Classes Offered

60-Hr Online Course
Register Now

93 Hour Class
Brentwood, TN - Nov 7-

Winner, Winner, Chicken Dinner, er, InspectionWorld Conference!
If you registered for InspectionWorld before October 1st, you were entered into a drawing to receive complimentary InspectionWorld Registration.

Our three (3) winners are:

Bret Beasley - CPO Home Inspection
Robert Lemoine - Residential Inspector of America
Duane Serrano - Tri-Star Inspection Services

Register now to attend InspectionWorld - January 22-25, 2017, the best and largest professional development opportunity of the year for home inspectors.
Go to **www.inspectionworld.com** for registration and conference details.

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**Deck Standard open for public comments**

The Standards Committee is accepting comments about the proposed ASHI Standard of Professional Practice for Residential Deck Inspections. The committee encourages members to read this proposed standard and provide comments to the committee.

**Please direct comments and questions to Bruce Barker at Bruce@DreamHomeConsultants.com.**

The comment period ends on 30 November 2016.

Please click [here](#) to view a draft copy of the Standard.

The objective of this proposed standard is to provide the public with a valuable additional service that can improve deck safety. The intent of this standard is that members will provide this service to homeowners who want a thorough inspection of their deck using the most current deck construction guidelines.
ASHI Headquarters is now accepting nominations for the 2016 John E. Cox Award; the award that honors individuals who have made exemplary contributions to their ASHI Chapter.

Download the Nomination Form.

What is InspectPAC and Why You Should Donate to it

InspectPAC is your Political Action Fund - the only such fund in Washington D.C. dedicated solely to help re-elect members of Congress who believe in a strong home inspection profession.

In other words, these members of Congress are looking out for your interests. They’re not working on behalf of real estate agents, real estate brokers, home owners or home buyers or even ASHI in general. They are working for you, the home inspector.

The money to pay for this representation does NOT come from your ASHI dues. We all need to donate - not from our business accounts, but from our personal accounts. It’s up to you to help make a difference in our home inspection profession.
What's going on with your chapter? Got an event coming up? Something interesting happen at your last meeting? What did you learn about? We want to know and we’ll post it here. Email your news to Dave at davek@ashi.org

Here's what's going on in a chapter near you...

October 7, 2016
Iowa Chapter Fall Seminar
Iowa City Realtor Assn Bldg
Coralville, IA
Contact: Andy Kolar:
aikolar@gmail.com
13 ASHI CEs

October 11-13, 2016
Water Efficiency Rating Score (WERS) Verifier Training Course
Santa Fe Community College
Santa Fe, NM
Info: www.energysmartacademy.com/water.html

October 13, 2016
North Central Ohio Seminar
Independence Public Library
Independence, OH
Contact Paul Wancata
inspectionsunlimited@cox

So what has InspectPAC done for the profession of home inspection?

- ASHI persuaded Congress to pass comprehensive legislation (drafted by ASHI) that requires HUD to broadly incorporate home inspections in the HUD housing counseling programs.
- Brand home inspection as a form of consumer protection and has already convinced the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) to let home buyers know that an appraisal is NOT a home inspection.
- Require a FHA mortgage lenders to prompt mortgage applicants (at first contact) to consider obtaining a home inspection.
- Require FHA lenders to provide a "For Your Protection--Get a Home Inspection" flyer at first mortgage meeting.

We (ASHI/InspectPAC) are fighting threats that can impact your business, such as:

- Fighting a "patent troll" who threatens litigation against ASHI members who use infrared devices for inspections.
- Working with allies on Capitol Hill to protect the home mortgage interest deduction as a crucial revenue driver for ASHI members.
- Opposing higher tax rates for smaller S corporations and is telling allies on Capitol Hill to oppose this concept.

Make your voice heard. help us help you.

From lobbying the government to promoting home inspection as federal policy...

...to defending your revenues and business model among policymakers...

ASHI seeks to defend, protect, and expand your business as an ASHI home inspector.

Your generous contributions to InspectPAC are used to support this action.

ASHI's Year of the Chapter Membership Drive

Limited time offer!!!

