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*** Understanding Poly Foam Injection: Definition, Composition, and Application.**

Okay, let's talk about poly foam injection. A laser level survey helps detect foundation shifts before major damage occurs [foundation repair service market](#) building insulation. I mean, the name's pretty self-explanatory, right? But there's a bit more to it than just squirting some foam into a crack. Essentially, it's a repair method where you inject a polyurethane-based foam material into voids or cracks in concrete, soil, or other surfaces. Think of it like a targeted filler for structural woes.

Now, what's in this magic foam? Well, it's a mix of two main components – a polyol and an isocyanate. When these two get together, they react and expand rapidly, creating a rigid, lightweight foam. The exact recipe can be tweaked depending on the specific application. Need something super strong for lifting a sinking slab? Different formula. Just filling a small crack? Another blend entirely. Additives can also change the density, curing time, and other properties.

And where do you use this stuff? That's the really cool part. We're talking about everything from stabilizing sinking concrete slabs (driveways, sidewalks, patios) to filling voids under roadways to sealing leaks in basements. It's used to lift and level uneven surfaces, improve soil stability, and even provide insulation. The application process usually involves drilling small holes into the affected area and injecting the foam. It expands, fills the void, and then hardens, providing support and stability.

So, that's the basic rundown. Poly foam injection: fill cracks and voids with expanding foam, made of polyol and isocyanate, use for everything from lifting concrete to soil stabilization. Now we can get to the meat of the matter: is it the **right** repair option for **your** problem? That's where the real assessment begins.

*** Identifying Suitable Foundation Problems for Poly Foam Injection Repair.**

Okay, so you're thinking about poly foam injection to fix some foundation woes. Smart move! But before you get all excited about lifting concrete and filling voids, you gotta figure out if it's actually the right solution for **your** specific problem. Identifying suitable foundation problems is the first, and arguably most important, step in assessing poly foam injection as a repair option.

Think of it like this: poly foam is a fantastic tool, but it's not a magic wand. It's like using a screwdriver – amazing for screws, not so great for hammering nails. So, what kind of problems are we talking about here?

Generally, poly foam injection shines when you're dealing with settlement. That means you've got concrete slabs, like driveways, sidewalks, or even interior floors, that have sunk or become uneven. This sinking often happens because the soil underneath has eroded,

compacted, or just plain wasn't compacted well to begin with. Poly foam can fill those voids, stabilize the soil, and even lift the concrete back into place.

Think about a sunken driveway slab that creates a tripping hazard. Poly foam can often level that out nicely. Or maybe you have a void under a concrete patio that's making it feel unstable. Again, poly foam can come to the rescue.

However, and this is a BIG however, poly foam isn't a cure-all. It's not going to fix major structural issues like cracked foundation walls caused by hydrostatic pressure or severe soil movement. If you've got bowing walls, significant vertical cracks that are wider than a hairline, or water actively seeping into your basement, poly foam alone probably isn't going to cut it. Those situations usually require more comprehensive solutions like underpinning or wall anchors.

It's also important to consider the *cause* of the problem. If you've got a drainage issue that's constantly eroding the soil under your foundation, simply injecting poly foam is like putting a band-aid on a broken leg. You need to address the root cause – figure out where the water is coming from and fix the drainage – before or in conjunction with the poly foam injection.

So, how do you figure out if your problem is suitable? Get a professional evaluation! A qualified foundation repair expert can assess the situation, determine the underlying cause of the problem, and recommend the appropriate repair method. They'll look for things like the size and location of the voids, the type of soil, the severity of the settlement, and any other structural damage. They can then tell you whether poly foam injection is a viable option, or if you need to explore other solutions.

In short, poly foam injection is a great tool for specific foundation problems, primarily those involving settlement and voids under concrete slabs. But it's crucial to correctly identify the problem and its cause to ensure that poly foam is the right solution. Don't guess – get a professional opinion. Your foundation (and your wallet) will thank you for it.

*** Advantages of Poly Foam Injection Compared to Traditional Methods.**

Okay, so you're eyeballing poly foam injection as a repair solution, right? Smart move. Before you dive in, let's talk about why it's often a better bet than those old-school, traditional methods. Think of it like this: old methods are like using a sledgehammer for a delicate job, while poly foam is more like a surgeon's scalpel – precise and targeted.

