

## Was Your Last Home Inspector Blind?

# Learn Seven Things You Must Know To Avoid Hiring The Wrong Home Inspector!

### 1. Get a Home Inspector With Lots Of Experience:

It takes a full time inspector at least 50 inspections to start to develop the eyes, ears and nose for hunting down problems. Part-time home inspectors simply don't have the time in the field to develop that radar. Be sure to ask how many inspections the inspector conducts annually and how many years he/she has been doing them. **A quality full time home inspector conducts between 300 and 400 inspections annually - blind inspectors conduct 50 to 100 inspections annually.** Conducting 300-400 inspections each year requires extensive referrals, by prior clients, lenders, real estate agents and others -- so there is a much greater chance the inspector is not blind!

**(All of Safe & Sound's Inspectors conduct 300-400 inspections annually and they conduct 250 inspections before they receive their ASHI certification!)**

### 2. Education & Training:

Being a contractor is very different from being a Professional Home Inspector. Home Inspectors are responsible for evaluating all of the systems and components of the home -- not just one aspect, like the brick or the framing. To be able to provide a competent evaluation of all of these elements takes formal education and training. Did the inspector attend one of the top home inspection schools like **Kaplan's Inspection Training Associates (ITA)**? **Or, did he complete a correspondence course, or worse have his brother-in-law, Bubba show him how to inspect?**

Upon completion of the inspector's formal education did he complete a comprehensive training program where he completed multiple home inspections with a seasoned professional in the field? Or did the inspector learn on the job at the **Buyers expense?** If the inspector is a one-man operation, then who is checking the quality of the inspector's work? Engineering and technology in today's home is becoming more sophisticated all the time. Comprehensive continuing education and training is a must!

**(All of Safe & Sound's Inspectors are formally trained by ITA, the only ASHI-endorsed training program!)**

### 3. Certifications:

While certifications are certainly important, it's the combination of Experience, Education and Training that make the difference in the competency of your next home inspector. Certifications let the world know that the inspector can pass a test not that he can inspect a home properly. We all know people who are certified for one thing or another that we wouldn't hire under any circumstances. **There is simply no substitute for experience and proper training.**

**(All of Safe & Sound's Inspectors have certification requirements and take 20 hours of continuing education each year!)**

### 4. The Inspection Report:

The top home inspectors in today's business don't produce handwritten reports. A professional inspector will provide a combination checklist/narrative report. Technology has evolved where you should expect to receive a full-color report, with digital photographs of the issues discovered during the course of the inspection. The report should provide "Summary Pages" with specific categories like Action Items, Repair/Maintain Items, Safety Issues, etc.

The report should **not** contain repair costs or action plans for repairs. Professional home inspectors inspect -- they don't repair! **An inspector that makes repairs should always be avoided due to the conflict of interest inherent in that situation.**

**Ask for a sample of an inspection report** so you'll know what you can expect for your time and money. After all, you are the client!

**(Safe & Sound provides reports with clear executive summaries and color digital photographs. Ask us for a sample report!)**

### 5. How Long Has The Inspection Company Been In Business?

Is the inspection company locally owned and operated or are they some far away faceless corporation where no one is monitoring and evaluating the quality of their work? If you are dealing with a multi-inspector firm, how long has the inspection company been in business? Does the inspection company have dedicated employees serving as customer service representatives to schedule appointments and provide any needed follow up assistance?

**(Safe & Sound is Locally Owned and Operated since 2002. We have over 2,000 satisfied clients in Metro Denver!)**



## 6. Ask To See What Other Home Buyers Have Said About The Inspector:

Quality Professional Home Inspectors ask their client's to complete comment cards upon completion of the inspection. Professional Inspectors want to know what they are doing right, as well as what might need improvement. If the inspector can't or won't provide client referrals, he might be blind in more ways than one!

**(Safe & Sound clients gladly provide their feedback on our Inspectors and we'll be glad to share it with you!)**

## 7. Is the Inspector Insured?

Professional inspectors carry liability insurance. Home inspection is a complex process with many variables involved. And believe it or not, the profession's best inspectors could make a mistake. Does the inspection company carry professional liability insurance that protects the home buyer? Many part-time companies are not insured because it's too expensive for a fly-by-night type of operation. Insist on an inspector who is insured.

**(Safe & Sound carries general and professional liability insurance to \$1,000,000. We've never used our policy, but it's there for you just in case.)**

**Call now!**

**Our scheduler is ready to take your order Monday through Saturday  
303-730-SAFE (7233)**

**SAFE & SOUND HOME INSPECTION**