

InterNACHI Home Inspection Agreement - WA

Rev 8-18-21

Inspected Property:

Inspection Date:

Inspection Time:

() AM () PM

Client(s) Name:

Client(s) Present Address:

Inspected By:

License No.:

Inspection Fee:

THIS AGREEMENT made this ____ day of _____, 20 __, by and between _____ (hereinafter "INSPECTOR") and the undersigned ("CLIENT"), collectively referred to herein as "the Parties." The Parties understand and voluntarily agree as follows:

- 1. Permission to Enter Property:** The CLIENT is responsible for ensuring that the INSPECTOR has permission to enter the Inspected Property to perform the home inspection on the date scheduled. The INSPECTOR is not responsible for any disruption in the inspection process caused by construction, renovations, painting, cleaning, or any other activity occurring at the Inspected Property at the time of the inspection.
- 2. Assumption of Risk of Injury:** The INSPECTOR has no knowledge or information concerning the conditions of the Inspected Property and will not see any conditions until the time of the home inspection. The CLIENT is encouraged to attend the home inspection but assumes all risks and responsibility for any injury (including, but not limited to, personal injury, bodily injury, disability, and death), illness, damage, loss, claim, liability, or expense, of any kind, that CLIENT may experience or incur in connection with attending the home inspection. CLIENT releases, discharges, and holds harmless INSPECTOR, its employees, agents, and representatives, of and from any such claims, including all liabilities, claims, actions, damages, costs, or expenses of any kind arising out of or relating to attending the home inspection.
- 3. Scope of Services:** The INSPECTOR agrees to provide professional home inspection services to the CLIENT in conformance with the provisions of the Standards of Practice promulgated by the Washington Home Inspectors Board, WAC § 308-408C-010 ("WA Standards"), and this Agreement. Although the INSPECTOR agrees to follow the WA Standards, CLIENT understands that these Standards contain limitations, exceptions, and exclusions. CLIENT understands that InterNACHI is not a party to this Agreement and has no control over the INSPECTOR or representations made by the INSPECTOR and does not supervise the INSPECTOR. The inspection is a non-invasive, visual inspection of the following readily accessible systems and components of a home and reporting on the general condition of those systems and components in a written report: the roof, foundation, exterior, heating system, air conditioning system, structure, plumbing and electrical systems, and other aspects of the home as may be identified by the Home Inspector Board. The inspection is based on the observations made on the date of the inspection, and not a prediction of future conditions. The purpose of a home inspection is to assess the condition of the residence at the time of the inspection using visual observations, simple tools, and normal homeowner operational controls; and to report deficiencies of specific systems and components. Inspectors must perform all inspections in compliance with the WA Standards.
- 4. Home Inspection Report:** The CLIENT and the INSPECTOR agree that the INSPECTOR will prepare a Home Inspection Report that shall identify, in written format, defects within specific systems and components defined by the WA Standards that are both observed and deemed material by the INSPECTOR. The home inspection report may include additional comments and recommendations.
- 5. General Exclusions:** An inspection **IS NOT** technically exhaustive. An inspection **WILL NOT** identify concealed or latent defects, deal with aesthetic concerns or what could be deemed matters of taste, cosmetic defects, etc. An inspection **DOES NOT** include items not permanently installed. The inspection services **DO NOT INCLUDE** any action, system or component specifically excluded from the scope of work in any provision of the WA Standards. The inspection **DOES NOT INCLUDE** investigation of mold, asbestos, lead paint, water, soil, air quality or other environmental issues. The INSPECTOR **IS NOT REQUIRED TO:** (a) determine the condition of any system or component that is not readily accessible; the remaining service life of any system or component; the strength, adequacy, effectiveness or efficiency of any system or component; causes of any condition or deficiency; methods, materials, or cost of corrections; future conditions including, but not limited to, failure of systems and components; (b) comment on the suitability of the structure or property for any specialized use, compliance with codes, regulations, laws or ordinances; (c) report the presence of potentially hazardous plants or animals including, but not limited to: (1) wood destroying insects or diseases harmful to humans; (2) the presence of any environmental hazards including, but not limited to mold, toxins, carcinogens, noise, and contaminants in soil, water or air; or (3) the presence or effectiveness of any system installed or methods utilized to control or remove suspected hazardous substances; (d) determine the operating costs of any systems or components; (e) determine the acoustical properties of any systems or components; (f) operate any system or component that is shut down, not connected or is otherwise inoperable; (g) operate any system or component that does not respond to normal user controls; (h) operate any circuit breakers, water, gas or oil shutoff valves; (i) offer or perform any act or service contrary to law; (j) offer or perform engineering services or work in any trade or professional service other than home inspection; (k) offer or provide warranties or guarantees of any kind; (l) determine the existence of or inspect any underground items including, but not limited to, underground storage tanks or sprinkler systems. (m) inspect decorative items, or systems or components that are in areas not entered in accordance with the WA Standards; (n) inspect detached structures, common elements and areas of multiunit housing such as condominium properties or cooperative housing; (o) perform any procedure or operation that will, in the opinion of the INSPECTOR, likely be dangerous to the INSPECTOR or others or damage the Inspected Property, its systems or components; (p) move suspended ceiling tiles, personal property, furniture, equipment, plants, soil, snow, ice or debris; (q) dismantle any system or component, except as explicitly required by the WA Standards; (r) enter flooded crawlspaces, attics that are not readily accessible, or any area that will, in the opinion of the INSPECTOR, likely be dangerous to the INSPECTOR or other persons or damage the Inspected Property, its systems or components; (s) inspect or comment on the condition or serviceability of elevators or related equipment; or (t) inspect or comment on the condition or serviceability of swimming pools, hot tubs, saunas, sports courts or other similar equipment or related equipment. The INSPECTOR **IS NOT REQUIRED TO DETERMINE:** whether any system or component of