From August 1, 2016 to December 31, 2016, anyone who is not already an ASHI member will receive his or her first year membership to ASHI National for free when they join your chapter.
Chapter leaders make sure you get the application in your new members hands! Click here to download Membership Form.

This is how the program works:
1. The inspector signs up and pays dues to the chapter.
2. The chapter gives the inspector a application for a 1 year free membership to ASHI National.
3. The inspector gives the application filled out back to the chapter.
4. The chapter emails the application to membership@ashi.org

If you have any questions, please don't hesitate to contact Russell K. Daniels: russelld@ashi.org

Respectfully,

Russell K. Daniels
Assistant Executive Director,
Director of Membership Services & Chapter Relations
American Society of Home Inspectors

Quick Tip #64: The Crafty Way to Outwit Window Drafts

On many cold, sunny days it would be great to air out your home.
without feeling a nasty cold draft from an open window. In fact, it may be essential to air out the house when you have just fried some bacon and the kitchen exhaust fan can’t remove the odor. But if you open the window, you get a cold draft that only seems to spread the bacon smell throughout your home.

You can avoid this fate if you understand the basic science of wind hitting your home. The side toward the wind will be under positive pressure as air tries to push in. The downwind side will experience suction, and air will tend to move out of the window. So, to easily and comfortably ventilate your home, open a window on the downwind side.

Air will move out of the open window as it leaks into the side of your home facing the wind. If you open a window on the windy side, too, air will flow in and out more quickly. If you also open a window on the second story, the effect will even be greater as a chimney effect causes warm air to rise.

By Tom Feiza, Mr. Fix-it
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Helping you operate and maintain your home
products you use, the people you work with and more. As an added bonus, getting more colleagues involved will lighten your load. To get you started, here are a few areas that see the most obvious value.

**Content Creation**

By using your search traffic data, on-site engagements, and social listening efforts, your social media presence can help you determine what people are looking for and create content that fulfills their needs (not to mention giving you a wonderful way to share that content once it’s available). Topics for content will likely fall into one of three buckets:

- **Learn and Improve**: This type of content is designed to optimize your customers’ tasks or workflow. You are attempting to make their lives better by more fully utilizing your service, or even by offering assistance. The main goals of this content type are to build authority, drive connections, and increase engagement.

- **Explore and Discover**: Customers wanting to get creative and find new ways to utilize your service are looking for this type of content. For this group, building relationships is going to be tantamount; these relationships will breed ideation and community.

- **Question and Answer**: This type of content serves to meet customer support needs. Something has gone wrong, and customers seek a solution. This can range from a detailed forum thread on resolving a technical issue to a simple question and answer on how to read your report. Your main goal is to drive answers.

Also, don’t overlook the content that can be generated within your own community. User-generated content can be amazing - a gift, even! Your users can help write what your audience finds interesting, relevant and useful. The possibilities are endless.

Using analytics tools like SimplyMeasured, as well as tools from the networks themselves, you can measure the conversations you’re having on Twitter, Facebook, Google+,
and even YouTube for content creation ideas. The big takeaway: Members of your community are openly talking about what they want. In order to reap the benefits of that conversation, all you need to do is listen. It's remarkably easy to drive meaningful insights when you're looking in the right places.

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**Save up to 55% off hotels Exclusively for ASHI**

Now that it's Fall, there's no better time to get the best deals on hotels, available just for members of ASHI.

We've partnered with [HotelStorm](http://HotelStorm) to offer our members exclusive savings on hotels, continuing all season long.

Whether you're planning to book Thanksgiving accommodations or traveling out-of-state to watch the leaves change with loved ones, you'll always get the best rates. Use password ASHIMEMBER to unlock savings.

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**A Closer Look: Fall maintenance fends off winter worries**
When it comes to home maintenance and what should be done during which season, most homeowners find that spring is the time to assess winter damage, start repairs and prepare for warmer months.

Summer usually involves a number of indoor and outdoor maintenance tasks such as repairing walkways and steps, painting and checking your chimney and roof. Fall is the time to get your home ready for the coming winter that due to severe storms and temperature fluctuations can be the most gruelling season for your home.

