

Sand Dollar Home Inspections

Your Property Inspection Report



1234 Main St, Anywhere, FL 33767
Inspection prepared for: Steve Miller
Date of Inspection: 4/28/2016 Time: 9am
Age of Home: 25
Weather: 70 degrees, Dry

Inspector: Randy Crouse
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We appreciate the opportunity to conduct this inspection for you! Please carefully read your entire Inspection Report. Call us after you have reviewed your report, so we can go over any questions you may have. Remember, when the inspection is completed and the report is delivered, we are still available to you for any questions you may have, throughout the entire closing process. Properties being inspected do not "Pass" or "Fail." - The following report is based on an inspection of the visible portion of the structure; inspection may be limited by vegetation and possessions. Depending upon the age of the property, some items like GFCI outlets may not be installed; this report will focus on safety and function, not current code. This report identifies specific non-code, non-cosmetic concerns that the inspector feels may need further investigation or repair. For your safety and liability purposes, we recommend that licensed contractors evaluate and repair any critical concerns and defects. **Note that this report is a snapshot in time. We recommend that you or your representative carry out a final walk-through inspection immediately before closing to check the condition of the property, using this report as a guide.**

Summary of Items of Concern

On this page you will find, in **RED**, a brief summary of any **CRITICAL** concerns of the inspection, as they relate to Safety and Function. Examples would be bare electrical wires, or active drain leaks. The complete list of items noted is found throughout the body of the report, including Normal Maintenance items. Be sure to read your entire report!

For your safety and liability, we recommend that you hire only licensed contractors when having any work done. If the living area has been remodeled or part of an addition, we recommend that you verify the permit and certificate of occupancy. This is important because our inspection does not tacitly approve, endorse, or guarantee the integrity of any work that was done without a permit, and latent defects could exist.

Depending upon your needs and those who will be on this property, items listed in the body of the report may also be a concern for you; be sure to read your Inspection Report in its entirety.

Note: If there are no comments in **RED** below, there were no **CRITICAL** system or safety concerns with this property at the time of inspection.

Electric, Heat, Water Heater		
Page 6 Item: 1	Electrical Panel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Double tapped breaker(s) inside panel box (more than one electrical conductor attached). This is not standard practice, and may cause overheating or even an electrical fire. Recommend evaluation by an electrician. Double tapping and lugging can create hot spots on breakers and neutral bars because they are not tightened to the correct torque--especially if two different size conductors are used. Because the hot [black] and neutral [white] wires are both current carrying conductors, the chance is then greater for potential hot spots. If the double tap or lug becomes loose, it begins to arc. As it arcs it builds up carbon. Carbon is then resistance and with more carbon buildup the more difficult it is for the conductor to make contact, thus increasing the current. The end result can be the breaker tripping because of the loose connection [current exceeding the rating of the breaker], or signs of overheating such as discolored wires, melted wires, etc, or even fire. • Dirt or rust buildup inside panel box. • Recommend having breaker connections evaluated by a licensed electrician.
Page 7 Item: 2	HVAC Unit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Burn marks on the outside of unit, have a licensed HVAC Technician further evaluate.
Page 9 Item: 3	Water Heater	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Temperature – Pressure drain line is missing. One should be installed to terminate within six inches of the floor to minimize personal injury which may be caused by scalding water, in the event of a pressure blow-off.

Exterior Areas

This section describes the exterior wall coverings and trim. Inspectors are required to inspect the exterior wall coverings, flashing, trim, all exterior doors, the stoops, steps porches and their associated railings, any attached decks and balconies and eaves, soffits and fascias accessible from ground level.

1. Roof

Materials: Composition shingles, Age: 5 years

Observations:

- No major system safety or function concerns noted at time of inspection.



2. Gutters & Grading

Information: No gutters or downspouts. Installation recommended, at least over entranceways and walks, to keep water away from structure. Water can weaken the foundation and deteriorate the siding. Be sure to install splashblocks or extensions to carry water away, and keep water from areas such as driveways or walks where it can be an ice hazard in winter.

3. Drives & Walks

Information: Concrete driveway, Block / Brick sidewalk.

4. Siding

Information: with stone facade. Cement-based siding ("Hardi-Board" etc.)

