

Natural stone countertops, which are less expensive than they were a few years ago, are gaining popularity and are expected to last a lifetime. Cultured marble countertops have a life expectancy of about 20 years.

Source: The National Association of Home Builders/Bank of America Home Equity Study of the Life Expectancies of Home Components

Home Inspection Know-How

Whether you are buying a home or selling one, a home inspection is an essential part of the process. It may identify the need for major repairs or uncover builder oversights, as well as highlight the importance of maintenance to keep the home in good shape. The inspection typically will take place after the contract or purchase agreement has been signed. Before you sign, be sure there is an inspection clause in the sales contract, making your final purchase obligation contingent on the findings of a professional home inspection. This clause should specify the terms and conditions to which the buyer and seller are obligated.

The American Society of Home Inspectors (www.ashi.org) publishes a Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics that outlines what you should expect to be included in your home inspection report. Generally, it will cover the conditions of the following:

- heating system
- central air conditioning system (temperature permitting)
- interior plumbing and electrical systems
- roof, attic and visible insulation
- walls, ceilings, floors, windows and doors
- foundation, basement and structural components

Fees for a home inspection vary geographically and depend on factors such as the size of the house, its age and optional services such as septic, well or radon testing.

To find a qualified home inspector, ask your agent as well as friends or business acquaintances for recommendations.



DID YOU KNOW?

A growing focus on the environment and sustainable products continues to push natural, earthy hues to the forefront. Yellows and blues, leaf-like greens and organic browns bring the outdoors in.

Source: The Rohm and Haas Paint Quality Institute



Do you know someone who is thinking about buying or selling a home? Please mention my name.

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If you are currently working with another real estate agent or broker, it is not a solicitation for business.

