

Is Your Inspector Qualified?

MINNEAPOLIS, MINNESOTA - August 2006. There has been a lot of controversy lately over terminology used in the home inspection industry to express an individual's level of competency. "Certified", "Master", or in some states, "Licensed" are terms commonly used in the past several years. The first two can freely be used to describe anyone while the latter is regulated and awarded by city or state government.

Unfortunately, organizations can use the term certified or master to describe someone who has taken a test, completed a course or simply paid a fee. There is no government standard that defines the level of competency, experience or rigor necessary to pass a course or test. So, in essence, the terms "master or certified" are like ChapStick or Kleenex, a generic term, which is the crux of the problem we as an industry within the real estate industry are facing today. There are also schools and Internet sites that offer credentials that make it appear that your home inspector is qualified. For example, recently a web site popped up offering to "certify" anyone as a "Master Inspector" for \$175. The applicant merely fills out a form and gives their credit card number to become a Master Certified Inspector. To the uninformed consumer, this individual will appear to be highly qualified when they actually have little or no true knowledge or qualifications relating to the realm of a home inspection. This type of situation then has a large potential to erode consumer confidence and complicate the real estate transaction.

In contrast, NAHI has spent over ten years continually developing and refining its NAHI Certified Real Estate Inspector certification program. For an individual to earn NAHI's Certified Real Estate Inspector designation he or she must have completed 250 full verifiable home inspections in addition to passing the NAHI™ Certified Real Estate Inspector exam. When the individual takes the exam, he or she must show proof of identification and complete the exam in a supervised environment to ensure that he or she is not able to access outside assistance.

Need more information? Feel free to go to NAHI's web site at www.nahi.org or call 1-800-448-3942!

The National Association of Home Inspectors, Inc. (NAHI™) is a 20-year old non-profit association established to promote and develop the home inspection industry. NAHI provides educational opportunities to benefit its members, enhance the home inspection industry and protect consumers from fraudulent, misleading or deceptive practices. The NAHI Standards of Practice and Code of Ethics was established to promote the professionalism of home inspectors and to provide a consistent method of performing home inspections. Consumers may obtain referrals to NAHI members in their area or receive a copy of the NAHI Standards of Practice & Code of Ethics by calling NAHI toll-free at 800-448-3942.