# CITY WIDE HOME INSPECTORS

# PRE-LISTING **HOME INSPECTION REPORT**



121 Jake Smith Way, Stouffville, Ontario

Report Number: 20110365

Inspection Date: 2020-11-14

**Prepared by: City Wide Home Inspectors** 

**PO Box 325** 

**Tottenham, Ontario, LOG 1W0** 

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November 15, 2020

Inspection Address: 121 Jake Smith Way, Stouffville, Ontario

Report Number: 20110365

At your request, an inspection of the above property was performed on 2020-11-14. **City Wide Home Inspectors** is pleased to submit the enclosed report. This report is a professional opinion based on a visual inspection of the accessible components of the home. This report is not an exhaustive technical evaluation. An evaluation of this nature would cost many times more.

Please understand that there are limitations to this inspection. Many components of the home are not visible during the inspection and very little historical information is provided in advance of the inspection. While we can reduce your risk of purchasing a home, we cannot eliminate it, nor can we assume it. Even the most comprehensive inspection cannot be expected to reveal every condition you may consider significant to ownership. In addition to those improvements recommended in our report, we recommend that you budget for unexpected repairs. On average, we have found that setting aside roughly one percent of the value of the home on an annual basis is sufficient to cover unexpected repairs.

The Standards of Practice prohibits us from making any repairs or referring any contractors. We are not associated with any other party to the transaction of this property, except as may be disclosed to you.

The information provided in this report is solely for your use. **City Wide Home Inspectors** will not release a copy of this report without your written consent.

Thank you for selecting our company. We appreciate the opportunity to be of service. Should you have any questions about the general condition of the house in the future, we would be happy to answer these. There is no fee for this telephone or email consulting. Our fees are based on a single visit to the property. If additional visits are required for any reason, additional fees may be assessed.

Sincerely,

Michael Fournier, Owner City Wide Home Inspectors Certified Master Inspector, CMI

Certified Mould Inspector, IAC2

Certified Commercial Property Inspector, CCPI Certified Infrared Camera Property Inspector, CICPI

# **BUILDING DATA**

### **BUILDING DATA**

Approximate Age: 1 to 3 yrs

Building Type: Single Family Detached

Building Style: Two Story General Appearance: Satisfactory

Main Entrance Faces: For the sake of this report North

Weather Condition: Clear
Temperature: 0 to 10 C
Ground cover: Dry
Occupancy: Vacant

### REPORT LIMITATIONS

This report is intended only as a general guide to help the client make his own evaluation of the overall condition of the home, and is not intended to reflect the value of the premises, nor make any representation as to the advisability of purchase. The report expresses the personal opinions of the inspector, based upon his visual impressions of the conditions that existed at the time of the inspection only. The inspection and report are not intended to be technically exhaustive, or to imply that every component was inspected, or that every possible defect was discovered. No disassembly of equipment, opening of walls, moving of furniture, appliances or stored items, or excavation was performed. This inspection is a limited visual examination of the readily accessible systems and components of the home only.

This inspection is conducted in compliance with the standards of practice of the International Association of Certified Home Inspectors (Inter-NACHI), a copy of which is available at www.citywidehomeinspectors.com/sop.

Systems and conditions which are not within the scope of the building inspection include, but are not limited to: pools spas or their related equipment, formaldehyde, lead paint, asbestos, toxic or flammable materials, and other environmental hazards; pest infestation, playground equipment, efficiency measurement of insulation or heating and cooling equipment, internal or underground drainage or plumbing, any systems which are shut down or otherwise secured; water wells (water quality and quantity) zoning ordinances; intercom; security systems; heat sensors; central vacuum systems, cosmetics or building code conformity. Any general comments about these systems and conditions are informational only and are not within the scope of this inspection.

The inspection report should not be construed as a compliance inspection of any governmental or non-governmental codes or regulations. The report is not intended to be a warranty or guarantee of the present or future adequacy or performance of the structure, its systems, or their component parts. This report does not constitute any express or implied warranty of merchantability or fitness for use regarding the condition of the property and it should not be relied upon as such. Any opinions expressed regarding adequacy, capacity, or expected life of components are general estimates based on information about similar components and occasional wide variations are to be expected between such estimates and actual experience. We recommend that any deficiencies noted in this report be repaired or corrected after consultation with reputable qualified contractors. It is suggested that more than one quote be obtained before commencing with repairs.

The sellers' property information sheet (SPIS) may be referred to in this document. This item is a statement that is often completed by the seller regarding the condition of the subject property. The buyer is urged to obtain and review this document, if available, as it contains crucial information. Photographs, taken at the time of this inspection, are to be considered part of this inspection report.

We certify that our inspectors have no interest, present or contemplated, in this property or its improvement and no involvement with tradespeople or benefits derived from any sales or improvements. To the best of our knowledge and belief, all statements and information in this report are true and correct.

We assume no liability for the cost of repair or replacement of unreported defects or deficiencies either current or arising in the future. You agree that in all cases our liability shall be limited to liquidated damages in an amount not greater than the fee you paid us. You waive any claim for consequential, exemplary, special or incidental damages or for the loss of the use of the home/building. You acknowledge that the liquidated damages are not a penalty, but that we intend them to (i) reflect the fact that actual damages may be difficult and impractical to ascertain; (ii) allocate risk between us; and (iii) enable us to perform the inspection for the agreed upon fee.

Should any disagreement or dispute arise as a result of this inspection or report, it shall be decided by arbitration and shall be submitted for binding, non-appealable arbitration unless the parties mutually agree otherwise. In the event of a claim, the Client will allow City Wide Home Inspectors to inspect the claim prior to any repairs or waive the right to make the claim. Client agrees not to disturb or repair or have repaired anything which may constitute evidence relating to the complaint, except in the case of an emergency.

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#### ITEMS NOT OPERATING

None

#### **MAJOR CONCERNS**

None

#### POTENTIAL SAFETY HAZARDS

None

#### **DEFERRED COST ITEMS**

Items that have reached or are reaching their normal life expectancy or show indications that they may require repair or replacement <u>anytime during the next five (5) years.</u>

None

\* Items listed in this report may inadvertently have been left off the Summary Sheet. Customer should read the entire report, including the Remarks.

#### **DEFINITIONS**

**SATISFACTORY** (Sat.) - Indicates the component is functionally consistent with its original purpose but may show signs of normal wear and tear and deterioration.

MARGINAL(Marg.) - Indicates the component will probably require repair or replacement anytime within five years.

**POOR** - Indicates the component will need repair or replacement now or in the very near future.

**MAJOR CONCERNS** - A system or component that is considered significantly deficient or is unsafe.

**SAFETY HAZARD** - Denotes a condition that is unsafe and in need of prompt attention.

## **GROUNDS**

Service Walks		✓ None		☐ Public sidew	alk needs	s repair
	☐ Concrete	☐ Flagstone		☐ Brick		☐ Other
Condition:	☐ Satisfactory	☐ Marginal		□ Poor		☐ Trip Hazard
	☐ Pitched towards home	□ Settling crack	cs	☐ Not visible		
Driveway		□ None				
Dilveway	☐ Concrete	☐ None ☐ Asphalt		☐ Gravel		☐ Other
Condition:	☑ Satisfactory	☐ Marginal		□ Poor		☐ Trip hazard
Condition.	☐ Fill cracks and seal	☐ Pitched towar	rda homo	☐ Settling crack	9	☐ Not visible
	☐ FIII CIACKS Allu Seal		ius nome	in Setting Crack	s 	□ Not visible
Patio/Lanai		✓ None				
		_	☐ Brick	☐ Kool-Dec	k®	☐ Other
Condition:	☐ Satisfactory	☐ Marginal		□ Poor		☐ Trip Hazard
	☐ Pitched towards home	(See Remarks pa	age)	☐ Settling crack	S	☐ Not visible
Deck		☑ None	□ Wood	☐ Other		
	□ Treated	☐ Painted/Stain	ed	☐ Railing/balus	ters reco	mmended
Condition:	☐ Satisfactory	☐ Marginal		□ Poor		☐ Not visible
Deals/Detic/Des	<u> </u>		□ D(1.	4		/
Deck/Patio/Por		☑ None		to wood contact		isture/insect damage
Lacks:	☐ Metal straps/bolts/nail	IS	⊔ Improp	er attachment to h	ouse	
Porch (covered	entrance)	✓ None		☐ Railing/balı	isters rec	
Support Pier:	□ Wood	☐ Concrete		☐ Other		☐ Not visible
Condition:	☐ Satisfactory	☐ Marginal		□ Poor		
Floor:	☐ Satisfactory	☐ Marginal		□ Poor		☐ Safety Hazard
Balcony (2nd fl	oor platform)	☑ None	□ Wood	☐ Metal		☐ Other
Railing:	☐ Yes	□ No		☐ Railing/balus	ters reco	mmended
Condition:	☐ Satisfactory	☐ Marginal		□ Poor		☐ Safety Hazard
Stoops/Steps		□ None		☐ Uneven rise	`S	☐ Safety Hazard
	☑ Concrete	□ Wood		□ Other		ng recommended
Condition:	☑ Satisfactory	☐ Marginal		□ Poor		mmend baluster
Condition.	□ Cracked	□ Settled		☐ Damaged woo		
Гоноїни		D.N.				[7] N 1 1
Fencing		□ None		☐ Type:		☑ Not evaluated
I andscaning Af	fecting Foundation	(See Remarks pa	ισe)			
Negative grade at:				☑ Satisfactory		
reguire grade at.	☐ Recommend additiona		Julii	☐ Recommend v	window w	vells/covers
	☐ Trim back trees/shrub			□ Wood in conta		
	☐ Yard drains observed			□ N/A	act/too cr	030 10 3011
Retaining Wall:		☐ Yes		☑ No		
	☐ Concrete	□ Wood		☐ Other	☐ Safet	ty Hazard
Visual Condition:	☐ Satisfactory	☐ Marginal		□ Poor		
Hose Bibs		☑ Yes		□ No	□ No	anti-siphon valve
Operates:	□ Yes	□ No		☐ Not tested	☑ Not o	
General Comm	ents					

Fencing is not part of a home inspection. General site drainage was properly sloping away from the house. Maintain a positive drainage slope away from the foundation.

