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May 2007

Gillespie Home Inspection Newsletter

Dear Kim,

Your feedback on our newsletter is always welcome. And please feel free to reuse any part of this text in marketing your business.

How We See Our Job



We know that property inspections are mostly generated by real estate transactions primarily as a form of disclosure and understanding. But we thought we would share our view of what we do which varies from that purpose.

Home inspecting is a passion and genuine interest in people and homes... mostly it's about the people. If you agree that "prevention is the best medicine" we would call ourselves doctors.

What we really care about is that the structure does not injure the people who call it home. We look for hazards; things that can start fires, keeping occupants safe after earthquakes, shock hazards, and environmental and asphyxiation issues. We are concerned about children who live in and visit this house. The home as to be safe for all who enter.

I read this recently...

"Home Inspecting is a higher calling than simple commerce or financial gain. We never know how many injuries, calamities and financial disasters that simply fail to occur because of our efforts."

While we have a little trouble with the "higher calling" stuff (we are just

human you know) the rest of that statement is a true feeling of why we wake up and crawl under houses every day.

And Speaking of Financial Safety...

Helping keep people safe includes keeping them from financial hazards too!

We want people to know what they are getting into financially with respect to the condition of the property. We don't have a crystal ball and we can't predict the future, so we try to "read" the house. Most systems fail due to wear and a lack of maintenance. If we can provide a status as to where a system is in its life expectancy, our clients can prepare for eventualities.



It's Murphy's Law that most systems fail on holidays and weekends and of course when you really need them, when repairs are more costly. It's always better to be prepared and let your plumbers and electricians have their Mother's Day with their mothers and let you keep their overtime pay for flowers for your own mother!

Didja Know? Concrete Perimeter or Slab?



We get calls with all kinds of questions. And we have clients that feel they can't ask some questions. I hope that we can be here for anyone regardless of the type of question (house-related please). We have yet to meet anyone born with a knowledge of the home and its systems. We've studied them all - let us help.

I have recently been surprised by the number of incorrect entries on the MLS with regard to "Foundation Type". Most of the homes here in Silicon Valley are either concrete perimeter or slab. A concrete perimeter is also called a crawl space. This is the area between the bottom of the floor you're standing on and the dirt under the house. This is indicated by a hatch to access the area (sometimes in closets, sometimes on the exterior), vent screens visible on the outside of the house at the bottom a few inches from the ground, and whether you step up into the home. A slab foundation is a solid concrete pad lying on the dirt, on which the house is placed. There are no means of accessing or viewing under the house in this case.

If you have any questions while entering your listings on the MLS or completing your piles of paper work about the home, let us know. We

answer the phone and check our emails all the time!

Just for Fun

The first person to respond with the correct answer to this trivia question will win a Barnes & Noble card. Send your answer to kim@gillespiehomeinspection.com.

(The winner of last month's trivia was Kim Copher of Coldwell Banker. She correctly guessed that J.R. of "Dallas" fame was show in 1980!)

Name the sport in which neither the spectators nor the participants know the score until the end.

We work your hours, call anytime...

kim@gillespiehomeinspection.com

408.871.9909 or 1.877.9.No Prob

<http://www.gillespiehomeinspection.com>

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