspection clause.

The next article in two weeks will answer the question "Who would want to hire an inspector?"

Buzz is an Associate Member of the Ontario Association of Home Inspectors and operates House and Home Inspections Limited. Call 877-9475 if you have any questions or suggestions for future articles.

House and home hints

1. To prevent a brillo pad from rusting after use, keep it in a tightly covered small jar. Cut each pad into four pieces for small jobs. You will also sharpen the kitchen scissors at the same time.

2. Run out of toothpaste? Use baking soda until you can replace it. Your teeth will receive an extra

3. You'll always know how much paint is left in the can if you use a marker to indicate the paint level on the side of the can and its use on the lid.

4. Use cotton swabs for minor paint touch-ups.



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By: Andy King*

not intended to solicit homes already listed

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