# **ROOF COVERING**

General Information	
Roof Visibility	All
Inspected From	Ground with binoculars
	7
Style of Roof	
<b>Type:</b> Combination: ☐ Gable <b>Pitch:</b> Combination: ☐ Low	☐ Hip ☐ Mansard ☐ Shed ☐ Flat ☐ Other ☐ Medium ☑ Steep ☐ Flat
Roof Covering	
Type: Asphalt Estimated Lay	vers: 1 layer Approximate age of cover: 1 to 3 yrs
Ventilation System	
Combination:	☐ Ridge ☐ Gable ☑ Roof
□ Powered	☐ Eaves ☐ Other
Flashing Material	
Combination:	$\square$ Asphalt $\square$ Lead $\square$ Rubber $\square$ Not visible
□ Copper	□ Other
Valley Material	
Combination: ☑ Galv./Aluminum	$\square$ Asphalt $\square$ Copper $\square$ N/A
☐ Not visible	□ Other
	at Time of Inspection (conditions reported reflect visible portion only)
Roof Covering	☑ Satisfactory ☐ Marginal ☐ Poor
Condition:   Curling	☐ Cupping ☐ Missing tabs/shingles/tiles
☐ Moss Buildup ☐ Exposed Felt	☐ Nail Popping ☐ Ponding ☐ Burn Spots ☐ Other
<u> </u>	<del></del>
Ventilation	(See Remarks page) (See Attic page)
Flashings	☐ Not visible ☐ Satisfactory ☐ Marginal ☐ Poor
☐ Rusted	☐ Recommend Sealing ☐ Pulled away from chimney/roof
Valleys	☑ Satisfactory ☐ Marginal ☐ Poor
□ Not visible	$\square$ N/A $\square$ Rusted
☐ Holes	☐ Recommend Sealing
Skylights	☐ Yes   ☑ No   ☐ Satisfactory   ☐ Marginal   ☐ Poor
Plumbing Vents	☑ Yes ☐ No ☑ Satisfactory ☐ Marginal ☐ Poor
General Comments	

Roof covering appeared in overall satisfactory condition at the time of the inspection.

# **CHIMNEY / GUTTERS / SIDING / TRIM**

Chimney(s)			☐ None	Location	(s):		
Viewed from:	□ Roof		☐ Ladder at	eaves	☐ Gro	ound w/binocula	
Chase:	□ Brick □ S	tone	☐ Metal	☐ Fran	ned	☐ Blocks	☐ Stucco
	Evidence of:	☐ Cra	cked chimney	cap 🗆 Loos	se morta	ır joints	☐ Loose brick
		☐ Hol	es in metal	☐ Rust	:	☐ Flaking	
Flue:	☐ Tile	☐ Met	tal	☐ Unlined		☐ Not visible	
	Evidence of:	□ Sca	ling	☐ Cracks		☐ Creosote	
		☐ Hav	ve flue(s) cleaned				l (See Remarks page)
☐ Recommend c	ricket/saddle flash	ing		☐ Spark arr	restor/ra	in cap recommen	nded
Gutters & Dow	nspouts		□ None	(See Ren	narks p	age)	
☐ Insides need to	be cleaned		☐ Ponding				
	☑ Galvanized/Al	um.	☐ Copper		□ Vir	nyl	☐ Other
Condition:	☑ Satisfactory		☐ Marginal		□ Poo	or	☐ Rusting
	☐ Hole in main r	un		Leaking:		rners	☐ Joints
Extension needed:	□ North		☐ South		□ Eas	st	□ West
Siding							
Material:	Brick						
Condition:	☑ Satisfactory		☐ Marginal	☐ Pooi	:	□ Recommend	l repair/painting
Window Frame	es						
Material:	Vinyl	•					
Condition:	☑ Satisfactory		☐ Marginal		□ Poo	or	
	☐ Recommend p	ainting	3	☐ Dan	naged w	vood	
Trim, Soffit, Fa	ascia						
Trim Material:	Metal		Condition: S	atisfactory			
Soffit Material:	Metal		Condition: S	Satisfactory			
Fascia Material:	Metal		Condition: S	atisfactory			
Caulking							
Condition:	☑ Satisfactory	-	☐ Marginal		□ Poo	or	
	☐ Recommend a	round v		/masonry led	ges/corn	ners/utility penet	rations
General Comm	nents						

Gutters were in overall adequate condition. Siding appeared to be in overall adequate condition. Trim appeared to be intact and in overall maintained condition.

# **EXTERIOR / ELECTRICAL / AC / GARAGE**

Exterior Wall C	Construction							
Construction Style		 ⊿ Satisfa	ctory 🗆	Marginal	□ Poor			
						D : (2)		
Exterior Doors					Storm (2);	* *		
Weather stripping:			□ Margi			Poor		
Condition:	☑ Satisfactory		☐ Margi	nal		Poor		
Exterior Electri	ical Service							
	☐ Overhead	☑ Under	erground	Servi	ce drop:	☐ Satisfact	tory	☐ Needs service
Exterior outlets:	☑ Yes	□ No	_	Oper	ate:	✓ Yes	-	□ No
GFCI protected:	☑ Yes	□ No		 Oper	ate:	✓ Yes		□ No
Reverse polarity:		☑ No		Open	ground:	☐ Yes		☑ No
Overhead wires:		Less tha	an 1 meter			indow 🗆 Exte	ension co	ord/exposed Romex
Potential safety		☐ Yes		☑No	•	e Remarks pa		<u>r</u>
A/C Condenser/	Heat Pump		□ None	Approx	imate age: 1	l to 3 yrs		
#1 Brand: Amer	istar	•				·		Shutoff: Yes
Condition:	☑ Satisfactory	□ Marg	ginal	□ Poor	□ Ruste	ed/dirty L	Level: ☑	Yes □ No
Garage								
Garage Type:	Attached	Garage	e Size: Do	ouble Car				
Automatic open	er: No							
Floor:	Concrete		☐ Grave	:1		Asphalt		☐ Dirt
	Burners less than	45 cm ab	ove garage	e floor:	☑ N/A □ `	Yes □ No	□ Sat	<b>fety</b> hazard
	Condition:		sfactory		pical cracks		ttling cra	acks
Overhead door:	☑ Wood	☐ Fiber	rglass	•	asonite	☐ Metal	Č	☐ Other
	Condition:	✓ Satis	factory	$\square$ M	arginal	□ Poor	☐ Repa	ir, replace, paint
Service door:	☑ Satisfactory	□ Marg	•	□ Pc		□ None	•	, <b>1</b> , <b>1</b>
Sill plates:	☐ Elevated	☐ Floor		□Во		☑ Not visil	ble	☐ Rotted
Electricity prese	ent: ☑ Yes		GFCI P	rotected:	☐ Yes	☑ No Ope	erates:	☑ Yes □ No
	Reverse polarity/o							man/ext. cord wiring
Firewall:	(Between garage			□ N/A			□ Missin	
Fire door:	☐ Not verifiable	_			eeds repair	☑ Satisfact		
Auto closure:	□ N/A	☑ Satis			☐ Inoper		issing	☐ Needs repair
Comoral Comm								

#### General Comments

Doors were reviewed and found to be in working order. Lights appeared to be in normal condition: not all lights were tested. Exterior outlets tested were in normal working order. Small hole in the drywall on the house side of the garage needs to be sealed for gas sealing.

### **KITCHEN**

Convertentence			<b>- - - - - - - - - -</b>			r · 1		
Countertops			☑ Satis	tactory	$\sqcup N$	<b>I</b> arginal	□ Poor	
Cabinets								
Condition:	☑ Satisfactory		☐ Margii	nal	□ Poo	or 🗆 Reco	ommend repairs	5
Plumbing Con	monte							
Faucet leaks:	□ Yes	☑ No		Pipes leak/corro	nded:	□ Yes	☑ No	
Drainage:	☑ Adequate		or	Water pressure:		☑ Adequate	□ Poor	
Walls & Ceiling				1				
Condition	<ul><li>✓ Satisfactory</li></ul>	☐ Ma	rginal	□ Poor		☐ Typical cracks	☐ Moisture sta	ins
	<u> </u>					= Typical clacks		
Heat Source P	resent		✓ Yes	□ No				
Floor								
Condition	☑ Satisfactory	□ Ma	rginal	□ Poor		☐ Sloping	☐ Squeaks	
						_ 510pmg		
Appliances Dishwasher:	✓ Yes	□ No	(See Re	marks page)		☑ Yes		T/A
	☑ Yes	□ No		Operates: Operates:		✓ Yes		
Range:	☑ Yes					✓ Yes		
Oven: Exhaust fan:				Operates:				
	☑ Yes	□ No		Operates:		☑ Yes		
Refrigerator:	☑ Yes	□ No		Operates:		✓ Yes		
Other:	□ Yes	□ No		Operates:		☐ Yes	□ No □ N	N/A
Electrical								
Outlets present:	☑ Yes	□ No		Operates:		☑ Yes	□ No	
GFCI protected:	□ Yes	☑ No		Operates:		□ Yes	□ No ( <b>Remark</b>	ks)
	erse polarity with	in 1 met	er of water:		Safety H	Iazard ☑ No	`	ĺ
General Comn	nents:							
General Comm	ilerits.							
Counter ton has a	normal wear Cak	singte ha	ve normal u	war Water flou	, was n	ormal with several f	fixtures operated	at
						pection. Drain line		
or signs of backu	ip at the time of ir	ispectioi	1. Outlets w	ere randomly tes	sted and	d had correct polarit	y, except as note	ed.
			LA	UNDRY	7			
Room Compo	nents							
Laundry sink:	□ N/A	Faucet	leaks:	□ Yes 5	⊿ No	Pipe leaks:	☐ Yes ☑ No	
Cross connection			ne apparent	Heat source			□ No	
Room appears ve		□ No		☐ Not visib				
Dryer vented:	□ N/A		☑ Wall	☐ Ceiling	-	☐ Not vented		
•	ground/reverse pol	arity with			s 🗆 S	Safety Hazard	☑ No	
				Water hea		☐ Furnace	☐ Other	
Appliances prese			☑ Dryer					u.d
Gas pipe:	☑ N/A	vaive	shutoff:	□ Yes □	∃No	☐ Cap Needed	☐ Safety Haza	ra
General Comn	nents							

At the time of the inspection the laundry facilities were in satisfactory condition.