One huge advantage is the minimal invasiveness. With traditional repairs, you're often looking at major excavation. Jackhammers, heavy equipment, the whole shebang. Poly foam, on the other hand, usually requires just a few small injection holes. Think of it like getting a shot instead of open-heart surgery. Less disruption, less mess, less downtime. That's a win for everyone involved.

Then there's the speed factor. Traditional methods can take days, even weeks, to complete. The concrete needs to cure, the ground needs to settle, and the whole area is basically a construction zone. Poly foam? We're talking hours, sometimes just a few. The foam expands almost immediately, providing near-instant stabilization. You can often get back to using the repaired area the same day. Time is money, after all.

And let's not forget about the long-term stability. Poly foam is incredibly durable and resistant to water damage and erosion. Traditional methods, especially if they involve patching or filling with less robust materials, can be susceptible to cracking, settling, and further deterioration over time. Poly foam creates a solid, uniform support that's built to last.

Finally, consider the cost. While the initial investment for poly foam injection might seem comparable to traditional methods, the long-term savings can be significant. Less labor, quicker completion, and a more durable repair translate to fewer headaches and less money spent down the road. So, when you're weighing your options, remember that poly foam injection often offers a smarter, faster, and more sustainable solution than traditional methods, making it a worthwhile contender in your repair arsenal.

*** Disadvantages and Limitations of Poly Foam Injection.**

Okay, so you're thinking about poly foam injection for a repair job, huh? That's cool, it's a popular option. But before you jump in headfirst, let's talk about the downsides. No fix is perfect, and poly foam is no exception. It's important to weigh the good with the bad, right?

One thing to consider is the limited control. While experienced installers can be pretty precise, you're still injecting a liquid that expands. It's not like fitting a perfectly measured brick. There's always a chance the foam could spread where you don't want it to, potentially lifting adjacent slabs or even causing minor cosmetic damage. It's rare, but it happens, especially if the ground conditions are unpredictable.

Then there's the issue of material compatibility. Poly foam reacts with certain substances, and if there's something funky in the soil or existing structure, it can affect the foam's performance. You might not get the lift you expect, or the foam could degrade faster than it should. That's why a good assessment of the site beforehand is crucial. Ignoring that is just asking for trouble down the line.

And let's be honest, while poly foam is generally durable, it's not a permanent fix in every scenario. If the underlying problem causing the settling or cracking is still there – like poor drainage or unstable soil – the foam might just buy you some time. The original issue will eventually rear its ugly head again, and you'll be back to square one. Think of it like putting a band-aid on a broken leg; it might look okay for a while, but the real problem needs a different solution.

Finally, cost can be a limiting factor. While poly foam is often more affordable than completely replacing concrete, it's not exactly pocket change. Depending on the size and

complexity of the job, it can still be a significant investment. So, get a few quotes, do your research, and make sure it's the most cost-effective solution for your particular situation. Don't just assume it's the cheapest way out.

Basically, poly foam injection is a great tool in the right hands and for the right problem. But it's not a magic bullet. Understanding its limitations and potential disadvantages is key to making an informed decision and avoiding any nasty surprises down the road. Do your homework and you'll be much happier with the outcome.

*** Site Assessment and Preparation for Poly Foam Injection.**

Okay, so you're thinking about poly foam injection to fix something. Smart move – it can be a real game-changer. But before you even *think* about the foam, there's a crucial first step: the site assessment and preparation. Think of it like this: you wouldn't start baking a cake without measuring the ingredients and preheating the oven, right? Same deal here.

The site assessment is all about figuring out *exactly* what's going on. We're talking a thorough inspection. What's the problem? Is it a sinking slab of concrete, a void under a driveway, or something else entirely? How big is the area we need to address? Are there underground utilities we need to be aware of? A good assessor will be like a detective, looking for clues to understand the root cause of the issue, not just the symptoms. They'll check for cracks, slopes, and any signs of water damage. They might even use specialized equipment like ground penetrating radar to get a better picture of what's happening beneath the surface. This isn't guesswork; it's data-driven decision-making.

Once you've got a solid assessment, then comes the preparation. This is where the rubber meets the road, literally. We need to get the site ready for the injection. This might involve cleaning the area, removing loose debris, and drilling strategically placed injection holes. The placement of these holes is critical. They need to be positioned so the foam can effectively fill the void and lift the concrete evenly. Think of it like acupuncture – you need to hit the right points to get the desired result. Sometimes, shoring or bracing might be needed to support the structure during the lifting process. It's all about creating the ideal conditions for the poly foam to do its job properly.