the Inspected Property has been affected by the illegal manufacture, distribution, storage, possession or sale of any illicit drugs, products, or by-products, including, but not limited to, methamphetamines, and including all chemicals, tools, household fixtures or appliances used to facilitate such illegal activities. The CLIENT and the INSPECTOR agree that the scope of the inspection to be performed pursuant to this Agreement **DOES NOT INCLUDE** decay of the interior of logs in log walls, log foundations or roofs, or similar defects in log homes, log structures or similar log construction. The CLIENT and the INSPECTOR agree that the INSPECTOR **IS NOT REQUIRED TO PERFORM** any action or task specifically excluded from the scope of a general home inspection as contained in the WA Standards, whether or not specifically identified herein.

6. **No Liability for Third-Party Service Providers:** The INSPECTOR may, where appropriate, recommend third-party service providers to supply goods and/or services to CLIENT in accordance with the home inspection services. CLIENT understands and agrees that the INSPECTOR bears no legal or contractual responsibility to the CLIENT for any actions or inactions of any such third-party service provider. No third-party service provider shall have the authority to incur or create any liability or obligation in the name of the INSPECTOR, or for which the INSPECTOR shall be liable to another.

7. **No Liability for Third-Party Reliance on Inspection Report:** The inspection and home inspection report are for the use of CLIENT only. INSPECTOR may also provide a copy of the home inspection report to the CLIENT'S real estate agent or attorney. INSPECTOR has permission to discuss observations with real estate agents, owners, repairpersons, and other interested parties only with written consent of CLIENT. CLIENT shall be the sole owner of the report and all rights to it. INSPECTOR accepts no responsibility for use or misinterpretation of the content of the report by third parties, and third parties who rely on it in any way do so at their own risk and release INSPECTOR from any liability whatsoever.

8. **Inspection Fee & Additional Fees:** The Inspection Fee identified above is due prior to or immediately upon completion of the physical inspection of the Inspected Property. If the Inspection Fee is not paid as required herein, the INSPECTOR has no obligation to release the home inspection report, or any other information concerning the inspection or the Inspected Property, until the Inspection Fee is paid in full. All expenses incurred in collecting any overdue payments or returned checks are the responsibility of the CLIENT. There is a \$50.00 service charge for returned checks. A finance charge of one and one-half percent (1.5%) per month, eighteen percent (18%) per year, will apply to all obligations not paid pursuant to the terms contained herein. CLIENT agrees that in addition to any service charges or interest, the CLIENT shall be responsible for all legal fees and costs incurred by the INSPECTOR to collect the fees due under this Agreement. The CLIENT agrees that the provisions of Paragraph 11 of this Agreement do not apply to any legal fees and costs incurred by the INSPECTOR to collect the fees due.

9. **Responsibility for Return Inspections:** The CLIENT understands that if any systems and/or components of the Inspected Property cannot be inspected due to unforeseen circumstances during the inspection it is the CLIENT'S duty to contact the INSPECTOR should the CLIENT want the INSPECTOR to return to the Inspected Property later to inspect those systems and/or components. Any systems and/or components not inspected due to unforeseen circumstances will be identified in the report.

10. **Severability:** If any portion of this Agreement is found to be invalid or unenforceable by any court the remaining terms shall remain in force between the Parties. The indemnities and assumptions of liabilities and obligations herein shall continue in full force and effect after and notwithstanding the termination of this Agreement.