## **BATHROOMS**

Bath: Master B	edroom					
Sinks	Faucet leaks:	☐ Yes	☑ No		Pipes leak:	□ Yes ☑ No
Tubs	Faucet leaks:	□ Yes	☑ No		Pipes leak:	☐ Yes ☑ No
Showers	Faucet leaks:	□ Yes	☑ No		Pipes leak:	☐ Yes ☑ No
Toilet:	Bowl loose	□ Yes	☑ No	<i>Operates</i> : ✓ Yes	☐ No ☐ Cracked be	
Whirlpool:	Bowl loose	□ Yes	☑ No	Operates: ☐ Yes	□ No	owi 🗖 Tonet leaks
Shower/Tub area	•	☑ Cerami		☐ Fiberglass	☐ Masonite	☐ Other
Shower Tub area	Condition:	✓ Satisfac		☐ Marginal	□ Poor	☐ Rotted floors
	Caulk/Grouting r		☐ Yes	☑ No	Where:	Li Rotted Hoors
Drainage:	✓ Satisfactory	recaea.	☐ Margin		□ Poor	
Water flow:	✓ Satisfactory		☐ Margin		□ Poor	
Moisture stains p	•	□ Walls	_		□ 1 001	
				ted: ☑ Yes □ No	Operates: ☑ Y	es 🗆 No
Outlets present.	Open ground/rev				☐ Yes ☐ No	C3 110
	Potential safety				e Remarks page)	
Heat source prese	<u> </u>	Yes	CSCIII.		c Kemarks page)	
Exhaust fan:			Operates:	☑ Yes	□ No □ Noisy	ī
Windows:				lass □ None □ Ev		
Door:				Does not latch $\square$ H		
General Comm	ents					
noted.			u us compo	nents were found to	be in satisfactory co	nution except as
Bath: Joint Bed						
Sinks	Faucet leaks:	□ Yes	☑ No		Pipes leak:	☐ Yes ☑ No
Tubs	Faucet leaks:	□ Yes	☑ No		Pipes leak:	☐ Yes ☑ No
Showers	Faucet leaks:	☐ Yes	☑ No	_	Pipes leak:	☐ Yes ☑ No
Toilet:	Bowl loose	□ Yes	☑ No	<i>Operates</i> : ✓ Yes	□ No □ Cracked be	owl ☐ Toilet leaks
Whirlpool:		□ Yes	☑ No	<i>Operates</i> : □ Yes	□ No	
Shower/Tub area		☑ Cerami		☐ Fiberglass	☐ Masonite	Other
	Condition:	☑ Satisfac		☐ Marginal	Poor	☐ Rotted floors
<b>.</b>	Caulk/Grouting r	needed:	□ Yes	☑ No	Where:	
Drainage:	☑ Satisfactory		☐ Margin		□ Poor	
Water flow:	☑ Satisfactory	- xxx 11	☐ Margin		□ Poor	
Moisture stains p		□ Walls			0 · <b>D</b> W	
Outlets present:				ted: ☑ Yes □ No		es ⊔ No
	Open ground/rev				☐ Yes ☑ No	
Uant source prose	Potential safety	nazarus pr Yes	resent:	☐ Yes ☑ No (See ☐ No	e Kemarks page)	
Heat source prese Exhaust fan:			Operates:	☑ Yes	□ No □ Noisy	7
					•	
Windows: Door:				lass □ None □ Evi Does not latch □ H		
D001.	ப் Sat. ப Malg.	□ 1001 L	- 1101C3 L	Does not raten.   I	iaiuwaic Diuktii 🗀	TOIL
General Comm						

At the time of the inspection, the bathroom and its components were found to be in satisfactory condition except as noted.

Bath: Second f	loor						
Sinks	Faucet leaks:	□ Yes	☑ No			Pipes leak:	☐ Yes ☑ No
Tubs	Faucet leaks:	☐ Yes	☑ No			Pipes leak:	☐ Yes ☑ No
Showers	Faucet leaks:	☐ Yes	☑ No			Pipes leak:	☐ Yes ☑ No
Toilet:	Bowl loose	☐ Yes	☑ No	Operates:	✓ Yes	☐ No ☐ Cracked	bowl ☐ Toilet leaks
Whirlpool:		☐ Yes	☑ No	Operates:	☐ Yes	□ No	
Shower/Tub area	:	Ceram	ic/Plastic	☐ Fibergla		☐ Masonite	☐ Other
	Condition:	✓ Satisfa	•	☐ Margina	al	□ Poor	☐ Rotted floors
	Caulk/Grouting i	needed:	☐ Yes	☑ No		Where:	
Drainage:	☑ Satisfactory		☐ Margii			□ Poor	
Water flow:	☑ Satisfactory		☐ Margii			□ Poor	
Moisture stains p			☐ Ceiling				
Outlets present:				cted:			Yes □ No
	Open ground/rev					☐ Yes ☑ No	
	<b>Potential safety</b>	hazards p	resent:	☐ Yes ☑ I	No (Se	e Remarks page)	
Heat source prese		Yes		□ No			
Exhaust fan:			Operates:	✓ Yes	_	□ No □ Nois	
Windows:						idence of leaking in	
Door:	$\square$ Sat. $\square$ Marg.	□ Poor [	☐ Holes ☐	Does not la	tch 🗆 F	Hardware broken [	☐ None
General Comm	ents						
At the time of the noted.	inspection, the b	athroom ar	nd its compo	onents were	found to	be in satisfactory c	ondition except as
Bath: Main floo	or						
Sinks	Faucet leaks:	☐ Yes	☑ No			Pipes leak:	☐ Yes ☑ No
Toilet:	Bowl loose	☐ Yes	☑ No	Operates:	☑ Yes		bowl ☐ Toilet leaks
Drainage:	☑ Satisfactory		☐ Margii			□ Poor	
Water flow:	☑ Satisfactory		☐ Margii	nal		□ Poor	
Moisture stains pa	resent:	☐ Walls		gs 🗹 No			
Outlets present:	☑ Yes □ No	GFCI pro		☑ Yes	□ No	Operates:	$\square$ Yes $\square$ No
	Open ground/rev			of water:	☐ Yes	☑ No	
	Potential safety		resent:	☐ Yes	☑ No	(See Remarks pa	ge)
Heat source prese		✓ Yes		□ No			
Exhaust fan:			Operates:	☑ Yes		□ No □ Nois	•
Windows:						dence of leaking in	
Door:	☑ Sat. ☐ Marg.	□ Poor □	□ Holes □	Does not la	tch 🗆 F	Hardware broken	☐ None

At the time of the inspection, the bathroom and its components were found to be in satisfactory condition except as noted.

# **INTERIOR ROOMS**

MASTER BE	EDROOM					
Location: Se	cond floor					
Walls & Ceiling	g: ☑ Satisfactory	☐ Marginal		□ Poor	☐ Typical Cracks	☐ Holes
	Moisture stains:	☐ Yes		☑ No		
Flooring:	☑ Satisfactory	☐ Marginal		□ Poor	☐ Squeaks	$\square$ Slopes
Ceiling fan:	☑ N/A	□ Satisfactory		☐ Marginal	□ Poo	
Electrical:	Switches:   ✓ Yes   ✓	No Outlets:	✓ Yes	□ No	<i>Operates</i> : ✓ Yes	□ No
	Open ground/reverse po	olarity: □Yes	☐ Safet	y Hazard	☑ No ☐ Cov	ers missing
Heat source pre		ot visible				
Windows:	☑ Sat. ☐ Marg. ☐ Po	•			2	ass
Door:	☑ Sat. ☐ Marg. ☐ Po					
Closet Doors:	☑ Sat. ☐ Marg. ☐ Po	or $\square$ Holes $\square$ Miss	sing 🗆 T	racks broken	□ None	
General Com	ments:					
		1				
At the time of t	he inspection the room wa	s found to be in ever	roll coticf	octory conditio	n .	
At the time of t	ne hispection the room wa	is found to be in over	ran sansia	actory condition	)11 <b>.</b>	
	<b>"</b>					
BEDROOM :		T				
Location: Se		] _		_	_	_
Walls & Ceiling	g: ☑ Satisfactory	☐ Marginal		□ Poor	☐ Typical Cracks	☐ Holes
	Moisture stains:	☐ Yes		☑ No		
Flooring:	☑ Satisfactory	☐ Marginal		□ Poor	☐ Squeaks	$\square$ Slopes
Ceiling fan:	☑ N/A	□ Satisfactory		☐ Marginal	□ Poo	
Electrical:	Switches:   ✓ Yes    □	No Outlets:	✓ Yes	□ No		□ No
	Open ground/reverse po		☐ Safet	y Hazard	☑ No ☐ Cov	ers missing
Heat source pre		ot visible				
Windows:	☑ Sat. ☐ Marg. ☐ Po					ass
Door:	☑ Sat. ☐ Marg. ☐ Po					
Closet Doors:	☑ Sat. ☐ Marg. ☐ Po	or $\square$ Holes $\square$ Miss	sing 🗆 T	racks broken	□ None	
General Com	monte					
General Com	iiiiciiis.					
At the time of t	ha increation the room we	a found to be in over	roll sotiate	natomi aonditic	<b>n</b>	
At the time of t	he inspection the room wa	is found to be in over	ran sansia	actory condition	)II.	
BEDDOOM :	<b>4</b> 9					
BEDROOM :		1				
Location: Se		<u>_</u>		_	_	_
Walls & Ceiling	g: ☑ Satisfactory	☐ Marginal		□ Poor	☐ Typical Cracks	☐ Holes
	Moisture stains:	□ Yes		☑ No		
Flooring:	☑ Satisfactory	☐ Marginal		□ Poor	☐ Squeaks	☐ Slopes
Ceiling fan:	☑ N/A	□ Satisfactory		☐ Marginal	□ Poo	
Electrical:	Switches:   ✓ Yes   ✓	No Outlets:	✓ Yes	□ No	<i>Operates</i> : ✓ Yes	□ No
	Open ground/reverse po		☐ Safet	y Hazard	☑ No □ Cov	ers missing
Heat source pre	esent: 🗹 Yes 🗆 No	ot visible				
Windows:	☑ Sat. ☐ Marg. ☐ Po	or Cracked glass	□ None	☐ Evidence o	f leaking insulated g	lass
Door:	☑ Sat. ☐ Marg. ☐ Po	or 🗆 Holes 🗆 Doe	es not late	h 🛮 Hardwar	re broken   None	
Closet Doors:	☑ Sat. ☐ Marg. ☐ Po					
Conoral Com						
General Com	inents.	J				