5. Vegetation

Observations:

- Tree limbs within 10 feet of roof should be trimmed away to provide air and sunlight to roof, while minimizing debris & dampness.
- Trim trees that are in contact or proximity to home, as branches can abrade roofing or siding.
- Trees within 6 feet foundation. Monitor for potential root damage.

6. Decks & Steps

Observations:

- No major system safety or function concerns noted at time of inspection.

7. Doors

Observations:

- Doorbell inoperative.

8. Window Condition

Observations:

- No major system safety or function concerns noted at time of inspection.

Garage, Basement & Attic

Note that minor settlement or “hairline” cracks in garage or basement slabs are not noted in an inspection, as they are normal to properties of any age. They should, however, be monitored for expansion and sealed as necessary. Residential inspections only include garages and carports that are physically attached to the house. They are not considered habitable, and conditions are reported accordingly.

Inspectors are not required to enter any crawlspace areas that are not readily accessible, less than 36” clearance, wet (electrical shock hazard), or where entry could cause damage or pose a hazard to the inspector.

We recommend that all attic hatches have a batt of fiberglass insulation installed over them, and that the hatch be sealed shut with latex caulk. This will keep warm moist air from entering the attic, which may cause condensation or even mold. Note that *every* attic has mold; mold is everywhere. Some attics have some minor *visible* mold. This is often a result of the building process, when materials get wet during construction. If there is *extensive* mold, or mold that appears to have grown due to poor maintenance conditions, we will report it to you, the client. If the hatch is sealed shut when we go to inspect the attic, it can only be unsealed by the owner or their representative, as our insurance prohibits us from performing any destructive testing or entry. In accordance with industry and insurance standards, we will not attempt to enter an attic that has no permanently installed steps or pull-down stairs; less than thirty-six inches of headroom; does not have a standard floor designed for normal walking; walking, in the inspector’s opinion, may compromise the ceiling below; is restricted by ducts, or in which the insulation obscures the joists and thereby makes mobility hazardous, in which case we will inspect the attic as best we can from the access point, with no comments or evaluations of areas not readily viewed from the hatch area.

1. Garage

Observations:

- No major system safety or function concerns noted at time of inspection.

2. Attic

Observations:

- **Cellulose** Insulation
- Insulation averages 3 to 4 inches. Recommend installing more.
- 75% of homes have animal or insect activity and recommend an evaluation by a licensed exterminator.



Garage, Basement & Attic Attic

Electric, Heat, Water Heater

Electric: Note that only actual GFCI outlets are tested and tripped. Some baths may have non-GFCI outlets which are protected by a GFCI outlet in a remote area (garage, another bath, etc.). Confirm with owner that apparent non-GFCI outlets within 6' of wet areas are thus protected. Also, note that most electricians agree that smoke detectors are good for about 5 years, and the breakers in your panel box have an expected life of about 20 years. Therefore, if this home was built before 1990, consider having the panel box and breakers evaluated by a licensed electrician, as an overheated breaker can result in a structural fire. If your home does not have a carbon monoxide detector (few do!), we recommend making that investment. Any home that has a Bulldog Pushmatic, Zinsco, Sylvania Zinsco or Federal Pacific Electric panel should have it evaluated by a licensed electrician, as these older types of panels and breakers have been known to overheat and cause house fires.

Heat: The heating, ventilation, air conditioning and cooling system (often referred to as HVAC) is the climate control system for the structure. The goal of these systems is to keep the occupants at a comfortable level while maintaining indoor air quality, ventilation while keeping maintenance costs at a minimum. The HVAC system is usually powered by electricity and natural gas, but can also be powered by other sources such as butane, oil, propane, solar panels, or wood. The inspector will test the heating and air conditioner using the thermostat or other controls. A more thorough investigation of the system, including the heat ("firebox") exchanger, should be conducted by a licensed HVAC service person every year. Failure to do so may result in carbon monoxide escaping through cracks in a heat exchanger or flue pipe, resulting in death.

