



Look carefully when buying a home

Posted on: 22/03/2019

What a boring topic- building inspections: but this action could really save you \$\$\$\$.

There are many things you need to do before you finally commit to buying a property. At Next Address, we believe this one is vital - a building inspection.

Property is the most expensive item you'll ever buy. Similar to a car, you wouldn't buy a \$60,000 secondhand car without having your mechanic check out all of the things that you wouldn't know to look for. Your mechanic will be able to tell you that even though the seller has provided a roadworthy certificate, it turns out that the car has been in an accident or may need some major work in the near future. This works exactly the same for building inspections.

While it may not be the intention to deceive the buyer, sometimes the seller doesn't actually notice things that are wrong with the house because appearance-wise - it looks great!

A registered building inspector will examine everything within the building and identify all of its weak spots and issues that may arise over the lifetime of the house. They check aspects such as:

1. Electrical work on the property such as faulty wiring, old and frayed cables
2. Plumbing and drainage conditions such as water pressure, rattling noise in pipes
3. Windows and doors - are there gaps that allow heat to escape and cost you potential thousands extra in bills?
4. Fittings and fixtures within the home - an overeager seller might install some DIY fixtures without checking if it's actually strong enough to hold anything other than a picture frame
5. All joinery such as kitchen cabinets, cupboards, etc
6. Walls and the issues of hidden mould, rising damp and possible degradation of structure
7. Under floor space and the issue of hidden mould and squeaky floor boards
8. Roof and roof space - can the roof space hold more than a couple of boxes? Is it well insulated? Is the tiling on the roof clean and free of mould?
9. Driveways - uneven slopes, potential hazards
10. Outbuildings - the risk of sheds not being built professionally and possibly collapsing
11. Guttering and downpipes - easy to overlook gutters and downpipes that are old and leaking or causing blockages

While a building inspection may seem expensive, it will never be as expensive as having to deal with an unexpected hole in the roof that has been leaking water into your ceiling causing a large patch of unsightly mould.

Building inspectors are not here to estimate the cost of repairing these issues, they are only here to report on major issues that are currently causing a problem or will cause a problem down the line.

Building inspections are carried out by qualified, accredited, licensed, and insured building inspectors. Building inspectors adhere to Australian Standards such as Australian Standard 4349, and conduct themselves in the most professional manner.

Similar to a car report, the building inspection report you receive should be written in easy to understand plain English - free from jargon - and contains all of the information as stated above.

It's important to get a quote first as well as an estimate of how long the inspection will take, typically a standard size home should take roughly four hours.

While buyers can elect to have a building inspected, sellers are not obliged to give buyers their own inspection reports - but it's good to have one, as a seller, as it will give you peace of mind that there will be no unexpected problems popping up that you have to solve.

Next Address has a network of Inspectors available to carry out the required work. Also, check out our [community forum](#) and ask for any tips from our network of professionals.

Not only will getting an inspection to protect you from unexpected problems down the track, but it could also save you hundreds of thousands of dollars in the long run.

For example, if you find out that the home you are looking at purchasing has a massive mould problem in the bathroom that would require thousands of dollars to fix - you would probably choose to pass up on the house and rather opt for one that has fewer issues or less expensive issues.

Jump on to the [Next Address Community Forum here](#). You will find an array of Property Experts. Free solid property advice is waiting for you.

[Julie O'Donohue](#)

Updated on 23/3/2019

<https://nextaddress.com.au/blog/look-carefully-when-buying-a-home>