

The Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics of THE AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HOME INSPECTORS®



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HOME INSPECTION

Home inspections were being performed in the mid 1950s, and by the early 1970s were considered by many consumers to be essential to the real estate transaction. The escalating demand was due to a growing desire by homebuyers to learn about the condition of a house prior to purchase. Meeting the expectations of consumers required a unique discipline, distinct from construction, engineering, architecture, or municipal building inspection. As such, home inspection requires its own set of professional guidelines and qualifications. The American Society of Home Inspectors (ASHI) formed in 1976 and established the ASHI Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics to help buyers and sellers make real estate transaction decisions based on accurate, objective information.

American Society of Home Inspectors

As the oldest, largest and highest profile organization of home inspectors in North America, ASHI takes pride in its position of leadership. Its Membership works to build public awareness of home inspection and to enhance the technical and ethical performance of home inspectors.

Standards of Practice

The ASHI Standards of Practice guide home inspectors in the performance of their inspections. Subject to regular review, the Standards of Practice reflect information gained through surveys of conditions in the field and of the consumers’ interests and concerns. Vigilance has elevated ASHI’s Standards of Practice so that today they are the most widely-accepted home inspection guidelines in use and are recognized by many government and professional groups as the definitive standard for professional performance.

Code of Ethics

ASHI’s Code of Ethics stresses the home inspector’s responsibility to report the results of the inspection in a strictly fair, impartial, and professional manner, avoiding conflicts of interest.

ASHI Membership

Selecting the right home inspector can be as important as finding the right home. ASHI Members have performed no fewer than 250 fee-paid inspections in accordance with the ASHI Standards of Practice. They have passed written examinations testing their knowledge of residential construction, defect recognition, inspection techniques, and report-writing, as well as ASHI’s Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics. Membership in the American Society of Home Inspectors is well-earned and maintained only through meeting requirements for continuing education.

Find local ASHI Members by calling 1-800-743-2744 or visiting the ASHI Web site at www.ashi.org.

ASHI STANDARDS OF PRACTICE

1. INTRODUCTION

The American Society of Home Inspectors®, Inc. (ASHI®) is a not-for-profit professional society established in 1976. Membership in ASHI is voluntary and its members are private home *inspectors*. ASHI's objectives include promotion of excellence within the profession and continual improvement of its members' inspection services to the public.

2. PURPOSE AND SCOPE

2.1 The purpose of the Standards of Practice is to establish a minimum and uniform standard for home *inspectors* who subscribe to these Standards of Practice. *Home inspections* performed to these Standards of Practice are intended to provide the client with objective information regarding the condition of the *systems* and *components* of the home as *inspected* at the time of the *home inspection*. Redundancy in the description of the requirements, limitations, and exclusions regarding the scope of the *home inspection* is provided for emphasis only.

2.2 *Inspectors shall:*

- A.** adhere to the Code of Ethics of the American Society of Home Inspectors.
- B.** *inspect readily accessible*, visually observable, *installed systems* and *components* listed in these Standards of Practice.
- C. report:**
 - 1. those *systems* and *components inspected* that, in the professional judgment of the *inspector*, are not functioning properly, significantly deficient, *unsafe*, or are near the end of their service lives.
 - 2. recommendations to correct, or monitor for future correction, the deficiencies *reported* in 2.2.C.1, or items needing *further evaluation*. (Per Exclusion 13.2.A.5 *inspectors* are NOT required to determine methods, materials, or costs of corrections.)
 - 3. reasoning or explanation as to the nature of the deficiencies *reported* in 2.2.C.1, that are not self-evident.
 - 4. *systems* and *components* designated for inspection in these Standards of Practice that were present at the time of the *home inspection* but were not *inspected* and the reason(s) they were not *inspected*.

2.3 **These Standards of Practice are not intended to limit inspectors from:**

- A.** including other inspection services or *systems* and *components* in addition to those required in Section 2.2.B.

- B.** designing or specifying repairs, provided the *inspector* is appropriately qualified and willing to do so.
- C.** excluding *systems* and *components* from the inspection if requested by the client.