1. Electrical Panel

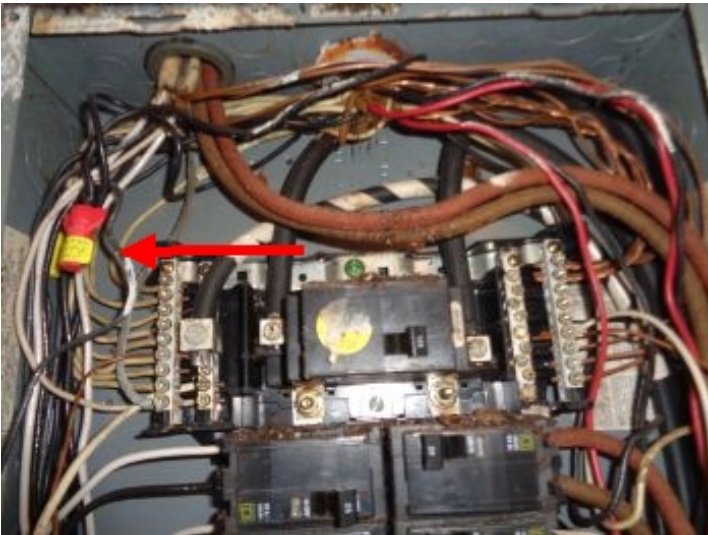
Materials: Main Disconnect in panel box, Square D, No aluminum solid wiring present., Located in laundry room, 125 Amp Service

Observations:

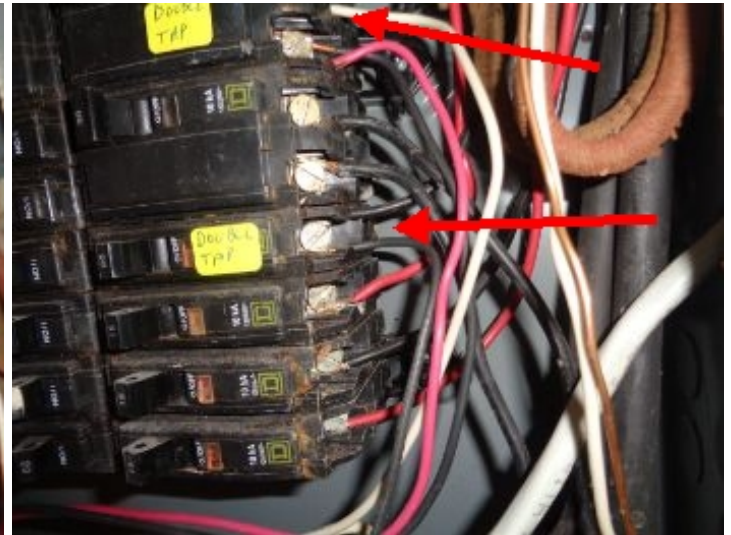
- **Double tapped breaker(s) inside panel box (more than one electrical conductor attached). This is not standard practice, and may cause overheating or even an electrical fire. Recommend evaluation by an electrician. Double tapping and lugging can create hot spots on breakers and neutral bars because they are not tightened to the correct torque--especially if two different size conductors are used. Because the hot [black] and neutral [white] wires are both current carrying conductors, the chance is then greater for potential hot spots. If the **double tap** or lug becomes loose, it begins to arc. As it arcs it builds up carbon. Carbon is then resistance and with more carbon buildup the more difficult it is for the conductor to make contact, thus increasing the current. The end result can be the breaker tripping because of the loose connection [current exceeding the rating of the breaker], or signs of overheating such as discolored wires, melted wires, etc, or even fire.**
- **Dirt or rust buildup inside panel box.**
- **Recommend having breaker connections evaluated by a licensed electrician.**



