

# First-Time Home Buyer Checklist

Unfortunately, some home sellers take shortcuts to cover up damage and make temporary repairs. Consult this list to thoroughly inspect a potential new home.

Always have a professional inspect these important areas:

- Well & Pump
- Roof
- Ventilation
- Electrical
- Septic System
- HVAC System
- Attic & Insulation
- Plumbing
- Pest/Termites
- Chimney

## Property Inspection Checklist

### Location, Location, Location

- Will you need four-wheel drive to get up your driveway?
- Is the home under a major flight path from a nearby airport?
- Are there railroad tracks that run close to the home?
- Is there a creek or a river nearby that has ever flooded?

### Ask About Utilities

- Does the home use natural gas, propane or electric?
- How much are heating and cooling bills?
- Does water come from a well or the city?
- Is there a water softening system?
- Can you access high-speed internet or cable television?

### Suspicious Odors

- Have any pets lived in the home?
- Are there mold or mildew problems?

### Plumbing & Waste Management

- Does the home use holding tanks, a septic field or a sewer?
- When were the holding tanks or septic field last pumped?
- Where are the tanks and could there be a potential issue?
- How are trash and recycling handled?
- Is there a history of clogged sewer lines?

### Questionable Landscaping

- Are there trees that will require removal?
- Are there lawn care requirements from the township or HOA?
- Will hardscapes require any maintenance or repair?

### Exterior Lookouts

- Are there any signs of water intrusion?
- Does the home have gutters?
- If not, is there good drainage away from the home?
- How old are the roof shingles?
- When was the last time the house was painted?

### Interior Considerations

- Are the interior walls drywall or plaster?
- How well is the house insulated and where?
- Are the windows in fair shape? Are they energy efficient?
- Was lead paint ever used?

### Future Upgrades

- Are you allowed to build a garage or home additions?
- Could you retro-fit A/C to a house that doesn't have it?
- Are you allowed to have a sauna or hot tub?
- Can you plant a garden?
- Can you paint your home whatever color you want?

There are a lot of factors to consider when buying a home for the first time. If you're moving into a new home that needs work, or you've already moved in and discovered the deck or attic wasn't safe after all, Mr. Handyman can help. We offer a wide variety of services to build, paint, or repair your home just the way you want it. [Schedule an appointment online](#) or give us a call at 877.685.1377. We look forward to serving you!