3. STRUCTURAL COMPONENTS

3.1 **The *inspector* shall:**

- A. inspect:**
 - 1. *structural components* including the foundation and framing.
 - 2. by probing a *representative number* of *structural components* where deterioration is suspected or where clear indications of possible deterioration exist. Probing is NOT required when probing would damage any finished surface or where no deterioration is visible or presumed to exist.
- B. describe:**
 - 1. the methods used to *inspect under-floor crawl spaces* and attics.
 - 2. the foundation.
 - 3. the floor structure.
 - 4. the wall structure.
 - 5. the ceiling structure.
 - 6. the roof structure.

3.2 **The *inspector* is NOT required to:**

- A.** provide any *engineering* or architectural services or analysis.
- B.** offer an opinion as to the adequacy of any *structural system* or *component*.

4. EXTERIOR

4.1 **The *inspector* shall:**

- A. inspect:**
 - 1. *siding*, flashing and trim.
 - 2. all exterior doors.
 - 3. attached or adjacent decks, balconies, stoops, steps, porches, and their associated railings.
 - 4. eaves, soffits, and fascias where accessible from the ground level.
 - 5. vegetation, grading, surface drainage, and retaining walls that are likely to adversely affect the building.
 - 6. adjacent or entryway walkways, patios, and driveways.
- B. describe:**
 - 1. *siding*.

EXTERIOR 4.2, Continued

4.2 The inspector is NOT required to inspect:

- A. screening, shutters, awnings, and similar seasonal accessories.
- B. fences.
- C. geological and/or soil conditions.
- D. recreational facilities.
- E. outbuildings other than garages and carports.
- F. seawalls, break-walls, and docks.
- G. erosion control and earth stabilization measures.

5. ROOFING

5.1 The inspector shall:

- A. inspect:
 - 1. roofing materials.
 - 2. roof drainage systems.
 - 3. flashing.
 - 4. skylights, chimneys, and roof penetrations.
- B. describe:
 - 1. roofing materials.
 - 2. methods used to inspect the roofing.

5.2 The inspector is NOT required to inspect:

- A. antennae.
- B. interiors of flues or chimneys that are not readily accessible.
- C. other installed accessories.

6. PLUMBING

6.1 The inspector shall:

- A. inspect:
 - 1. interior water supply and distribution systems including all fixtures and faucets.
 - 2. drain, waste, and vent systems including all fixtures.
 - 3. water heating equipment and hot water supply system.
 - 4. vent systems, flues, and chimneys.
 - 5. fuel storage and fuel distribution systems.
 - 6. drainage sumps, sump pumps, and related piping.
- B. describe:
 - 1. water supply, drain, waste, and vent piping materials.
 - 2. water heating equipment including energy source(s).
 - 3. location of main water and fuel shut-off valves.

6.2 The inspector is NOT required to:

- A. inspect:
 - 1. clothes washing machine connections.
 - 2. interiors of flues or chimneys that are not readily accessible.
 - 3. wells, well pumps, or water storage related equipment.
 - 4. water conditioning systems.
 - 5. solar water heating systems.
 - 6. fire and lawn sprinkler systems.
 - 7. private waste disposal systems.
- B. determine:
 - 1. whether water supply and waste disposal systems are public or private.
 - 2. water supply quantity or quality.
- C. operate automatic safety controls or manual stop valves.

7. ELECTRICAL

7.1 The inspector shall:

- A. inspect:
 - 1. service drop.
 - 2. service entrance conductors, cables, and raceways.
 - 3. service equipment and main disconnects.
 - 4. service grounding.
 - 5. interior components of service panels and sub panels.
 - 6. conductors.
 - 7. overcurrent protection devices.
 - 8. a representative number of installed lighting fixtures, switches, and receptacles.
 - 9. ground fault circuit interrupters.
- B. describe:
 - 1. amperage and voltage rating of the service.
 - 2. location of main disconnect(s) and sub panels.
 - 3. presence of solid conductor aluminum branch circuit wiring.
 - 4. presence or absence of smoke detectors.
 - 5. wiring methods.