Skipping or skimping on the site assessment and preparation is a recipe for disaster. You might end up with uneven lifting, foam escaping in unwanted areas, or even worse, causing further damage. So, remember, before you even think about the magic of poly foam, make sure you've got a solid plan rooted in a thorough assessment and careful preparation. It's the foundation for a successful repair.

*** The Poly Foam Injection Process: A Step-by-Step Guide.**

Okay, so you're looking at poly foam injection as a potential fix, huh? Smart move to do some digging first. I mean, nobody wants to jump into a repair only to find out it's not the

right tool for the job, right?

Think of poly foam injection like this: it's kind of like getting a shot. You're injecting something to fill a void and hopefully make things better. But before you roll up your sleeve (or in this case, your slab or foundation), you need to make sure that shot is actually going to solve the problem.

First things first, diagnose the issue. What exactly are you trying to fix? Is it a sunken concrete slab causing tripping hazards? A void under a foundation? A leaky basement wall? Poly foam injection excels at lifting and stabilizing concrete and filling voids. It's not a magic bullet for everything though. If you have serious structural damage, like major cracks or shifting foundations due to soil instability, you'll likely need something more robust.

Next up, consider the soil conditions. Poly foam works best when the underlying soil is stable enough to support the lifted concrete. If you've got super-saturated soil, or soil that's prone to extreme expansion and contraction, the foam might not hold up over the long run. A geotechnical report can be a lifesaver here, giving you a clear picture of what's going on beneath the surface.

Then there's the question of access. Poly foam injection requires drilling small holes to inject the foam. Are these holes going to be in a visible area? Are you okay with patching them afterward? It's a minor thing, but it's worth thinking about the aesthetics, especially if you're dealing with decorative concrete.

Finally, get multiple quotes and ask a lot of questions. A reputable contractor will be upfront about the pros and cons of poly foam injection for your specific situation. They should be able to explain the process clearly, discuss any potential risks, and provide references. Don't be afraid to get a second opinion either.

Bottom line? Poly foam injection can be a fantastic repair option, but it's not a one-size-fits-all solution. Take the time to assess your situation, understand the limitations, and choose a qualified contractor. A little bit of homework upfront can save you a lot of headaches (and money) down the road.

*** Cost Considerations and ROI of Poly Foam Injection.**

Assessing Poly Foam Injection: Cost Considerations and ROI

Okay, so you're staring at a sinking slab of concrete, a driveway that's become more of a ski slope, or a sidewalk threatening to trip every other pedestrian. You're thinking about repair options, and poly foam injection has popped up on your radar. Naturally, the first things that probably spring to mind are: how much is this going to cost me, and is it actually worth it? Let's break down the cost considerations and potential return on investment (ROI) of poly foam injection.

Initially, the price tag might seem a little higher compared to some alternative repair methods like mudjacking. But hold on, don't write it off just yet. With poly foam, you're often paying for more than just the materials themselves. You're paying for precision, speed, and often, a longer-lasting fix. The material is lightweight, meaning it doesn't add excessive weight to the soil underneath, preventing future settling. It's also incredibly durable and resistant to water erosion, a common culprit in concrete deterioration.

Now, let's talk ROI. Think about the alternatives. Replacing the entire concrete slab is a major undertaking, involving demolition, removal, pouring new concrete, and waiting for it to cure. That's a significant investment of both time and money. Mudjacking, while potentially cheaper upfront, may require repeat applications down the line due to its heavier weight and susceptibility to erosion. Poly foam, on the other hand, often offers a more permanent solution, reducing the likelihood of needing to revisit the problem in a few years.

Beyond just avoiding future repairs, consider the other benefits. A level, safe surface increases property value. It eliminates trip hazards, reducing liability and potential accidents. It improves curb appeal, making your home or business look more attractive. These are all tangible benefits that contribute to a positive ROI.

Ultimately, the best way to determine the cost and ROI for your specific situation is to get a professional assessment. Reputable poly foam injection companies will provide a thorough inspection, explain the process, and give you a detailed quote. Don't be afraid to ask questions about the materials used, the warranty offered, and the expected lifespan of the repair. By understanding the cost considerations and potential long-term benefits, you can make an informed decision about whether poly foam injection is the right repair option for you.