11. **LIQUIDATED DAMAGES & LIMITATION OF LIABILITY:** INSPECTOR assumes no liability for the cost of repair or replacement of unreported defects or deficiencies either current or arising in the future. CLIENT acknowledges that the liability of INSPECTOR, its agents and/or employees, for any claims against the INSPECTOR, including claims for, but not limited to, breach of contract, negligence, fraud or misrepresentation, and/or any violation of any law, statute, regulation, ordinance, or any other theory of liability arising out of, from or related to this Agreement or arising out of, from or related to the inspection or the home inspection report, shall be limited to liquidated damages in an amount equal to the fee paid to the INSPECTOR, and this liability shall be exclusive. CLIENT waives any claim for consequential, exemplary, special, or incidental damages or for the loss of the use of any portion of the Inspected Property. The Parties acknowledge that the liquidated damages are not intended as a penalty but are intended (i) to reflect the fact that actual damages may be difficult and impractical to ascertain; (ii) to allocate risk among the INSPECTOR and CLIENT; and (iii) to enable the INSPECTOR to perform the inspection at the stated fee. The CLIENT understands that he/she/they is/are free to consult with another professional if the Client does not agree to this provision.

12. **Disclaimer of Warranties:** Unless specified in this Agreement, all express or implied conditions, representations, and warranties, including any implied warranty of merchantability, fitness for a particular purpose or non-infringement are disclaimed, except to the extent that these disclaimers are held to be legally invalid.

13. **Notice of Claims:** The CLIENT agrees that any claim for failure of the INSPECTOR to fulfill its obligations under this Agreement shall be made in writing to the INSPECTOR upon discovery. The CLIENT also agrees to allow the INSPECTOR ten (10) days to come to the Inspected Property to observe, photograph, inspect and evaluate any condition complained of by the CLIENT to the INSPECTOR and not to make, or allow others to make, any alteration to the claimed condition until the INSPECTOR has had the opportunity to inspect and evaluate the claimed condition.

14. **Governing Law & Jurisdiction:** All issues and questions concerning the construction, validity, enforcement, and interpretation of this Agreement shall be governed by, and construed in accordance with, the laws of the state where the Inspected Property is situated, without giving effect to any choice of law or conflict of law rules or provisions that would cause the application of the laws of any jurisdiction other than the state where the Inspected Property is located. The parties agree that any litigation arising out of this Agreement, or any services provided by the INSPECTOR shall be filed only in the court having jurisdiction in the county in which the INSPECTOR has its principal place of business.

15. **LIMITATION ON TIME TO INITIATE ANY LEGAL ACTION:** Any legal action, dispute, controversy, interpretation, or claim, including claims for, but not limited to, breach of contract, any form of negligence, fraud or misrepresentation, and/or any violation of any law, statute, regulation, ordinance, or any other theory of liability arising out of, from or related to this Agreement or arising out of, from or related to the inspection or the home inspection report must be initiated within one (1) year from the date of the delivery of the home inspection report to the CLIENT, regardless of when the CLIENT first discovers the facts supporting such possible claims as identified herein. Failure to initiate said action within one (1) year of the date of services shall be a complete bar to any

such action a full and complete waiver of any rights, actions or causes of actions that may have arisen thereon. This period may be shorter than otherwise provided by state law.

16. **No Assignments Permitted:** CLIENT may not assign all or any portion of his/her/their rights or obligations under this Agreement. Subject to the preceding, this Agreement shall be binding upon, inure to the benefit of, and be enforceable by the Parties hereto and their respective heirs, legal representatives, successors, and assigns. This Agreement does not create and shall not be construed or deemed to create any rights or benefits enforceable by or for the benefit of any person or entity other than the Parties hereto and their respective heirs, legal representatives, successors, and assigns.

17. **Entire Agreement:** This Agreement represents the entire agreement between the parties. No oral agreements, understandings, or representations shall change, modify, or amend any part of this Agreement. No change or modification shall be enforceable against any party unless such change or modification is in writing and signed by the parties and supported by valid consideration. This Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the parties hereto and their spouses, heirs, executors, administrators, successors, assigns, and representatives of any kind whatsoever.

18. **Acceptance of Terms:** CLIENT agrees that he/she/they have read, understand, and agree to all the terms and conditions on all pages of this Agreement, including the limitations and exclusions, and agree(s) to pay the fee shown according to the terms stated herein. The CLIENT can consult with legal counsel, or any other person or entity, before signing this Agreement. CLIENT acknowledges that if CLIENT does not agree with any of the terms of this Agreement, CLIENT has the option to retain another inspection company.

CLIENT'S Signature: _____ Date: _____

CLIENT'S Name: _____
Please Print

INSPECTOR'S Signature: _____ Date: _____

INSPECTOR'S Name: _____
Please Print