7.2 The inspector is NOT required to:

- A. inspect:
 - 1. remote control devices.
 - 2. alarm systems and components.
 - 3. low voltage wiring systems and components.
 - 4. ancillary wiring systems and components not a part of the primary electrical power distribution system.
- B. measure amperage, voltage, or impedance.

Continued

8. HEATING

8.1 The *inspector* shall:

- A. open *readily openable access panels*.
- B. *inspect*:
 - 1. *installed* heating equipment.
 - 2. vent *systems*, flues, and chimneys.
- C. *describe*:
 - 1. energy source(s).
 - 2. heating *systems*.

8.2 The *inspector* is NOT required to:

- A. *inspect*:
 - 1. interiors of flues or chimneys that are not *readily accessible*.
 - 2. heat exchangers.
 - 3. humidifiers or dehumidifiers.
 - 4. electronic air filters.
 - 5. solar space heating *systems*.
- B. determine heat supply adequacy or distribution balance.

9. AIR CONDITIONING

9.1 The *inspector* shall:

- A. open *readily openable access panels*.
- B. *inspect*:
 - 1. central and through-wall equipment.
 - 2. distribution *systems*.
- C. *describe*:
 - 1. energy source(s).
 - 2. cooling *systems*.

9.2 The *inspector* is NOT required to:

- A. *inspect* electronic air filters.
- B. determine cooling supply adequacy or distribution balance.
- C. *inspect* window air conditioning units.

10. INTERIORS

10.1 The *inspector* shall *inspect*:

- A. walls, ceilings, and floors.
- B. steps, stairways, and railings.
- C. countertops and a *representative number* of *installed* cabinets.
- D. a *representative number* of doors and windows.
- E. garage doors and garage door operators.

10.2 The *inspector* is NOT required to *inspect*:

- A. paint, wallpaper, and other finish treatments.
- B. carpeting.
- C. window treatments.
- D. central vacuum *systems*.
- E. *household appliances*.
- F. *recreational facilities*.

11. INSULATION & VENTILATION

11.1 The *inspector* shall:

- A. *inspect*:
 - 1. insulation and vapor retarders in unfinished spaces.
 - 2. ventilation of attics and foundation areas.
 - 3. mechanical ventilation *systems*.
- B. *describe*:
 - 1. insulation and vapor retarders in unfinished spaces.
 - 2. absence of insulation in unfinished spaces at conditioned surfaces.

11.2 The *inspector* is NOT required to disturb insulation.

See 13.2.A.11 and 13.2.A.12.

12. FIREPLACES AND SOLID FUEL BURNING APPLIANCES

12.1 The *inspector* shall:

- A. *inspect*:
 - 1. *system components*.
 - 2. chimney and vents.
- B. *describe*:
 - 1. fireplaces and *solid fuel burning appliances*.
 - 2. chimneys.

12.2 The *inspector* is NOT required to:

- A. *inspect*:
 - 1. interiors of flues or chimneys.
 - 2. firescreens and doors.
 - 3. seals and gaskets.
 - 4. automatic fuel feed devices.
 - 5. mantles and fireplace surrounds.
 - 6. combustion make-up air devices.
 - 7. heat distribution assists (gravity fed and fan assisted).
- B. ignite or extinguish fires.
- C. determine draft characteristics.
- D. move fireplace inserts and stoves or firebox contents.

Continued

13. GENERAL LIMITATIONS AND EXCLUSIONS

13.1 General limitations:

- A. The *inspector* is NOT required to perform any action or make any determination not specifically stated in these Standards of Practice.
- B. Inspections performed in accordance with these Standards of Practice:
 - 1. are not *technically exhaustive*.
 - 2. are not required to identify concealed conditions, latent defects, or consequential damage(s).
- C. These Standards of Practice are applicable to buildings with four or fewer dwelling units and their garages or carports.