We have compiled a list of some of the more common fall maintenance activities that should be completed before winter settles in.

Have your furnace or heating system serviced by a qualified service company every two years for a gas furnace, and every year for an oil furnace.

For central air conditioning units, if you have a winter cover, use it or place a piece of plywood on top of the unit and either tie or weigh it down so it will not blow off in the wind. Putting something over the top of the exterior unit will help prevent damage to the fan blades and cooling fins. In addition, make sure you turn the power off to the unit by either shutting off the breakers or remove the fuses because this will prevent accidental use of the unit while it is covered.

Have well water tested for quality. It’s recommended that you test for bacteria every six months.

Drain and store outdoor hoses. Close interior valve to outdoor hose connection and drain the hose bib (exterior faucet).
We have been working hard to bring some excellent ASHI Members Exclusive Benefits. Check out the list below and visit the ASHI website's member's only section and click on Member Benefits. Here's a sampling of the awesome member exclusive benefits ASHI members enjoy:

**Travel:**
- Orlando Vacation Packages
- Cruise Discounts
- Rental Car Discounts at 5 different rental car companies
- Hotel Discounts (10%-55% savings)

**Auto:**
- Savings on new and used cars (save thousands off MSRP)
- Jiffy Lube Discounts

**Retail:**
- Apple products

Clean leaves from eavestroughs and roof, and test downspouts to ensure proper drainage from the roof. Check for cracked, loose or missing caulking around windows and doors, and if needed replace it.

Have your chimney inspected by a WETT (wood energy technology transfer) certified chimney sweep.

Ensure windows and doors close tightly; repair or replace weather-stripping, as needed.

Replace window screens with storm windows if applicable.

Clean furnace mounted humidifier, if one is used.
Check smoke, carbon monoxide and security alarms, and replace batteries.

Check to see that bathroom exhaust fans and range hoods are operating properly. If possible, confirm that you are getting good airflow by observing the outside vent hood (the exterior damper should be held open by the airflow).

Replace or clean furnace air filter according to manufacturer’s recommendations.

Remove the grilles on forced-air systems and vacuum inside the ducts.

Inspecting the above areas of your home this fall, plus performing regular maintenance in other areas on a regular basis, will help protect your home from unexpected damage or costly repairs this winter.

Rob Parker is a registered home inspector (RHI) with the Ontario Association of Home Inspectors, and an ASHI certified inspector (ACI) with the American Society of Home Inspectors. Rob can be reached at
Dell products
- Lenovo
- Groupon
- A website chock full of discounts at your favorite retailers

Health:
- Healthcare
- Supplemental Health
- Dental/Vision Insurance
- TeleMedicine Programs
- Prescription Drug Cards

Business Related:
- Shipping
- Office Supplies
- Legal help
- Credit Card Processing

...more coming soon!

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**Thamespec Home Inspection Service (519) 857-7101, by email**

**at** [thamespec@rogers.com](mailto:thamespec@rogers.com) **or visit** [www.thamespec-inspections.com](http://www.thamespec-inspections.com)

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InspectionWorld Las Vegas is steamrolling ahead. Registration open in about a month and a half (September 1st) and the expo hall is filling up. Don't miss out on the best and largest home inspection conference in North America.

Reserve your booth space today! Areas outlined in red have already been reserved. Click on the image on the left for the floor plan and the image below for the Exhibitor Registration & Sponsorship Form. Become an Exhibitor. Click on image below to download the Registration Form.

89% of the Expo Hall is full is InspectionWorld is 119 days away. That's pretty awesome. If we fill what we have, we may not be able to open more space, so if you haven't reserved a booth - now is the time to do it! Click below for the registration and sponsorship opportunities. Click on the "View the Expo Floor Plan" button above to see where you'd like to be (areas outlined in red are unavailable).

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**Calling All Chapters!!!**

Do you host a chapter event, seminar, or conference and trade show? Do you attend them as an exhibitor? If you answered ‘yes’ to either question, then you need ASHI's new "Step Up With ASHI" banner.