At the time of the inspection the room was found to be in overall satisfactory condition.

BEDROOM #4	4						
Location: Seco	ond floor						
Walls & Ceiling:	☑ Satisfactory	☐ Marginal		□ Poor	☐ Typical (	Cracks	☐ Holes
	Moisture stains:	□ Yes		☑ No			
Flooring:	☑ Satisfactory	☐ Marginal		□ Poor	☐ Squeaks		☐ Slopes
Ceiling fan:	☑ N/A	□ Satisfactory		☐ Marginal		□ Poor	
Electrical:	Switches:   ✓ Yes   ☐		✓ Yes		Operates:	☑ Yes	
	Open ground/reverse po	•	☐ Safet	y Hazard	☑ No	□ Cove	rs missing
Heat source prese		t visible					
Windows:	☑ Sat. ☐ Marg. ☐ Poo						SS
Door:	☑ Sat. ☐ Marg. ☐ Poo					None	
Closet Doors:	☑ Sat. ☐ Marg. ☐ Poo	or $\square$ Holes $\square$ Miss	sing 🗆 T	Tracks broken	□ None		
General Comm	nents:						
		6 1 1 1	11 6	. 11			
At the time of the	e inspection the room was	s found to be in over	all satisfa	actory conditio	n.		
LIVING ROO							
<b>Location:</b> First							
Walls & Ceiling:	•	☐ Marginal		□ Poor	☐ Typical (	Cracks	☐ Holes
	Moisture stains:	☐ Yes		☑ No			
Flooring:	☑ Satisfactory	☐ Marginal		□ Poor	☐ Squeaks		☐ Slopes
Ceiling fan:	☑ N/A	□ Satisfactory		☐ Marginal		□ Poor	
Electrical:	Switches:   ✓ Yes   ☐		✓ Yes		Operates:	☑ Yes	
	Open ground/reverse po		☐ Safet	y Hazard	☑ No	□ Cove	rs missing
	ent: ☑ Yes ☐ Not vis						
Windows:	$\square$ Sat. $\square$ Marg. $\square$ Po						
Door:	□ Sat. □ Marg. □ Po	or □ Holes □ Does	s not latel	h □ Hardwar	e broken 🗹	None	
General Comm	nents:						
At the time of the	e inspection the room was	s found to be in over	all satisfa	actory conditio	n.		
				,			
<b>DINING ROO</b>	м						
Location: First							
Walls & Ceiling:		☐ Marginal		□ Poor	☐ Typical (	Cracks	☐ Holes
wans & Cennig.	Moisture stains:	□ Yes		☑ No	ш турісаг	Clacks	LI Holes
Flooring:	✓ Satisfactory	☐ Marginal		□ Poor	☐ Squeaks		☐ Slopes
Ceiling fan:	✓ N/A	☐ Satisfactory		☐ Marginal	□ Squeaks	□ Poor	□ Slopes
Electrical:	Switches: ☑ Yes □		☑ Yes	□ No	Onanatası	☑ Yes	□ No
Electrical:					Operates:		
Heat source prese	Open ground/reverse poent: ☑ Yes ☐ Not vis		i saiet	y Hazard	☑ No	□ Cove	rs missing
_			. □ Essid	amaa af laalsime	a insulated a	lass	
Windows: Door:	$\square$ Sat. $\square$ Marg. $\square$ Po $\square$ Sat. $\square$ Marg. $\square$ Po						
D001.	⊔ Sat. ⊔ Marg. ⊔ Po	or $\square$ notes $\square$ Doe	s not rate	л ⊔ naruwai	re broken 🗷	ı mone	
General Comm	nents:						
A1		C 1 . 1 .	11	. 11.1			

At the time of the inspection the room was found to be in overall satisfactory condition.

#### **EATING AREA**

<b>Location:</b> First	floor					
Walls & Ceiling:	☑ Satisfactory	☐ Marginal	□ Poor	☐ Typical (	Cracks	☐ Holes
	Moisture stains:	□ Yes	☑ No			
Flooring:	☑ Satisfactory	☐ Marginal	□ Poor	☐ Squeaks		$\square$ Slopes
Ceiling fan:	☑ N/A	□ Satisfactory	☐ Marginal		□ Poor	
Electrical:	Switches:   ✓ Yes   ☐		☑ Yes □ No	Operates:	✓ Yes	□ No
	Open ground/reverse po		☐ Safety Hazard	☑ No	□ Cove	rs missing
_	ent: ☑ Yes ☐ Not vis					
Windows:	☑ Sat. ☐ Marg. ☐ Po					
Door:	☑ Sat. ☐ Marg. ☐ Po	or □ Holes □ Doe	es not latch	re broken [	1 None	
General Comm	ents:					
FAMILY ROO	inspection the room was	Tourid to be in over	an satisfactory condition	on.		
Location: First	floor					
Walls & Ceiling:	☑ Satisfactory	☐ Marginal	□ Poor	☐ Typical (	Cracks	☐ Holes
	Moisture stains:	□ Yes	☑ No			
Flooring:	☑ Satisfactory	☐ Marginal	□ Poor	☐ Squeaks		$\square$ Slopes
Ceiling fan:	☑ N/A	□ Satisfactory	☐ Marginal		□ Poor	
Electrical:	Switches:   ✓ Yes   ☐		☑ Yes □ No	Operates:		
	Open ground/reverse po	•	☐ Safety Hazard	☑ No	☐ Cove	rs missing
Heat source prese						
Windows:	☑ Sat. ☐ Marg. ☐ Po					
Door:	$\square$ Sat. $\square$ Marg. $\square$ Po	or □ Holes □ Doe	es not latch	re broken	1 None	
General Comm	ents:					

At the time of the inspection the room was found to be in overall satisfactory condition.

# **WINDOWS / FIREPLACES / ATTIC**

		,		711110
Interior Windows	/Glass			
General condition:	☑ Satisfactor:	y 🗆 Margina	al 🗆 Poor	☐ Painted shut
☐ Hardware missing	g Glazing co	mpound needed	☐ Cracked glass	☐ Broken counter-balance mech.
☐ Surface deteriora	tion: (See Remark	s page)	☑ Representative n	umber of windows operated
Evidence of leaking		☐ Yes   ☑ No	o □ Not det	erminable $\square$ N/A
Safety glazing:	☑ N/A	☐ Safety issue	Where:	
Security bars presen	t: ☐ Yes	☑ No □ No	ot tested   Test rel	ease mechanism before moving in
Fireplace		□None Lo	cation(s): Family re	oom
☑ Gas	□ Wood	☐ Wood burner	stove (See Remark	ss page)
☐ Masonry	y insert	t	☐ Electric	:
☐ Blower b	ouilt-in Operates:	□ Yes □ No	$\square$ Dampe	r operates $\Box$ Damper missing
☐ Open joints or cra	acks in firebrick should	be sealed	☐ Pre-fab	ricated panels damaged/worn
Hearth: Satisfac	tory: 🗹 Yes	□ No	Mantle:	☑ Satisfactory ☐ Loose
☐ Recommend have	ring flue cleaned and i	re-examined	☐ Vent le	ss
Stairs		☑ Satisfactory	☐ Margi	nal 🗆 Poor 🗆 None
Handrail:	✓ Satisfactor	y 🗆 Margina	al 🗆 Poor	☐ Safety Hazard
Risers/Treads:	☑ Satisfactor	y	al 🗆 Poor	☐ Risers/treads uneven
Smoke/CO Detect		(See Remarks )	page)	
Note: Working smoke de areas. Battery operated d		onthly and batteries cha	nged semi annually. Mo	ired on all levels of a home with sleeping st battery operated units should be replaced
Attic				
Access: Access pane	el Access Location:	Bedroom closet	Inspected from:	Access panel
Flooring:	☐ Complete	☐ Partial	✓ None	•
Insulation: Type:	Loose fill fiberglass	Average thicknes	s: Over 12 inches	R Rating: R50
	Installed in:   ☐ Floo	or	☐ Walls	☐ Not Visible
Vent fans:	$\square$ Present $\square$ Not	tested   Therr	nostat controlled	Safety Hazard
Ventilation:	Satisfactory			
Roof structure:	Wooden trusses			
	Plywood			
Roof Sheathing Con	dition: 🗹 Satisfactory			
Fans exhausted to:	Attic: ☐ Yes ☑ No	Outside: ☑ Yes	□ No □ Not visi	ble □ N/A (See Remarks page)
Chimney chase:				
Structural problems	observed: ☐ Yes		omments below	
1	☐ Not visible	☐ Improperly ins		
	☐ Kraft faced	☑ Plastic_	(See Remarks pag	·
Electrical:	☐ Open junction box(€	es)	yman wiring	☐ Visible knob-and-tube
General Commen	nts		<u> </u>	

Trusses showed no major defects or damage at the time of inspection. Roof sheathing, examined from the attic, showed no major defects or moisture damage. Insulation was sufficient for homes in this area. Ventilation was normal.