13.2 General exclusions:

A. *Inspectors* are NOT required to determine:

- 1. conditions of *systems* or *components* that are not *readily accessible*.
- 2. remaining life expectancy of any *system* or *component*.
- 3. strength, adequacy, effectiveness, or efficiency of any *system* or *component*.
- 4. the causes of any condition or deficiency.
- 5. methods, materials, or costs of corrections.
- 6. future conditions including but not limited to failure of *systems* and *components*.
- 7. the suitability of the property for any specialized use.
- 8. compliance with regulatory requirements (codes, regulations, laws, ordinances, etc.).
- 9. market value of the property or its marketability.
- 10. the advisability of purchase of the property.
- 11. the presence of potentially hazardous plants or animals including, but not limited to, wood destroying organisms or diseases harmful to humans including molds or mold-like substances.
- 12. the presence of any environmental hazards including, but not limited to, toxins, carcinogens, noise, and contaminants in soil, water, and air.
- 13. the effectiveness of any *system installed* or method utilized to control or remove suspected hazardous substances.
- 14. operating costs of *systems* or *components*.
- 15. acoustical properties of any *system* or *component*.
- 16. soil conditions relating to geotechnical or hydrologic specialties.

B. *Inspectors* are NOT required to offer:

- 1. or perform any act or service contrary to law.
- 2. or perform *engineering* services.
- 3. or perform any trade or any professional service other than *home inspection*.
- 4. warranties or guarantees of any kind.

C. *Inspectors* are NOT required to operate:

- 1. any *system* or *component* that is *shut down* or otherwise inoperable.
- 2. any *system* or *component* that does not respond to *normal operating controls*.
- 3. shut-off valves or manual stop valves.

D. *Inspectors* are NOT required to enter:

- 1. any area that will, in the opinion of the *inspector*, likely be dangerous to the *inspector* or other persons or damage the property or its *systems* or *components*.
- 2. *under-floor crawl spaces* or attics that are not *readily accessible*.

E. *Inspectors* are NOT required to inspect:

- 1. underground items including but not limited to underground storage tanks or other underground indications of their presence, whether abandoned or active.
- 2. items that are not *installed*.
- 3. *installed decorative* items.
- 4. items in areas that are not entered in accordance with 13.2.D.
- 5. detached structures other than garages and carports.
- 6. common elements or common areas in multi-unit housing, such as condominium properties or cooperative housing.

F. *Inspectors* are NOT required to:

- 1. perform any procedure or operation that will, in the opinion of the *inspector*, likely be dangerous to the *inspector* or other persons or damage the property or its *systems* or *components*.
- 2. describe or report on any *system* or *component* that is not included in these Standards and was not *inspected*.
- 3. move personal property, furniture, equipment, plants, soil, snow, ice, or debris.
- 4. *dismantle* any *system* or *component*, except as explicitly required by these Standards of Practice.

ASHI STANDARDS OF PRACTICE GLOSSARY OF ITALICIZED TERMS

Alarm Systems

Warning devices *installed* or free-standing including but not limited to smoke detectors, carbon monoxide detectors, flue gas, and other spillage detectors, and security equipment

Automatic Safety Controls

Devices designed and *installed* to protect *systems* and *components* from unsafe conditions

Component

A part of a *system*

Decorative

Ornamental; not required for the proper operation of the essential *systems* and *components* of a home

Describe

To identify (in writing) a *system* or *component* by its type or other distinguishing characteristics

Dismantle

To take apart or remove any *component*, device, or piece of equipment that would not be taken apart or removed by a homeowner in the course of normal maintenance

Engineering

The application of scientific knowledge for the design, control, or use of building structures, equipment, or apparatus

Further Evaluation

Examination and analysis by a qualified professional, tradesman, or service technician beyond that provided by the *home inspection*

Home Inspection

The process by which an *inspector* visually examines the *readily accessible systems* and *components* of a home and which *describes* those *systems* and *components* in accordance with these Standards of Practice

