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Thinking Home Improvement?

ASHI Reminds Homeowners The Value Of An Inspection During Remodeling

As interest rates remain at a record low, more homeowners are tapping into their home's equity to take on home improvement and remodeling projects.

The American Society of Home Inspectors (ASHI) reminds both do-it-yourselfers and homeowners hiring contractors that a professional home inspection can make sure the remodeling is performed to industry standards and accepted methods while also providing peace of mind, regardless of the project's size or budget. A good inspector can help you negotiate with your contractor **BEFORE** you sign a contract.

"Considering the investment of remodeling projects, it's wise to have the home inspected for safety and reliability," said Jeffrey Hockersmith, former president of the New Mexico chapter of ASHI, the largest non-profit organization for professional home inspectors with a membership of nearly 6,000.

When to Call a Home Inspector

There is no wrong time to call upon a home inspector, particularly during a remodeling project.

- ***Before the project:*** An opportune time to schedule an inspection is before undertaking any remodeling project, whether you are doing it yourself or hiring a specialist. The home inspector can offer advice on the area(s) of the home that require the most immediate attention.

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- ***During the bidding process:*** Consider consulting with a home inspector before hiring a professional renovation expert. Assuming the expert has submitted a bid on the project, the home inspector can help a homeowner review the proposals. If the homeowner has received several different bids, an ASHI inspector can help provide an understanding of what a reasonable price may be.
- ***During the project:*** Arranging for an inspection during the course of a remodeling project ensures the project is on the right path and construction is being done correctly.
- ***Upon completion:*** An inspection following completion of a project helps ensure that work was performed to specification.

“For the purposes of remodeling, a home inspector is a consultant for home improvement and renovations,” Jeff. “They can assist you throughout the entire process to help make sure your project is done correctly.”

For More Information

To learn more about the American Society of Home Inspectors or to obtain the names of ASHI members in a particular community, contact the organization at 932 Lee St., Suite 101, Des Plaines, IL, 60616; by phone at 800-743-2744, or on the Web by visiting www.ashi.org.