### **BASEMENT**

#### (See Remarks page)

(= <b>Fg</b> .)							
Stairs							
Condition:	☑ Satisfactor		☐ Marginal	□ Poor	☐ Safety Haz	ard	
Handrail: ☑ Yes	□ No Cor	ndition:	☑ Satisfactory	☐ Marginal	□ Poor		
Headway over stairs:	☑ Satisfactor		☐ Marginal	□ Poor			
Under carriage:	☑ Satisfactor	ry	☐ Marginal	□ Poor	☐ Not visible		
Foundation							
Wall Material:	Poured Conc	rete					
Condition:	Satisfactory						
Foundation Cracks:	□ Yes ☑ N	None Vis	ible Visib	le from:   Exte	rior 🗆 Interior		
Movement apparent:	□ Yes ☑ N	lo					
Partially/Covered walls:	$\square$ Yes $\square$ N	□No					
	G 11.1						
	Condition re	eported a	above reflects <u>visi</u> l	ole portion only			
Floor			(See vapour bar	rier remarks)			
Material:	Concrete		_				
Condition:	Satisfactory						
Seismic Bolts			Not applicable				
Basement Drainage							
Indication of moisture:	No						
Sump Pump:	No St	ump Pun	np Operates: Not a	pplicable			
Floor drain(s) present:	Yes	•					
Drain Tile (See Remarks	nage)	□ P	almer valve present	☐ Not Visible	e (See Remar	ks nage)	
	pge/		uniter that to prosent		(200 21011111	s page)	
Girders (1), Columns (2)		□N	I/A				
	☑ Steel		□ Wood	☐ Block	☐ Concrete	☐ Not visible	
Condition:	☑ Satisfactor	ry	☐ Marginal	□ Poor	☐ Stained/rus	ted	
Joists /Trusses							
☑ Joist ☐ Trusses	☑ I-Joist		☐ Steel	☑ Wood	□Concrete	☐ Not visible	
	□ 2x6		<b>☑</b> 2x8	□ 2x10	□ 2x12		
Sub Floor							
	☐ Indication	of moist	ture stains/rotting				
			hower stalls, etc., as	s viewed from ba	sement or crawl	space	
General Comments							

Foundation appeared to be in overall satisfactory condition. Foundation walls were covered/partially covered with paneling/drywall/insulation and were not visible. No representation can be made to the conditions of the covered/partially covered walls. Floor appeared to be in overall satisfactory condition. No active seepage visible at the time of the inspection. No representation can be made to future leaking of the basement walls.

# **PLUMBING**

Water Service		Shut off location:	Basement		
Water entry piping: Plastic Water		lines: Copper and F	Plastic		
		solder joints):	☐ Yes ☑ No	☐ Service entry	☐ Unknown
	Water flow:	☑ Satisfactory	□ Poor	Cross connection:	□ Yes □ No
	Water pressure:	☑ Satisfactory			
	Pipes: Corroc			* '	ssimilar metal
Drain/waste/vent pipe:	•	C		Č	
1 1	Condition:	☑ Satisfactory	☐ Marginal	□ Poor	☐ Not visible
	Waste discharge:	☑ Satisfactory	☐ Slow drain		
Gas Lines		☐ Not visible	☐ Shutoff missing		
	☐ Copper	☐ Brass	☑ Black iron	☐ Stainless steel	$\square$ CSST
Water Heater					-
Brand name: GSW		•			
Energy Source: Gas Approx. age:3		3 yrs		Capacity: 60 gallo	n
Rental Unit: Yes	Seismic restraints needed: ☑ N/A ☐ Yes ☐ No				
Relief valve:	☑ Yes □ No	Extension pr	oper:	□ No □ Missi	ng
Vent pipe:	□ N/A ☑ Satisf	actory   Improper	pitch □ Rusted	☐ Safety Hazard	
Water Softener		(Unit not evaluated)			
	□Yes ☑ No	Plumbing hoo	oked up: ☐ Yes	□No	
General Comments					

Overall the plumbing system, faucets, water pressure and drain rates were found to be in satisfactory condition at the time of the inspections.

# **HEATING SYSTEM**

Fuel Shutoff for Building		Main fuel s	hutoff location: Outsid	e at gas meter		
Forced Air Syst	em	☑ Central 1	Unit □ Wall	l Furnace	☐ Floor Furnace	
	Brand name: Go	odman		Approximate age: 1 to 3 yrs		
Energy source:	Gas Furna	ce Efficiency:	: High Efficiency			
Hot air systems:	Direct drive					
Heat exchanger:	r: Sealed unit, not visible View is extremely limited - See Remarks page about options					
Distribution:	Metal Ducts	Flue piping	g: Plastic			
Filter: Standard	Filter Condition: Sa	itisfactory				
Operated:	When turned on b	y thermostat:	: ☑ Fired	☐ Did not fii	re	
Operation:	Satisfactory:	Yes □ No	☐ Recommend HVAC	C technician exar	<b>nine</b> □ Before closing	
Controls:	□ Disconnect		✓ Normal operating a	nd safety contro	ols observed	
Heat pump:	☐ Aux. Elec.	☐ Aux. Gas	☐ Aux. geothermal	☑ N/A		
	Emergency heat t	ested:	☐ Yes ☐ No	☑ N/A		
Others		☑ N/A				
	☐ Electric basebo	oard	☐ Radiant ceiling cable	☐ Gas space	heater	
	☐ Radiant in floor	heating	☐ Wood burning stov	e (See Remarl	ks page)	
General Commo	ents					

Furnace was in normal working order at the time of the inspection. Heat exchanger had limited visibility due to its high-efficiency design. Flue was drafting properly at the time of the inspection. Filter should be changed /cleaned on regular bases.

### **COOLING SYSTEM**

System Components		□ None			Approximate a	ge: 1 to 3 yrs
Energy source: Electric	Central air: Air C	cooled				
Operated: No	Operation: Not of	perated				
Refrigerant lines:	☐ Leak	☐ Damage	ed	☐ Insula	tion missing	☑ Satisfactory
Through wall unit(s):	☑ N/A	Operated:	☐ Yes	□ No	☐ Satisfactory	☐ Needs service
General Comments						
A/C was not operated d	ue to the outside to	emperature be				
Main Panel			: Basemen			
Maii i alici	Amps: 100 amps		Volts:120	-	Panel Type: Brea	akers
Appears grounded:	✓ Yes □ No				✓ No Operates:	
Main Wire:	Not visible	GI CI p	resent.	<b>—</b> 105	ino operaies.	
Branch Wire:	Copper					
	☑ Romex	☐ BX cabl	le	□ Condui	t	☐ Knob & tube
	☐ Multiple tappin	g 🗆 Branch				anel (see Remarks)
	<ul> <li>☐ Multiple tapping</li> <li>☐ Branch wires undersized</li> <li>☐ Federal Pacific panel (see Remarks)</li> <li>☐ Multiple tapping of main disconnect</li> <li>☐ Safety Hazard</li> </ul>					
	$\square$ Arc fault present Operates: $\square$ Yes $\square$ No $\square$ N/A (see Remarks)					
	☐ Panel not acce	ssible	☐ Not eva	luated R	eason:	
Electrical Fixtures						
A representative number	er of installed light	ing fixtures, s	witches, an	d receptac	eles located inside the	house, garage, and
exterior walls were teste	ed and found to be	:				
	☑ Satisfactory	☐ Margina		□ Poor		
	☐ Open grounds					ounded 3-prong outlets
	☐ Solid conduct			_	•	rks page)
	☐ Recommend a	a licensed elec	ctrician ev	aluate the	e service	
General Comments:						
- Control Committee		l				

Panel size appeared to be compatible to service size. Branch breaker distribution appeared normal. No signs of overheating were evident at the time of the inspection. Outlets were randomly tested and had correct polarity, except as noted.



Pic. 1: Front view



Pic. 2: AC unit





Pic. 4: Garage



Pic. 5: Minor repair / sealing to garage wall needed



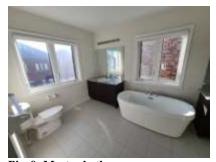
Pic. 6: Attic



Pic. 7: Attic



Pic. 8: Master bedroom



Pic. 9: Master bath



Pic. 10: Master bath



Pic. 11: Bed 2



Pic. 12: Joint ensuite



Pic. 13: Joint ensuite



Pic. 14: Bed 3



Pic. 15: Bed 4



Pic. 16: 2<sup>nd</sup> floor bath



Pic. 17: Laundry



Pic. 18: Living & Dining room



Pic. 19: Family room



Pic. 20: Eating area



Pic. 21: Kitchen



Pic. 22: Kitchen



Pic. 23: Powder room



Pic. 24: Powder room



Pic. 25: Unfinished basement



Pic. 26: Unfinished basement



Pic. 27: Rough in bathroom



Pic. 28: Rental hot water tank



Pic. 29: Gas furnace



Pic. 30: 100 amp breaker panel

### **GENERAL REMARKS**

List below are general remarks about the different areas and components of a home. These remarks are for general information purposes only and some of the information provided may not be specific to the home inspected.