Household Appliances

Kitchen, laundry, and similar appliances, whether *installed* or free-standing

Inspect

To examine any *system* or *component* of a building in accordance with these Standards of Practice, using *normal operating controls* and opening *readily openable access panels*

Inspector

A person hired to examine any *system* or *component* of a building in accordance with these Standards of Practice

Installed

Attached such that removal requires tools

Normal Operating Controls

Devices such as thermostats, switches, or valves intended to be operated by the homeowner

Readily Accessible

Available for visual inspection without requiring moving of personal property, *dismantling*, destructive measures, or any action that will likely involve risk to persons or property

Readily Openable Access Panel

A panel provided for homeowner inspection and maintenance that is *readily accessible*, within normal reach, can be removed by one person, and is not sealed in place

Recreational Facilities

Spas, saunas, steam baths, swimming pools, exercise, entertainment, athletic, playground or other similar equipment, and associated accessories

Report

Communicate in writing

Representative Number

One *component* per room for multiple similar interior *components* such as windows, and electric receptacles; one *component* on each side of the building for multiple similar exterior *components*

Roof Drainage Systems

Components used to carry water off a roof and away from a building

Shut Down

A state in which a *system* or *component* cannot be operated by *normal operating controls*

Siding

Exterior wall covering and cladding; such as: aluminum, asphalt, brick, cement/asbestos, EIFS, stone, stucco, veneer, vinyl, wood, etc.

Solid Fuel Burning Appliances

A hearth and fire chamber or similar prepared place in which a fire may be built and that is built in conjunction with a chimney; or a listed assembly of a fire chamber, its chimney, and related factory-made parts designed for unit assembly without requiring field construction

Structural Component

A *component* that supports non-variable forces or weights (dead loads) and variable forces or weights (live loads)

System

A combination of interacting or interdependent *components*, assembled to carry out one or more functions.

Technically Exhaustive

An investigation that involves *dismantling*, the extensive use of advanced techniques, measurements, instruments, testing, calculations, or other means

Under-floor Crawl Space

The area within the confines of the foundation and between the ground and the underside of the floor

Unsafe

A condition in a *readily accessible*, *installed system* or *component* that is judged to be a significant risk of bodily injury during normal, day-to-day use; the risk may be due to damage, deterioration, improper installation, or a change in accepted residential construction standards

Wiring Methods

Identification of electrical conductors or wires by their general type, such as non-metallic sheathed cable, armored cable, or knob and tube, etc.



ASHI® CODE OF ETHICS

For the Home Inspection Profession

Integrity, honesty, and objectivity are fundamental principles embodied by this Code, which sets forth obligations of ethical conduct for the home inspection profession. The Membership of ASHI has adopted this Code to provide high ethical standards to safeguard the public and the profession.

Inspectors shall comply with this Code, shall avoid association with any enterprise whose practices violate this Code, and shall strive to uphold, maintain, and improve the integrity, reputation, and practice of the home inspection profession.

1. Inspectors shall avoid conflicts of interest or activities that compromise, or appear to compromise, professional independence, objectivity, or inspection integrity.

- A. Inspectors shall not inspect properties for compensation in which they have, or expect to have, a financial interest.
- B. Inspectors shall not inspect properties under contingent arrangements whereby any compensation or future referrals are dependent on reported findings or on the sale of a property.
- C. Inspectors shall not directly or indirectly compensate realty agents, or other parties having a financial interest in closing or settlement of real estate transactions, for the referral of inspections or for inclusion on a list of recommended inspectors, preferred providers, or similar arrangements.
- D. Inspectors shall not receive compensation for an inspection from more than one party unless agreed to by the client(s).
- E. Inspectors shall not accept compensation, directly or indirectly, for recommending contractors, services, or products to inspection clients or other parties having an interest in inspected properties.
- F. Inspectors shall not repair, replace, or upgrade, for compensation, systems or components covered by ASHI Standards of Practice, for one year after the inspection.

