

10 Details to Check Before You Buy a House

If you think you have found your dream house, avoid the temptation to close the deal without first getting an inspection. You never know what hidden problems could be lurking behind walls or underneath floors, or simply in closets you have not closely examined yet. If you want to avoid buying a home that you unexpectedly have to fix up right away, check out some important details you need to examine.

1. CHECK FOR WATER STAINS

Check for water stains, rust and other types of damage in areas like kitchens and bathrooms

2. CHECK CABINETS

You should open up all the doors to cabinets and look for water damage, stains, mildew and other costly problems.

3. LOOK FOR MOLD

This is the ultimate form of water damage and it is expensive to remove

4. LOOK FOR CRACKS IN THE WALLS

You should check both interior and exterior surfaces for any cracks.

5. KEEP AN EYE OUT FOR TINY CRACKS

In some cases, fine cracks are actually cause for concern

6. LOOK OUT FOR SAGGY CEILINGS

Shine a light carefully around the ceilings to make sure they are all flush with the surrounding surfaces.

7. LOOK FOR RUSTED ROOF GUTTERS

This one is tough to notice since the gutters might look brand new from far away. But once you get closer and look at the inside edges, you might see some rust that means you will have to replace them soon.

8. EXAMINE THE ROOF LINES

Go outside and make sure the roof lines are straight.

9. MAKE SURE THE DOWNPIPES WORK CORRECTLY

The downpipes on the roof should be pouring rainwater from the surface into drains, not simply onto the ground.

10. LOOK FOR DRAIN HOLES OUTSIDE OF THE HOUSE

You should be able to see some tiny holes both below and above the frames of doors and windows. If you do not feel confident checking on all of these details by yourself, you should hire an inspector. The cost of this will be far less than the cost of having to fix these problems after you buy the house!