#### **GROUNDS REMARKS**

#### Service Walks/Driveways

Spalling concrete cannot be patched with concrete because the new will not bond with the old. Water will freeze between the two layers, or the concrete will break up from movement or wear. Replacement of the damaged section is recommended. Walks or driveways that are close to the property should be properly pitched away to direct water away from the foundation. Asphalt driveways should be kept sealed and larger cracks filled so as to prevent damage from frost.

**Patios** that have settled towards the structure should be mudjacked or replaced to assure proper pitch. Improperly pitched patios are one source of wet basements.

#### **Exterior Wood Surfaces**

All surfaces of untreated wood need regular applications of paint or special chemicals to resist damage. Porch or deck columns and fence posts which are buried in the ground and made of untreated wood will become damaged within a year or two.

Decks should always be nailed with galvanized or aluminium nails. Decks that are not painted or stained should be treated with a water sealer.

#### **Grading and Drainage**

Any system of grading or landscaping that creates positive drainage (moving water away from the foundation walls) will help to keep a basement dry. Where negative grade exists and additional backfill is suggested, it may require digging out around the property to get a proper pitch. Dirt shall be approximately 15 cm below the bottom sill and should not touch wood surfaces.

Flower beds, loose mulched areas, railroad ties and other such landscaping items close to the foundation trap moisture and contribute to wet basements. To establish a positive grade, a proper slope away from the house is 2.5 cm per meter for approximately 1.5 to 2 meters. Recommend ground cover planting or grass to foundation.

#### **Roof and Surface Water Control**

Roof and surface water must be controlled to maintain a dry basement. This means keeping gutters cleaned out and aligned, extending downspouts, installing splash blocks, and building up the grade so that roof and surface water is diverted away from the building.

#### Window Wells

The amount of water which enters a window well from falling rain is generally slight, but water will accumulate in window wells if the yard is improperly graded. Plastic window well covers are useful in keeping out leaves and debris.

#### **Retaining Walls**

Retaining walls deteriorate because of excessive pressure build-up behind them, generally due to water accumulation. Often, conditions can be improved by excavating a trench behind the retaining wall and filling it with coarse gravel. Drain holes through the wall will then be able to relieve the water pressure.

Retaining walls sometime suffer from tree root pressure or from general movement of topsoil down the slope. Normally, these conditions require rebuilding the retaining wall.

#### Railings

It is recommended that railings be installed for any stairway over 3 steps and porches over 75 cm for safety reasons. Balusters for porches, balconies, and stairs should be close enough to assure children cannot squeeze through.

#### **ROOF COVERING REMARKS**

#### Valleys & Flashings

Valleys and flashings that are covered with shingles and/or tar or any other material are considered not visible and are not part of the inspection.

#### **Stone Roofs - Coverings**

This type of covering on a pitched roof requires ongoing annual maintenance. We recommend that a roofing contractor evaluate this type of roof. Infra-red photography is best used to determine areas of potential leaks.

#### Flat Roofs

Flat roofs are very vulnerable to leaking. It is very important to maintain proper drainage to prevent ponding of water. We recommend that a roofing contractor evaluate this type of roof.

ROOF TYPE	LIFE EXPECTANCY	SPECIAL REMARKS
Asphalt Shingles	15-20 years	Used on nearly 80% of all residential roofs; requires little maintenance
Asphalt Multi-Thickness Shingles*	20-30 years	Heavier and more durable than regular asphalt shingles
Asphalt Interlocking Shingles*	15-25 years	Especially good in high-wind areas
Asphalt Rolls	10 years	Used on low slope roofs
Built-up Roofing	10-20 years	Used on low slope roofs; 2 to 3 times as costly as asphalt shingles
Wood Shingles*	10-40 years <sup>1</sup>	Treat with preservative every 5 years to prevent decay
Clay Tiles* Cement Tiles*	20 + years 20 + years	Durable, fireproof, but not watertight, requiring a good subsurface base
Slate Shingles*	30-100 years <sup>2</sup>	Extremely durable, but brittle and expensive
Asbestos Cement Shingles*	30-75 years	Durable, but brittle and difficult to repair
Metal Roofing	15-40 + years	Comes in sheets & shingles; should be well grounded for protection from lightning; certain metals must be painted
Single Ply Membrane	15-25 years (mfgr's claim)	New material; not yet passed test of time

Roof covering should be visually checked in spring and fall for any visible missing shingles, damaged coverings or other defects. Before re-roofing, the underside of the roof structure and roof sheathing should be inspected to determine that the roof structure can support the additional weight of the shingles.

Wood shakes and shingles will vary in aging, due to quality of the material, installation, maintenance, and surrounding shade trees. Ventilation and drying of the wood material is critical in extending the life expectancy of the wood. Commercial preservatives are available on the market, which could be applied to wood to impede deterioration.

<sup>\*</sup> Not recommended for use on low slope roof 1 Depending on local conditions and proper installation

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>2</sup> Depending on quality of slate

#### CHIMNEY / GUTTERS / SIDING / TRIM REMARKS

#### Chimneys

Chimneys built of masonry will eventually need tuck pointing. A cracked chimney top that allows water and carbonic acid to get behind the surface brick/stone will accelerate the deterioration. Moisture will also deteriorate the clay flue liner. Periodic chimney cleaning will keep you apprised of the chimney's condition. The flashing around the chimney may need resealing and should be inspected every year or two. Fireplace chimneys should be inspected and evaluated by a chimney professional before using. Chimneys must be adequate height for proper drafting. Spark arrestors are recommended for wood burning chimney and chimney caps for fossil fuels

Unlined Chimney - should be re-evaluated by a chimney technician.

**Have flue cleaned and re-evaluated.** The flue lining is covered with soot or creosote and no representation can be made as to the condition.

NOT EVALUATED- The flue was not evaluated due to inaccessibility such as roof pitch, cap, cleanout not accessible, etc.

#### **Cricket Flashing**

Small, sloped structure made of metal and designed to drain moisture away from a chimney. Crickets are usually placed at the back of a chimney.

#### **Gutters and Downspouts**

This is an extremely important element in basement dampness control. Keep gutters clean and downspout extensions in place (1.25 meters or more). Paint the inside of galvanized gutters, which will extend the life. Shortly after a rain or thaw in winter, look for leaks at seams in the gutters. These can be re-caulked before they cause damage to fascia or soffit boards. If no gutters exist, it is recommended that they be added.

#### **Siding**

Wood siding should not come in contact with the ground. The moisture will cause rotting to take place and can attract carpenter ants.

**EIFS** - This type of siding has experienced serious problems and requires a certified EIFS inspector to determine condition.

Brick and stone veneer must be monitored for loose or missing mortar. Some brick and stone are susceptible to spalling. This can be caused when moisture is trapped and a freeze/thaw situation occurs. There are products on the market that can be used to seal out the moisture. This holds true for brick and stone chimneys also.

Metal sidings will dent and scratch. Oxidation is a normal reaction in aluminum. There are good cleaners on the market and it is recommended that they be used occasionally. Metal siding can be painted.

#### **Doors and Windows**

These can waste an enormous amount of energy. Maintain the caulking around the frames on the exterior. Check for drafts in the winter and improve the worst offenders first. Windows that have leaky storm windows will usually have a lot of sweating. Likewise, well-sealed storms that sweat indicate a leaky window. It is the tighter unit that will sweat (unless the home has excess humidity to begin with.)

Wood that exhibits blistering or peeling paint should be examined for possible moisture sources: roof leaks, bad gutters, interior moisture from baths or laundry or from a poorly vented crawl space. Some paint problems have no logical explanation, but many are a symptom of an underlying problem. A freshly painted house may mask these symptoms, but after you have lived in the home for a year or two, look for localized paint blistering (peeling). It may be a clue.

New glazing will last longer if the raw wood is treated with boiled linseed oil prior to glazing. It prevents the wood from drawing the moisture out of the new glazing.

#### Caulking

Many different types of caulk are available on the market today. Check with a paint or hardware store for the kind of application you need.

#### EXTERIOR / ELECTRICAL / AC / GARAGE REMARKS

#### **Exterior Doors**

The exposed side of wood exterior doors needs to be painted or stained and varnished to prevent discolouring and delamination. Weather-stripping is a must to prevent drafts.

#### **Electrical**

Overhead wires from the mast to the main panel that are exposed to the weather may fray and crack. If this occurs, wires should be replaced by a licensed electrician.

Any outdoor overhead service conductor wires should have adequate clearance above the ground (3 meters) and from balcony and windows (1 meter), for safety reasons.

Underground system - Some exterior boxes that are at ground level have a grade line on them. You should insure that the grade remains below this line to prevent moisture from entering the main panel.

#### **Overhead Door Openers**

We recommend that a separate electrical outlet be provided. Openers that do not have a safety reverse are considered a safety hazard. Small children and pets are especially vulnerable. We recommend the operating switches be set high enough so children cannot reach them. If an electric sensor is present, it should be tested occasionally to ensure it is working.

#### **Garage Sill Plates**

Sill plates within the garage should be elevated or treated lumber should be used. If this is not the case, try to direct water away to prevent rotting.

#### A/C Compressors

They should not become overgrown with foliage. Clearance requirements vary, but 60 cm on all sides should be considered minimal with up to 2 meters of air discharge desirable. If a clothes dryer vent is within five to ten feet, either relocate the vent or do not run when the A/C is running. The lint will quickly reduce the efficiency of the A/C unit.

#### **Burners**

Any appliance such as a water heater, furnace, etc. should have the flame a minimum of 45 cm above the floor. Any open flame less than 45 cm from the floor is a potential safety hazard. The appliance should also be protected from vehicle damage.