2. Inspectors shall act in good faith toward each client and other interested parties.

- A. Inspectors shall perform services and express opinions based on genuine conviction and only within their areas of education, training, or experience.
- B. Inspectors shall be objective in their reporting and not knowingly understate or overstate the significance of reported conditions.
- C. Inspectors shall not disclose inspection results or client information without client approval. Inspectors, at their discretion, may disclose observed immediate safety hazards to occupants exposed to such hazards, when feasible.

3. Inspectors shall avoid activities that may harm the public, discredit themselves, or reduce public confidence in the profession.

- A. Advertising, marketing, and promotion of inspectors' services or qualifications shall not be fraudulent, false, deceptive, or misleading.
- B. Inspectors shall report substantive and willful violations of this Code to the Society.

AMERICAN SOCIETY OF HOME INSPECTORS
STANDARDS OF PROFESSIONAL PRACTICE FOR
RESIDENTIAL SWIMMING POOL AND SPA INSPECTIONS

1. INSPECTION PURPOSE AND SCOPE

- 1.1** The purpose of these Standards of Professional Practice (Standards) is to establish a uniform standard for *inspectors* who voluntarily use these Standards when performing residential *swimming pool/spa* inspections.
- 1.2** Inspections performed in accordance with these Standards:
- A. provide the *client* with additional objective information about the condition of inspected *components* at the time of the inspection;
 - B. are conducted by an inspection generalist, not by a *technical specialist*;
 - C. are general and do not include or confirm conformity with:
 - 1. building codes and other governmental laws and regulations,
 - 2. manufacturer's installation instructions,
 - 3. construction plans, drawings, and specifications;
 - D. do not provide a warranty or guarantee regarding the condition of the inspected *swimming pools/spas*;
 - E. do not identify and report all possible *safety* issues regarding the installation, operation, maintenance, and use of inspected *swimming pools/spas*.
- 1.3** These Standards do not limit *inspectors* from:
- A. including other services or *components* in addition to those required in these Standards;
 - B. excluding *components* from the inspection if requested by the *client*.
- 1.4** *Inspectors* who perform inspections in accordance with these Standards shall adhere to the ASHI® Code of Ethics For the Home Inspection Profession.
- 1.5** These Standards apply only to *swimming pools/spas* located on property containing a one or two-family residential structure. These standards do not apply to *swimming pools/spas* used for commercial or competitive uses.

2. INSPECTION AND REPORT

2.1 *Inspectors shall inspect readily accessible, visually observable, installed components designated in these Standards.*

2.2 *Inspectors shall issue a written report that:*

- A. identifies *components* that, in the professional judgment of the *inspector*, are not functioning properly, significantly deficient, *unsafe*, or are near the end of their service lives;
- B. provides the reasoning or explanation as to the nature of the deficiencies reported in 2.2.A, that are not self-evident;
- C. recommends correction, *further evaluation*, or monitoring of *components* identified in 2.2.A;
- D. identifies *components* designated for inspection in these Standards that were present during the inspection but were not inspected and the reason(s) why they were not inspected;
- E. includes the following statement in its entirety and without change near the beginning of every report issued in conformity with these Standards.

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The American Society of Home Inspectors, Inc. (ASHI) does not verify the qualifications of inspectors who use these Standards and has no authority or control over the quality of inspections undertaken or performed using these Standards. These Standards are general in nature and are not intended to in any way discourage or limit additional or more detailed inspections. ASHI disclaims all liability for any and all personal and bodily injuries and damages, including but not limited to incidental and consequential damages, which may occur as a result of inspections performed using these Standards. No warranty, expressed or implied, is intended or offered by ASHI in the use of these Standards. ASHI assumes no risk and makes and implies no representations of any kind to inspectors, consumers, or others.

