

DON'T

# DON'T

by

**Bob Mulloy**

Those of us with a few years of practical experience working as home inspectors quickly learn, via the school of hard knocks, what to touch and what not to touch. Discussions during ASHI meetings has added to my list of mistakes to avoid. Avoid some of the following list of items and you might save a little money or stay healthy. You are a guest in someone's home - if you break it - you own it! Remember, just observe and report what you see and stay out of trouble! **Don't:**

Don't assume the dog is friendly!

Don't shake the handrail too hard!

Don't probe so extensively that you ruin cosmetic appearance.!

Don't squeeze between overgrown shrubbery & the house without checking for bees!

Don't test an overhead door safety reversing mechanism if a car is parked beneath it!

Don't perform a home inspection unless someone is present with authority to allow access!

Don't try to force open a window that is stuck or painted closed!

Don't leave the house without re-setting the thermostat!

Don't forget to shut-off the heat before you leave!

Don't operate the dishwasher without first looking inside!

Don't operate the oven without looking inside first!

Don't leave the house without turning off the oven!

Don't open a service panel if the floor is wet!

Don't open a service panel without knocking first!

Don't open a service panel if the main ground is disconnected!

Don't forget to re-set the remote GFCI for the owner!

## DON'T

- Don't open an attic hatch without knocking first!
- Don't leave the attic light on!
- Don't step in the wrong place when in the attic!
- Don't fall down the attic hatch or stairs!
- Don't lean on the chimney!
- Don't let little children watch as you test or disassemble!
- Don't leave your ladder set up as an attractive nuisance!
- Don't open a fireplace damper without knocking first!
- Don't open fireplace glass doors without holding each door at the top & bottom!
- Don't operate the main shut-off valve!
- Don't operate the main electrical disconnect!
- Don't manually open a zone valve trip lever!
- Don't open a pressure relief valve!
- Don't open a drain valve!
- Don't perform repairs!
- Don't light a pilot!
- Don't set a breaker found in the off position!
- Don't energize a system or appliance that is found in a shut-down condition!
- Don't bang too hard on the shower walls!
- Don't forget to replace access covers!
- Don't forget to lift up a piece of attic insulation to see what is underneath!
- Don't assume that the roof will support you!
- Don't assume that the attic floor will support you!

## DON'T

- Don't move furniture!
- Don't assume a room is not occupied!
- Don't enter an area that is unsafe!
- Don't enter a crawl space without someone's knowledge!
- Don't operate a fixture without first checking that it is connected to a drain!
- Don't bounce too hard on a springy floor!
- Don't shut the pet in the attic or crawl space!
- Don't turn the water on if the home is posted as being winterized!
- Don't scrape away corrosion on piping!
- Don't scrape the main water service pipe too hard!
- Don't stick your face in the furnace with the flame shield removed waiting for ignition!
- Don't press a re-set more than once!
- Don't pull too hard on a hinged glass shower stall door!
- Don't assume the shower doors are safety glass!
- Don't open a mirrored medicine cabinet door without using caution!
- Don't operate a whirlpool tub until the water level is above the jets!
- Don't assume the sink sprayer works!
- Don't be afraid to go back if you forgot to look!
- Don't forget to document what you can't see and why!
- Don't assume the walls are insulated!
- Don't forget to look under that loose carpet!
- Don't walk on a wood shingle or slate roof!
- Don't give your report to a third party without authorization!

DON'T

Don't let anyone sway your observation or analysis!

Don't forget to leave things as you found them!

Don't be afraid to ask for help!

Don't be ashamed to say you don't know!

Don't tell the buyer to buy or not buy the home!

Don't leave without your tools!

Don't guarantee anything except your best effort on behalf of your client!

Don't work without a signed contract!

[Back HOME](#)