#### **KITCHEN / LAUNDRY / UTILITY ROOM REMARKS**

#### Plaster on Wood Lath

Plaster on wood lath is an old technique and is no longer in general use. Wood lath shrinks with time and the nails rust and loosen. As a result, the plaster may become fragile and caution is needed in working with this type of plastering system. Sagging ceilings are best repaired by laminating drywall over the existing plaster and screwing it to the ceiling joists.

#### Plaster on Gypsum Lath (Rock Lath)

Plaster on gypsum lath will sometimes show the seams of the 40 cm wide gypsum lath, but this does not indicate a structural fault. The scalloping appearance can be levelled with drywall joint compound and fibreglass mesh joint tape or drywall can be laminated over the existing plaster on the ceiling.

#### **Wood Flooring**

Always attempt to clean wood floors first before making the decision to refinish the floor. Wax removers and other mild stripping agents plus a good waxing and buffing will usually produce satisfactory results. Mild bleaching agents help remove deep stains. Sanding removes some of the wood in the floor and can usually be done safely only once or twice in the life of the floor.

#### **Nail Pops**

Drywall nail pops are due to normal expansion and contraction of the wood members to which the drywall is nailed, and are usually of no structural significance.

#### Carpeting

Where carpeting has been installed, the materials and condition of the floor underneath cannot be determined.

#### **Appliances**

Dishwashers are tested to see if the motor operates and water sprays properly (full cycles are not run). Stoves are tested to see that burners are working and oven and broiler get hot. Timer and controls are not tested. Refrigerators are not tested.

No representation is made to continued life expectancy of any appliance.

#### **Asbestos and Other Hazards**

Asbestos fibres in some form are present in many homes, but are often not visible and cannot be identified without testing.

If there is reason to suspect that asbestos may be present and if it is of particular concern, a sample of the material in question may be removed and analyzed in a laboratory. *However, detecting or inspecting for the presence or absence of asbestos is not a part of our inspection.* 

Also excluded from this inspection and report are the possible presence of, or danger from, radon gas, lead-based paint, urea formaldehyde, toxic or flammable chemicals and all other similar or potentially harmful substances and environmental hazards.

#### **Windows**

A representative number of windows are inspected.

#### **BATHROOM REMARKS**

#### Stall Shower

The metal shower pan in a stall shower has a potential or probable life of 10-20 years depending on quality of the pan installed. Although a visible inspection is made to determine whether a shower pan is currently leaking, it cannot be stated with certainty that no defect is present or that one may not soon develop. Shower pan leaks often do not show except when the shower is in actual use.

#### **Ceramic Tile**

Bathroom tile installed in a mortar bed is excellent. It is still necessary to keep the joint between the tile and the tub/shower caulked or sealed to prevent water spillage from leaking through and damaging the ceilings below.

Ceramic tile is often installed in mastic. It is important to keep the tile caulked or water will seep behind the tile and cause deterioration in the wallboard. Special attention should be paid to the area around faucets and other tile penetrations.

#### **Exhaust Fans**

Bathrooms with a shower should have exhaust fans where possible. This helps to remove excess moisture from the room, preventing damage to the ceiling and walls and wood finishes. The exhaust fan should not be vented into the attic. The proper way to vent the fans is to the outside. Running the vent pipe horizontally and venting into a gable end or soffit is preferred. Running the vent pipe vertically through the roof may cause condensation to run down the vent pipe, rusting the fan and damaging the wallboard. Insulating the vent pipe in the attic will help to reduce this problem.

SLOW DRAINS on sinks, tubs, and showers are usually due to build-up of hair and soap scum. Most sink pop-ups can be easily removed for cleaning. Some tubs have a spring attached to the closing lever that acts as a catch for hair. It may require removing a couple of screws to disassemble. If you cannot mechanically remove the obstruction, be kind to your pipes. Don't use a caustic cleaner. There are several bacteria drain cleaners available. They are available at hardware stores in areas where septic tanks are used. These drain cleaners take a little longer to work, but are safe for you and your pipes.

#### Safety Hazards

Typical safety hazards found in bathrooms are open grounds or reverse polarity by water. Replacing these outlets with G.F.C.I.'s are recommended. (See Electrical section)

#### Whirlpool Tubs

This relates to interior tubs hooked up to interior plumbing. Where possible, the motor will be operated to see that the jets are working. Hot tubs and spas are not inspected.

## **ROOMS (INTERIOR) REMARKS**

#### **Door Stops**

All swinging doors should be checked for door stops. Broken or missing door stops can result in door knobs breaking through drywall or plaster.

#### **Closet Guides**

Sliding closet doors should be checked to see that closet guides are in place. Missing or broken closet guides can cause scratches and damage to doors.

#### **Cold Air Returns**

Bedrooms that do not have cold air returns in them should have a 1.75 cm gap under the doors to allow cold air to be drawn into the hall return.

#### AN INSPECTION VERSUS A WARRANTY

A home inspection is just what the name indicates, an inspection of a home...usually a home that is being purchased. The purpose of the inspection is to determine the condition of the various systems and structures of the home. While an inspection performed by a competent inspection firm will determine the condition of the major components of the home, no inspection will pick up every minute latent defect. The inspector's ability to find all defects is limited by access to various parts of the property, lack of information about the property and many other factors. A good inspector will do his or her level best to determine the condition of the home and to report it accurately. The report that is issued is an opinion as to the condition of the home. This opinion is arrived at by the best technical methods available to the home inspection industry. It is still only an opinion.

A warranty is a policy sold to the buyer that warrants that specific items in the home are in sound condition and will remain in sound condition for a specified period of time. Typically, the warranty company never inspects the home. The warranty company uses actuarial tables to determine the expected life of the warranted items and charges the customer a fee for the warranty that will hopefully cover any projected loss and make a profit for the warranty seller. It is essentially an insurance policy.

The service that we have provided you is an inspection. We make no warranty of this property. If you desire warranty coverage, please see your real estate agent for details about any warranty plan to which their firm may have access.

#### WINDOWS / FIREPLACES / ATTIC REMRKS

#### Window Frames and Sills

Window frames and sills often are found to have surface deterioration due to condensation that has run off the window and damaged the varnish. Usually this can be repaired with a solvent style refinisher and fine steel wool. This is sometimes a sign of excess humidity in the house.

See comments regarding caulking doors and windows above (Chimneys/Gutters/Siding).

#### **Fireplaces**

It is important that a fireplace be cleaned on a routine basis to prevent the build-up of creosote in the flue, which can cause a chimney fire.

Masonry fireplace chimneys are normally required to have a terra cotta flue liner or 8 inches of masonry surrounding each flue in order to be considered safe and to conform to most building codes.

During visual inspections, it is not uncommon to be unable to detect the absence of a flue liner either because of stoppage at the firebox, a defective damper or lack of access from the roof.

#### **Wood burners**

Once installed, it can be difficult to determine proper clearances for wood burning stoves. Manufacturer specifications, which are not usually available to the inspector, determine the proper installation. We recommend you ask the owner for paperwork verifying that it was installed by a professional contractor.

#### Ventilation

Ventilation is recommended at the rate of one square foot of vent area to 300 square feet of attic floor space, this being divided between soffit and rooftop. Power vents should ideally have both a humidistat and a thermostat, since ventilation is needed to remove winter moisture as well as summer heat. Evidence of condensation, such as blackened roof sheathing, frost on nail heads, etc. is an indication that ventilation may have been or is blocked or inadequate.

#### Insulation

The recommended insulation in the attic area is R-38, approximately 30cm. If insulation is added, it is important that the ventilation is proper.

#### **Smoke Detectors**

Smoke detectors should be tested monthly. At least one detector should be on each level.

#### Vapour Barriers

The vapour barrier should be on the warm side of the surface. Older homes were often built without vapour barriers. If the vapour barrier is towards the cold side of the surface, it should be sliced or removed. Most vapour barriers in the attic are covered by insulation and therefore, not visible.

#### Safety Glazing

Safety glazing requirements vary depending on the age of the home. Every attempt is made to identify areas where the lack of safety glazing presents an immediate safety hazard, such as a shower door. In some older homes it is difficult to determine if safety glazing is present, since the glass is not marked. Therefore, no representation is made that safety glazing exists in all appropriate areas.

#### **Insulated Glass**

The broken seals are not always detectable due to dirty windows, covered windows, etc. In most cases, leaking glass seals take some time before they are evident.

#### **BASEMENT REMARKS**

#### **Basement**

Any basement that has cracks or leaks is technically considered to have failed. Most block basements have step cracks in various areas. If little or no movement has occurred, and the step cracks are uniform, this is considered acceptable. Horizontal cracks in the third or fourth block down indicate the block has moved due to outside pressure. They can be attributed to many factors, such as improper grading, improperly functioning gutter and downspout system, etc. Normally, if little or no movement has taken place and proper grading and downspouts exist, this is considered acceptable. If the wall containing the stress crack(s) has moved considerably, this will require some method of reinforcement. Basements that have been freshly painted or tuck-pointed should be monitored for movement. This will be indicated by cracks reopening. If cracks reappear, reinforcement may be necessary. Reinforcing a basement wall can become expensive.

#### **Foundation (Covered Walls)**

Although an effort has been made to note any major inflections or weaknesses, it is difficult at best to detect these areas when walls are finished off, or basement storage makes areas inaccessible. *No representation is made as to the condition of these walls.* 

**Monitor** indicates that the walls have stress cracks, but little movement has occurred. In our opinion, the cracks should be filled with mortar and the walls monitored for further movement and cracking. If additional movement or cracking occurs, re-enforcements may be necessary.

**Have Evaluated** — we recommend that the walls be re-evaluated by a structural engineer or basement repair company and estimates be obtained if work is required.

#### **Vapour Barrier**

Floors that are dirt or gravel should be covered with a vapour barrier.