3.0 SWIMMING POOL AND SPA INSPECTION

3.1 *Inspectors shall:*

A. *inspect:*

- 1. the visible parts of interior finish materials,
- 2. the visible parts of decks, steps inside the *swimming pool/spa* shell, and *coping*,
- 3. the visible parts of pumps, motors, blowers, skimmer, filters, drains, heaters, *automatic safety controls*, gauges, visible piping and valves, conduit,

4. *cross connections* in the water supply system,
5. external bonding of the pump motors, blowers, heaters and other *components* that are required to be bonded,
6. operation of *readily accessible* lights, ground fault circuit interrupters, electrical *components*, and timer assemblies that are related to the pool or spa,
7. the visible parts of permanently *installed* handrails and ladders,
8. for the presence of *safety barriers* and *alarms*,
9. for the presence of *entrapment prevention components*,
10. vegetation, grading, surface drainage, and retaining walls that are likely to adversely affect the swimming pool or spa;

B. *describe*:

1. type of *swimming pool/spa*,
2. interior finish materials,
3. type of filter,
4. types of *safety barriers*,
5. type of cleaning system (if present),
6. energy source for heater (if present);

C. operate the systems using *normal operating controls*;

D. open *readily openable access panels*.

3.2 *Inspectors* are not required to:

- A. test, operate, or evaluate *components* when weather conditions or other circumstances may cause equipment damage;
- B. test, operate, or evaluate *automatic safety controls* and manual or automatic valves;
- C. touch *swimming pool/spa* water to examine the structure, *components*, and features, including their composition and quality;
- D. test, operate, or evaluate electric resistance heaters;
- E. determine structural integrity;
- F. *inspect* any equipment or *component* that is *shut down* or that is not responding to *normal operating controls*, including conditions caused by the absence of a required energy source such as electricity or gas;

- G. *inspect, test, operate, or evaluate: low voltage or electronic controls, water chemistry or clarity, out-of-level conditions, presence or absence of bacteria/algae, backwash functions, aerators, automatic cleaning systems, automatic water fill systems, water treatment systems, chemical dispensers, thermostats, heating elements, heat exchangers, solar and other alternative energy heating systems, water features, covers and related components, accessories, leaks in shell, underground components, temporary safety barriers and alarms, stray voltage, and the interior of filters including filter cartridges;*
- H. *inspect, test, operate, or evaluate diving and jump boards, slides, play equipment and similar components; and the suitability of the pool for the use of such components and for activities such as diving; and*
- I. *determine the adequacy of: system or component design, structural components, equipment and component compatibility, flow rates, high or low pressure conditions, filters, heaters, safety barriers and alarms, and entrapment prevention components.*

4. GENERAL LIMITATIONS AND EXCLUSIONS

4.1 General Limitations

- A. *Inspectors are not required to perform any action or make any determination not specifically required in these Standards.*
- B. *Inspections performed in accordance with these Standards are not:*
 - 1. *numerically complete, and*
 - 2. *required to identify or to report concealed conditions, latent defects, and consequential damages, and cosmetic issues.*

4.2 General Exclusions

- A. *Inspectors are not required to determine:*
 - 1. *condition of components that are not installed or that are not visible and readily accessible;*
 - 2. *strength, adequacy, effectiveness, or efficiency of any component, including structural components;*
 - 3. *methods, materials, or costs of corrections;*
 - 4. *future conditions including, but not limited to, component failure and the life expectancy of components;*
 - 5. *the suitability of a swimming pool/spa or of a component for any specialized use;*
 - 6. *the presence or absence of any environmental hazards including, but not limited to, toxins, allergens carcinogens, electromagnetic radiation, noise, radioactive substances, and contaminants in soil, water, and air;*

7. the presence or absence of potentially hazardous or damaging plants and animals including, but not limited to, wood destroying organisms and diseases harmful to humans including molds and mold-like substances;
8. operating costs of *components*;
9. acoustical properties of any *component*;
10. soil conditions relating to geotechnical or hydrologic specialties;
11. causes of or reasons for the condition of *components* identified in 2.2.A;
12. the *safety* of using the *swimming pool/spa* or any *component*;
13. the risks or benefits of adding new *components* and of modifying existing *components*;
14. whether the *swimming pool/spa* or any *component* is free from leakage of any kind;
15. whether any item, material, condition or *component* is subject to recall, controversy, litigation, products liability or other adverse claim or condition;
16. the adequacy of operation, maintenance, and use of the *swimming pool/spa* and of any *component*.

