

HOME Buyer/Seller™ issue 1

THE INFORMED

What Home Inspectors See that You Can't

When you make an offer on a home, it's a smart idea to have a professional home inspector check it out from top to bottom. This inspection will ensure that the property doesn't have any unexpected "issues". After all, you don't want to buy a home only to discover that the roof needs to be replaced, immediately, for thousands of dollars.

That being said, you might question whether you really need to invest the few hundred dollars it costs for a professional home inspection. "The home we want to buy looks like it's in very good shape," you might be thinking. "I can't see anything wrong with it."

However, a professional home inspector can see things you can't. When you view a property that's on the market, you might be able to notice obvious issues, like a crack in the foundation or a dripping faucet. If you're experienced with home maintenance, you might even notice roofing tiles that look like they're overdue for replacement.

But you won't pick up all the issues a home inspector can.

A home inspector will, for example, use a special device to check for moisture build-up in the washrooms – which can be an indication of



mould. He or she will also inspect wiring to make sure everything is safe and compliant with the building code.

That's not all.

Like a determined detective, a home inspector will investigate the property's structure, electrical and plumbing systems, insulation, and other components — and then report the findings to you.

In the end, a professional home inspection gives you peace-of-mind and protects your investment. So getting one is highly recommended — even for recently built homes.

A good REALTOR® can recommend a trusted home inspector for you.

Looking for more ideas on making smart decisions when buying a home? Call today.

Keeping Houseplants Alive when You're Away

When you're out-of-town, there are plenty of kennels and other facilities that will mind your dog or cat. In fact, the pet-care business is booming! However, the same options aren't available for your houseplants. So what do you do?

First, keep in mind that plants can go for several days or even a couple of weeks without water. This frequently happens in their natural habitats. So if you're gone for just a few days, your flora will probably be fine.

Flowering plants tend to need the most water. Give them an extra dose just before you leave. Also, make sure they are in indirect, rather than direct sunlight. That will help them conserve water.

If you're going to be away for a week or more, consider one of the several products on the market that water plants automatically. Many of these allow you to adjust how much water each plant gets — and when.

You'll find plenty of do-it-yourself instructions for making your own automatic waterer on the internet, from plastic cups with tiny holes in the bottom to upside-down bottles with wicks. These might work, but you'll want to test them first.

Of course, your best option might be to have a friend or trusted neighbour take care of the plants for you. Just be sure to give them clear instructions.

Your houseplants will thank you.

Think, Act... Live!

"If nothing ever changes, there'd be no butterflies." [Unkown](#)

"The simple act of paying positive attention to people has a great deal to do with productivity." [Tom Peters](#)

"Never allow a person to tell you No who doesn't have the power to say Yes." [Eleanor Roosevelt](#)