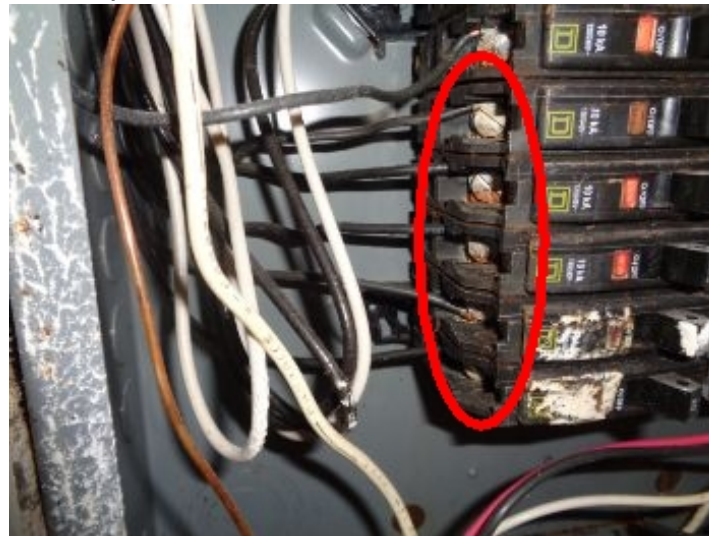
Electric, Heat, Water Heater Electrical Panel



Pigtail double tap



Double Taps



Corrosion

2. HVAC Unit

Information: Whirlpool, Age: 2003, Capacity: 2 ton

Observations:

- Recommend installation of carbon monoxide alarm in the home, and monthly testing of smoke alarms to ensure proper operation.
- Filter dirty.
- No Smoke Detector in vicinity.
- **Burn marks on the outside of unit, have a licensed HVAC Technician further evaluate.**



A/C



A/C sticker plate



A/C unit pipe insulation



Electric, Heat, Water Heater HVAC Unit



HVAC exterior burning

3. Water Heater

Information: Rheem, Utility/Laundry Room, 30 +/- gallons, Age: April 2000

Observations:

- **Temperature – Pressure drain line is missing. One should be installed to terminate within six inches of the floor to minimize personal injury which may be caused by scalding water, in the event of a pressure blow-off.**



Missing Drain Pipe



Water Heater Sticker Plate

Interior Features

This inspection does not include testing for radon, mold or other hazardous materials unless specifically requested.

Plumbing is an important concern in any structure. Moisture in the air and leaks can cause mildew, wallpaper and paint to peel, and other problems. The home inspector will identify as many issues as possible but some problems may be undetectable due to problems within the walls or under the flooring.

Note that if in a rural location, sewer service and/or water service might be provided by private waste disposal system and/or well. Inspection, testing, analysis, or opinion of condition and function of private waste disposal systems and wells is not within the scope of a home inspection. Recommend consulting with seller concerning private systems and inspection, if present, by appropriate licensed professional familiar with such private systems. If a Septic System is on the property, pumping is generally recommended prior to purchase, and then every three years.

Interior areas consist of bedrooms, baths, kitchen, laundry, hallways, foyer, and other open areas.

All exposed walls, ceilings and floors will be inspected. Doors and windows will also be investigated for damage and normal operation. Although excluded from inspection requirements, we will inform you of obvious broken gas seals in windows. Please realize that they are not always visible, due to temperature, humidity, window coverings, light source, etc. Your inspection will report visible damage, wear and tear, and moisture problems if seen. Personal items in the structure may prevent the inspector from viewing all areas, as the inspector will not move personal items.

An inspection does not include the identification of, or research for, appliances and other items that may have been recalled or have had a consumer safety alert issued about it. Any comments made in the report are regarding well known notices and are provided as a courtesy only. Product recalls and consumer product safety alerts are added almost daily by the Consumer Product Safety Commission. We recommend visiting the following Internet site if recalls are a concern to you: <http://www.cpsc.gov>.

1. Kitchen

Observations:

- No major system safety or function concerns noted at time of inspection.



2. Master Bath

Observations:

- No major system safety or function concerns noted at time of inspection.



Interior Features Master Bath

3. Bath

Observations:

- No major system safety or function concerns noted at time of inspection.

4. Plumbing & Laundry

Observations:

- No major system safety or function concerns noted at time of inspection.



Laundry Plumbing

5. Floors, Ceilings & Walls

Observations:

- No major system safety or function concerns noted at time of inspection.

6. Doors

Observations:

- No major system safety or function concerns noted at time of inspection.

7. Windows

Observations:

- No major system safety or function concerns noted at time of inspection.

8. Stairways

Observations:

- No major system safety or function concerns noted at time of inspection.

