

How a Home Inspection Helps You



Whether you're considering buying a particular home, selling your current property – or both – a home inspection can help.

A home inspection is an inspection by a qualified professional who takes a close look at every aspect of a home – structure, wiring, plumbing, and more – and identifies issues you may not have noticed yourself.

For example, a home inspection can reveal that a furnace will need to be replaced soon, or that there is a water leak into the basement that needs to be fixed.

You'll definitely want to get a professional home inspection before you buy a particular property. That's why most offers to purchase a home are conditional upon passing a home inspection. (The last thing you want is to buy your dream home only to discover that the wiring needs to be updated!)

You may also want to get a home inspection on your own home before you list it for sale. A certificate from a qualified professional that states that your home passed inspection will make your property more attractive to buyers.

Many reputable home inspectors are members of a professional industry association.

In Canada:

- Canada Association of Home & Property Inspectors. (<http://www.cahpi.ca>)
- Professional Home and Property Inspectors of Canada. (<http://www.phpic.ca>)
- National Home Inspectors Certification Council. (<http://www.nationalhomeinspector.org>)

In the U.S.

- American Society of Home Inspectors. (<http://www.ashi.org>)
- National Association of Home Inspectors. (<http://www.nahi.org>)
- American Institute of Inspectors. (<http://www.inspection.org>)

It's important to note that certification or licensing is not a requirement in many jurisdictions. So select a home inspector carefully.

Need to find a reputable home inspector? Call today.

Preventing Burglaries Requires More Than Locks and Alarms



There's no doubt about it. If you want to keep your home safe from break-ins, you should have good locks on all doors and windows. An alarm system is also a good idea.

But home security doesn't end with locks and alarms. There are other less obvious ways to keep your home safe. For example:

- Install exterior lights with a motion detection feature. A light suddenly going on will almost always send a potential intruder away.
- Look for – and if possible eliminate – spots

around your property where someone can hide.

- Always have some lights on in your home when you're away for an evening.
- Never announce that you're on vacation or otherwise away from your home on social media sites. (Also ask your kids not to do this!)
- Don't leave tempting valuables where they can be easily seen through a window.

In addition to good locking systems on doors and windows, simple precautions like these will significantly lower the risk of a break-in.

Think, Act... Live!

"The quality of a person's life is in direct proportion to their commitment to excellence." **Vince Lombardi**

"There's only one way you can fail, and that's to quit." **Bertie Charles Forbes**

"The way I see it, if you want the rainbow, you gotta put up with some rain." **Dolly Parton**