B. *Inspectors* are not required to:

1. perform any act or service contrary to law or regulation;
2. perform architectural, engineering, or surveying services or to confirm or evaluate such services performed by others;
3. perform any trade or any professional service other than as required in these Standards;
4. offer or provide warranties or guarantees of any kind;
5. perform any procedure or operation or enter any area that may, in the opinion of the *inspector*, be dangerous to the *inspector* or to other persons, or that may cause damage to the property or to *components*;
6. move personal property, equipment, plants, soil, snow, ice, or debris;
7. *inspect installed decorative items*;
8. *inspect component interiors* that are not *readily accessible*; and
9. *dismantle any component*, except as explicitly required by these Standards.

GLOSSARY OF ITALICIZED TERMS

Alarm See *safety barrier*

Automatic safety controls Devices designed and *installed* to protect *components* from *unsafe* conditions

Client A person who hires an *inspector* to perform an inspection in accordance with these Standards

Component A primary part of a functionally related group that works together as a system, not including ancillary parts, such as signage and depth markers, that do not contribute to the intended function of the system

Coping The decorative material around the perimeter above a *swimming pool/spa*, usually located just above the tile

Cosmetic issues Defects that are superficial and that do not significantly affect a *component's* ability to function properly

Cross connection Any connection between two otherwise separate piping systems whereby there may be a flow from one system to another

Decorative Ornamental; not required for the proper operation of the *swimming pool/spa components*

Describe To identify (in writing) a *component* by its type or by other distinguishing characteristics

Dismantle To take apart or remove any *component*, device, or equipment that is bolted, screwed, or fastened by other means and that a homeowner would not take apart or remove in the course of normal household maintenance

Electronic controls Digital, computerized or solid state equipment operation management devices

Entrapment prevention component A *component*, such as a suction outlet cover, *installed* within the *swimming pool/spa* water circulation system that helps prevent a person from being held underwater at a suction outlet

Further evaluate Examination and analysis by a qualified professional, tradesman, or service technician using techniques and/or expertise that are beyond the scope of inspections performed in accordance with these Standards

Inspect To visually examine *components* in accordance with these Standards, using *normal operating controls* and opening *readily openable access panels*

Inspector A person who is hired by a *client* to *inspect* a *swimming pool/spa* in accordance with these Standards

Installed A *component* that is connected or set in position and prepared for use

Normal operating controls Devices such as thermostats and switches intended to be operated by the homeowner

Numerically complete An inspection that *inspects* every individual occurrence of a *component*

Readily accessible A *component* that is located where access will not involve risk to persons or property, and that is visible without: (1) moving matter of any kind, and (2) using tools, and (3) using a ladder taller than twelve feet

Readily openable access panel A panel provided for homeowner inspection and maintenance that is *readily accessible*, within normal reach, can be removed by one person, and is not sealed in place

Safety Freedom from danger, risk, or injury

Safety barrier a *component*, such as a fence or a door or a window *alarm*, that helps restrict access to a *swimming pool/spa*

Shut down A state in which a system or *component* cannot be operated by *normal operating controls*

Structural component A *component* that supports non-variable forces or weights (dead loads) and variable forces or weights (live loads)

Swimming pool/spa A contained body of water eighteen inches or more in depth at any point and intended for swimming or immersion

Technical specialist A person who, by reason of training, education, and experience, has expertise in a specific trade or profession that is beyond that of an *inspector*, and who might, by reason of this expertise, or by the use of specialized tools, instruments, measurements, testing, calculations, or other means discover issues not discovered by an *inspector*

Unsafe A condition in a *readily accessible, installed* system or *component* that, in the professional judgment of the *inspector*, presents a significant risk of bodily injury during normal, day-to-day use. The risk may be due to damage, deterioration, improper installation, or a change in accepted *swimming pool/spa* construction methods.