A Home Inspection is a non-invasive visual examination of a residential dwelling, performed for a fee, which is designed to identify observed material defects within specific components of said dwelling. Components may include any combination of mechanical, structural, electrical, plumbing, or other essential systems or portions of the home, as identified and agreed to by the Client and Inspector, prior to the inspection process.

A home inspection is intended to assist in evaluation of the overall condition of the dwelling. The inspection is based on observation of the visible and apparent condition of the structure and its components on the date of the inspection and not the prediction of future conditions.

A home inspection will not reveal every concern that exists or ever could exist, but only those material defects observed on the day of the inspection.

A material defect is a condition with a residential real property or any portion of it that would have a significant adverse impact on the value of the real property or that involves an unreasonable risk to people on the property. The fact that a structural element, system or subsystem is near, at or beyond the end of the normal useful life of such a structural element, system or subsystem is not by itself a material defect.

An Inspection report shall describe and identify in written format the inspected systems, structures, and components of the dwelling and shall identify material defects observed. Inspection reports may contain recommendations regarding conditions reported or recommendations for correction, monitoring or further evaluation by professionals, but this is not required.

General Notes

1. General Notes

Observations:

Final Walk-Through: This report is a snapshot in time, at the time and date of the inspection. Conditions in a house can change at any time, for any number of reasons (think about your vehicle suddenly breaking down!). For this reason, we recommend a complete walk-through of the vacant house before closing. If you or your representative are not available for such a walk through (or if you would like a professional to accompany you), we ask that you provide us with 3 days notice.

Pictures - Pictures are included to help you understand and see what I saw at the time of the inspection. They are intended to show an example or illustration of an area of concern but may not show every occurrence and may not accurately depict its severity. Also note that not all areas of concern will be pictured. Do not rely on pictures alone. Please read the complete inspection report before your inspection contingency period expires.

Descriptions—When outside the structure, the terms “front,” “left,” “rear,” and “right” are used to describe the structure as viewed from the main entrance, even if it does not face the address street. If you have any questions about room descriptions or locations, please contact us; it’s important that you be able to identify the rooms that we discuss in your report.

Structures that are occupied and fully or partially furnished at the time of the inspection many times prevent home inspectors from seeing everything, testing everything, or having access to everything. Concealed defects are not within the scope of the home inspection. Along with defects that we might not have noted due to such conditions, since the structure is still being lived in and used, additional deferred maintenance items may be present by the time escrow closes. Recommend careful observation during final walk-through and before close of escrow.

Cost to repair - There are several places you can go to get approximate costs to repair something. A good online source is www.homeinspectorlocator.com/resources/costtorepair.htm. I recommend getting at least three quotes on work to be done. Good online sources for finding qualified professionals include Done Right! (www.doneright.com), Angie’s List (www.angieslist.com), and the Better Business Bureau (www.bbb.org).

This report is not a guaranty or warranty. Anything can fail at any time. This inspection report is only reporting on the conditions as observed at the time of the inspection, and is not intended to be considered as a guaranty or warranty, expressed or implied, of the adequacy of, or performance of, systems or structures, or their component parts, or of their remaining life expectancy or usefulness. Systems, equipment and components can, and do, fail—randomly and without prior warning.

Your Home Inspection Report is not a code inspection, nor is the inspector licensed to perform any code inspections pertaining to this specific property. All code enforcement questions must be directed to the authority having jurisdiction. Contact the local building department for further details.

Remember that we give you a \$20 referral fee for anyone you refer who ends up having a home inspection with us.

Once again, thank you for your business, and for your trust!
Randy Crouse

Photos



Glossary

Term	Definition
Cellulose	Cellulose insulation: Ground-up newspaper that is treated with fire-retardant.
Double Tap	<p>A double tap occurs when two conductors are connected under one screw inside a panelboard. Most circuit breakers do not support double tapping, although some manufacturers, such as like Cutler Hammer, make hardware specially designed for this purpose.</p> <p>Double tapping is a defect when it is used on incompatible devices. If the conductors come loose, they cause overheating and electrical arcing, and the risk of fire is also present. A double tap can be accommodated by installing a new circuit board compatible with double tapping. It is also possible to add another circuit breaker or install a tandem breaker to the existing breaker box.</p>