#### **Moisture Present**

Basement dampness is frequently noted in houses and in most cases the stains, moisture or efflorescence present is a symptom denoting that a problem exists outside the home. Usual causes are improper downspout extensions or leaking gutters and/or low or improper grade (including concrete surfaces) at the perimeter of the house. A proper slope away from the house is one inch per foot for four to six feet.

Expensive solutions to basement dampness are frequently offered, and it is possible to spend thousands of dollars on solutions such as pumping out water that has already entered or pumping of chemical preparations into the ground around the house, when all that may be necessary are a few common sense solutions at the exterior perimeter. However, this is not intended to be an exhaustive list of causes and solutions to the presence of moisture. *No representation is made to future moisture that may appear.* 

#### **Palmer Valve**

Many older homes have a valve in the floor drain. This drain needs to remain operational.

#### **Drain Tile**

We offer no opinion about the existence or condition of the drain tile, as it cannot be visibly inspected.

#### **Basement Electrical Outlets**

We recommend that you have an outlet within 2 meters of each appliance. The appliance you plan to install may be different than what exists; therefore the inspection includes testing a representative number of receptacles that exist. It is also recommended to have ground fault circuit interrupts for any outlet in the unfinished part of the basement and crawl spaces.

#### PLUMBING REMARKS

#### Wells

**Examination of wells is not included in this visual inspection.** It is recommended that you have well water checked for purity by the local health authorities and, if possible, a check on the flow of the well in periods of drought. A well pit should have a locked cover on it to prevent anyone from falling into the pit.

#### **Septic Systems**

The check of septic systems is not included in our visual inspection. You should have the local health authorities or other qualified experts check the condition of a septic system.

In order for the septic system to be checked, the house must have been occupied within the last 30 days.

#### **Water Pipes**

Galvanized water pipes rust from the inside out and may have to be replaced within 20 to 30 years. This is usually done in two stages: horizontal piping in the basement first and vertical pipes throughout the house later as needed.

Copper pipes usually have more life expectancy and may last as long as 60 years before needing to be replaced.

Polybutylene pipes are grey pipes that have a history of failure and should be examined by a licensed plumber.

#### **Hose Bibs**

During the winter months it is necessary to make sure the outside faucets are winterized. This can be done by means of a valve located in the basement. Leave the outside faucets open to allow any water standing in the pipes to drain, preventing them from freezing. Hose bibs cannot be tested when winterized.

#### Water Heater

The life expectancy of a water heater is 5-10 years. Water heaters generally need not be replaced unless they leak. It is a good maintenance practice to drain 5-10 gallons from the heater several times a year. *Missing relief valves or improper extension present a safety hazard.* 

#### **Water Softeners**

During a visual inspection, it is not possible to determine if water is being properly softened.

#### **Plumbing**

The temperature/pressure valve should be tested several times a year by lifting the valve's handle. Caution: very hot water will be discharged. If no water comes out, the valve is defective and must be replaced.

#### **Shut-Off Valves**

Most shut-off valves have not been operated for long periods of time. We recommend operating each shut-off valve to: toilet bowl, water heater, under sinks, main shut-off, hose faucets, and all others. We recommend you have a plumber do this, as some of the valves may need to be repacked or replaced. Once the valves are in proper operating order, we recommend opening and closing these valves several times a year.

#### **Polybutylene Piping**

This type of piping has a history of problems and should be examined by a licensed plumber and repaired or replaced as necessary.

MECHANICAL DEVICES MAY OPERATE AT ONE MOMENT AND LATER MALFUNCTION;
THEREFORE, LIABILITY IS SPECIFICALLY LIMITED TO THOSE SITUATIONS WHERE IT CAN BE
CONCLUSIVELY SHOWN THAT THE MECHANICAL DEVICE INSPECTED WAS INOPERABLE OR IN
THE IMMEDIATE NEED OF REPAIR OR NOT PERFORMING THE FUNCTION FOR WHICH IS IT WAS
INTENDED AT THE TIME OF INSPECTION.

#### **HEATING SYSTEM REMARKS**

**HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING** units have limited lives. Normal lives are:

GAS-FIRED HOT AIR	15-25 years
OIL-FIRED HOT AIR	.20-30 years
CAST IRON BOILER	. 30-50 years
(Hot water or steam)	or more
STEEL BOILER	. 30-40 years
(Hot water or steam)	or more
COPPER BOILER	. 10-20 years
(Hot water or steam)	
CIRCULATING PUMP (Hot water)	
AIR CONDITIONING COMPRESSOR.	8-12 years
HEAT PUMP	8-12 years

Gas-fired hot air units that are close to or beyond their normal lives have the potential of becoming a source of carbon monoxide in the home. You may want to have such a unit checked every year or so to assure yourself that it is still intact. Of course, a unit of such an age is a good candidate for replacement with one of the new, high efficiency furnaces. The fuel savings alone can be very attractive.

Boilers and their systems may require annual attention. If you are not familiar with your system, have a heating contractor come out in the fall to show you how to do the necessary things. *Caution: do not add water to a hot boiler!* 

Forced air systems should have filters changed every 30 to 60 days of the heating and cooling season. This is especially true if you have central air conditioning. A dirty air system can lead to premature failure of your compressor - a \$1,500 machine.

Oil-fired furnaces and boilers should be serviced by a professional each year. Most experts agree you will pay for the service cost in fuel saved by having a properly tuned burner.

Read the instructions for maintaining the humidifier on your furnace. A malfunctioning humidifier can rust out a furnace rather quickly. It is recommended that the humidifier be serviced at the same time as the furnace, and be cleaned regularly. *During a visual inspection it is not possible to determine if the humidifier is working.* 

**Have HVAC Technician Examine** - A condition was found that suggests a heating contractor should do a further analysis. We suggest doing this before closing.

Heat exchangers cannot be examined nor their condition determined without being disassembled. Since this is not possible during a visual, non-technically exhaustive inspection, you may want to obtain a service contract on the unit or contact a furnace technician regarding a more thorough examination.

Testing pilot safety switch requires blowing out the pilot light. Checking safety limit controls requires disconnecting blower motor or using other means beyond the scope of this inspection. If furnace has not been serviced in last 12 months, you may want to have a furnace technician examine.

**CO Test** - This is not part of a non-technical inspection.

**Combustible Gas Test (Potential Safety Hazard)** - If a combustible gas detector was used during the inspection of the furnace and evidence of possible combustible gases was noted, we caution you that our test instrument is sensitive to many gases and not a foolproof test. None-the-less, this presents the <u>possibility</u> that a hazard exists and could indicate that the heat exchanger is, or will soon be, defective.

#### **COOLING SYSTEM / ELECTRICAL REMARKS**

#### **Electrical**

Every effort has been made to evaluate the size of the service. Three wires going into the home indicate 240 volts. The total amps are sometimes difficult to determine. We highly recommend that ground fault circuit interrupters (G.F.C.I.) be connected to all outlets around water. This device automatically opens the circuit when it senses a current leak to ground. This device can be purchased in most hardware stores. G.F.C.I.'s are recommended by all outlets located near water, outside outlets, or garage outlets. Pool outlets should also be protected with a G.F.C.I.

The G.F.C.I. senses the flow of electricity through a circuit. If more current is flowing through the black ("hot") wire than the white ("neutral") wire, there is a current leakage. The G.F.C.I., which can sense a ground leak of as little as .005 amps, will shut off the current in 1/40 of a second, which is fast enough to prevent injury.

If you do have G.F.C.I.'s, it is recommended that you test (and reset) them monthly. When you push the test button, the reset button should pop out, shutting off the circuit. If it doesn't, the breaker is not working properly. If you don't test them once a month, the breakers have a tendency to stick, and may not protect you when needed.

Knob and tube wiring found in older homes should be checked by an electrician to insure that the wire cover is in good condition. Under no circumstances should this wire be covered with insulation. Recess light fixtures should have a baffle around them so that they are not covered with insulation. The newer recessed fixtures will shut off if they overheat.

Federal Pacific electrical panels may be unsafe. See www.google.com and search for "Federal Pacific" for additional and up-to-date information.

Aluminum wiring in general lighting circuits has a history of overheating, with the potential of a fire. If this type of wiring exists, a licensed electrical contractor should examine the whole system.

#### **Arc Faults**

In some areas, arc faults are required in new homes, starting in 2002. These control outlets in the bedrooms.

#### **Reverse Polarity**

A common problem that surfaces in many homes is reverse polarity. This is a potentially hazardous situation in which the hot and neutral wires of a circuit are reversed at the outlet, thereby allowing the appliance to incorrectly be connected. This is an inexpensive item to correct.

Each receptacle has a brass and silver screw. The black wire should be wired to the brass screw and the white wire should go to the silver screw. When these wires are switched, this is called "reverse polarity". Turning off the power and switching these wires will correct the problem.

Main service wiring for housing is typically 240 volts. The minimum capacity for newer homes is 100 amps, though many older homes still have 60 amp service. Larger homes or all electric homes will likely have a 200 amp service.

Main service wiring may be protected by one or more circuit breakers or fuses. While most areas allow up to six main turnoffs, expanding from these panels is generally not allowed.

#### Cooling

**Testing A/C System and Heat Pump** - The circuit breakers to A/C should be on for a minimum of 24 hours and the outside temperature at least 15 ° C for the past 24 hours or an A/C system cannot be operated without possible damage to the compressor. Check the instructions in your A/C manual or on the outside compressor before starting up in the summer. Heat pump can only be tested in the mode it's running in. Outside temperature should be at least 15 ° C for the past 24 hours to run in cooling mode.

Temperature differential, between 7°-15°, is usually acceptable. If out of this range, have an HVAC contractor examine it. It is not always feasible to do a differential test due to high humidity, low outside temperature, etc.