This banner has all the talking points you need to
promote ASHI membership and help non-members and non-ACIs alike with the steps to move up to the ACI level. Order yours today! Contact Dee Goldstein at deegem@optonline.net to get pricing and more!

ASHI HQ Conference Schedule
Where will you be?

Remodeling & Deck Expo
October 6-7, 2016
Baltimore, MD

Leadership Training Conference
October 20-21, 2016
Des Plaines, IL

InspectionFuel
November 10-12, 2016
Melbourne, FL

InspectionWorld Las Vegas
January 22-25, 2017
Las Vegas, NV

3 Days of Secrets Revealed
February 20-23, 2017
Dallas, TX

East Coast Builders Conference
May 4-5, 2017
Atlanta, GA

Storm Damage: Home Inspection for Storm Repair

Find little problems before they turn into big repair bills
By: Tom Kraeutler

Originally posted in The Money Pit

Every year, nor'easters, hurricanes and other major weather events do plenty of damage to the nation's homes. Wind and rain can flood basements, wash out foundations and rip shingles from roofs. If you have had a storm like this pass through your area, it's wise to have a home inspection to check for storm repairs.

Obvious storm damage, like a broken window, is easy to spot. But, if you don't look closely, little problems could be missed and develop into big repair bills later.

1. Foundation Failures. Heavy accumulations of water can cause house foundations to become weak and fail. Check yours carefully by looking along both
outdoor and indoor walls for any areas that may be cracked or bulging. If things look good for now, check again over the next several weeks. Water can wash out soil under the footings that hold up the house and not show up as a problem until months after the storm. Watch out for interior walls that crack or doors that get stuck. This could mean the foundation has been damaged and the house is shifting. If you see anything out of the ordinary during your home inspection, don't make any repairs yourself. Call in an expert, such as a professional home inspector, for advice before any storm repairs are started.

2. Flooded Fixtures. Any electrical component, like an outlet, appliance or furnace that has been below flood waters should be replaced. Contaminants in the water can cause serious damage to sensitive electrical components. Besides malfunctioning, they could even result in electrical fires. If your heating system has been flooded out, have it checked by an expert heating and cooling contractor or home inspector. In many cases, individual parts can be changed without it becoming necessary to replace the entire unit.

3. Basement Blues. If your basement has flooded from the storm, don't panic. Severe weather can cause even the driest basement to turn into an indoor swimming pool. Remove damaged belongings and dry the basement with fans. Then, avoid future problems by checking outside for any loose or disconnected gutters and fix any that you find. Look for washed out soil along the foundation walls. If this has happened, regrade the area by adding clean fill dirt and slope it away from the house to prevent any future storm damage.

4. Windward Woes. Winter winds can rip through the outer skin of your house and cause storm damage in many areas. During your home inspection, examine every side
of your house from the ground. Check for loose siding, metal trim and loose soffits. If these parts are loose or missing, leaks can develop. Look for cracked, loose or broken window panes and fix any you find. Check the closers and safety chains on storm windows. Wind can cause shingles to blow off and roof antennas to collapse. Even the best roofs can leak under extreme conditions. Driving rain can "push up" under the roof shingles and result in major leaks. If this has happened, repairs may not be necessary unless the shingles have been damaged. These leaks are not likely to reoccur with normal rainfall. Also, look for loose flashing around the chimney and plumbing vents. Storm wind can loosen the flashing and cause leaks if it is not tight.

5. Cleaning Up. When cleaning up after the storm, be sure to use a good quality disinfectant on all floor and wall surfaces. Flood waters can be contaminated with all sorts of bacteria that can be an unwelcome guest in your home. When using commercial disinfectants, make sure you ventilate the house or use an environmentally safe mix of one cup of Borax in a bucket of hot water. If you have been affected by a flood or storm damage and find that doing a home inspection and checking for storm repairs is more than you can handle, reach out for help. The American Red Cross has offices in virtually every county and their number is in the phone book. Red Cross workers are experts in disaster relief and can provide guidance as well as access to many programs designed to help you get back on dry land after a storm.