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For Your Protection:

Get a Home Inspection

Why You Need a Home Inspection

Buying a home is probably the biggest investment you will ever make. The purpose of a home inspection is to inform and educate *you* about the property *before* you make a financial commitment. A home inspection will give you more detailed information about the overall condition of the house you want to buy.

Be an Informed Buyer

A home inspection will only occur if you arrange for one; FHA does not perform home inspections. For a fee, a qualified inspector will take an unbiased look at your potential new home to evaluate its physical condition; estimate the remaining useful life of the major systems, equipment, structure, and finishes; and identify any items that need to be repaired or replaced. If you request an inspection early in the process, you may be able to make your purchase contract contingent on its results.

What is Included in the Inspection?

To better understand what to expect in the home inspection, ask the prospective inspector for their Standards of Practice (SOP) or for a sample home inspection report.

How to Find an Inspector

To find a qualified home inspector ask for references from friends, real estate professionals, local licensing authorities and organizations that qualify and test home inspectors.

Appraisals are NOT Home Inspections!

An appraisal is required to estimate the home's value for your lender and does not replace a home inspection. **FHA does not guarantee the value or condition of your new home**. If you find problems with your home after closing, FHA cannot give or lend you money for repairs, and FHA cannot buy the home back from you.

Radon Gas Testing and Other Health or Safety Issues

The Environmental Protection Agency and the Surgeon General recommend that all houses be tested for radon. For more information, call the toll-free National Radon Information Line at 1-800-SOS-Radon (1-800-767-7236). Ask your inspector if additional health and safety tests are relevant for your home, such as mold; air or water quality; presence of asbestos, lead paint, or urea formaldehyde insulation; or pest infestations.