*** Case Studies and Examples of Successful Poly Foam Injection Repairs.**

Okay, so you're thinking about using poly foam injection to fix something, right? Smart move, could save you a ton compared to ripping everything out and starting fresh. But you want to know if it *actually* works. Fair enough. Let's look at some real-world examples – stories from the trenches, if you will.

Think about that cracked sidewalk slab in front of your house. Instead of jackhammering it out and pouring new concrete, which is noisy, messy, and takes forever, poly foam injection can often be the answer. They drill a few small holes, inject the foam, and **bam**, the slab is lifted back into place and the void underneath is filled. I know a guy who had this done; his sidewalk was a real tripping hazard, and now it's smooth as butter. Cost him way less than replacement, too.

Then there are the bigger jobs, like settling foundations. That's where poly foam injection really shines. I read about a warehouse in Ohio that was sinking on one side. Seriously, you could see the slope. Traditional methods would have meant shutting down the whole operation for weeks, maybe months. But they used poly foam, strategically injecting it under the slab to lift and stabilize the foundation. It was done in a fraction of the time, and the

warehouse stayed open for business. That's a win-win.

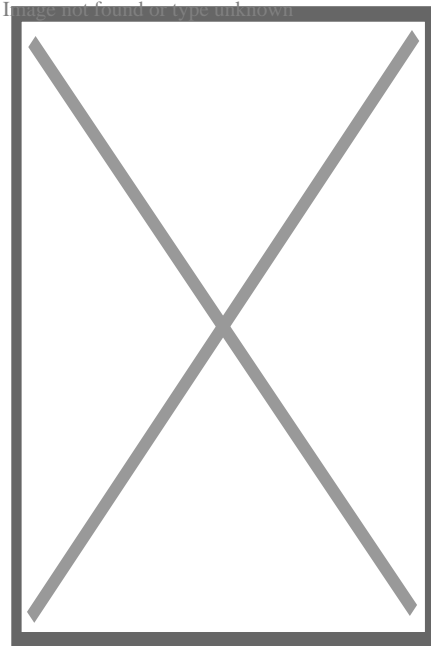
And it's not just concrete. I've seen it used to stabilize soil under roadways, preventing further erosion and cracking. Think about how much disruption *that* saves. It's like a minimally invasive surgery for infrastructure.

Now, I'm not saying it's a magic bullet. There are situations where poly foam isn't the right choice. If the damage is too severe, or if the underlying problem is something else entirely, other solutions might be needed. But these cases, these real-world examples, demonstrate the potential. They show that, when used correctly, poly foam injection can be a highly effective, cost-efficient, and minimally disruptive repair option. So, do your research, get a professional assessment, and see if poly foam is the right solution for *your* problem. You might be surprised at the results.



About home inspection

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A disaster inspector at work in the United States assessing tornado damage to a house

A **home inspection** is a limited, non-invasive examination of the condition of a home, often in connection with the sale of that home. Home inspections are usually conducted by a **home inspector** who has the training and certifications to perform such inspections. The inspector prepares and delivers to the client a written report of findings. In general, home inspectors recommend that potential purchasers join them during their onsite visits to provide context for the comments in their written reports. The client then uses the knowledge gained to make informed decisions about their pending real estate purchase. The home inspector describes the condition of the home at the time of inspection but does not guarantee future condition, efficiency, or life expectancy of systems or components.

Sometimes confused with a real estate appraiser, a home inspector determines the condition of a structure, whereas an appraiser determines the value of a property. In the United States, although not all states or municipalities regulate home inspectors, there are various professional associations for home inspectors that provide education, training, and networking opportunities. A professional home inspection is an examination of the current condition of a house. It is not an inspection to verify compliance with appropriate codes; building inspection is

a term often used for building code compliance inspections in the United States. A similar but more complicated inspection of commercial buildings is a property condition assessment. Home inspections identify problems but building diagnostics identifies solutions to the found problems and their predicted outcomes. A property inspection is a detailed visual documentation of a property's structures, design, and fixtures. Property Inspection provides a buyer, renter, or other information consumer with valuable insight into the property's conditions prior to purchase. House-hunting can be a difficult task especially when you can't seem to find one that you like. The best way to get things done is to ensure that there is a property inspection before buying a property.

North America

[edit]

In Canada and the United States, a contract to purchase a house may include a contingency that the contract is not valid until the buyer, through a home inspector or other agents, has had an opportunity to verify the condition of the property. In many states and provinces, home inspectors are required to be licensed, but in some states, the profession is not regulated. Typical requirements for obtaining a license are the completion of an approved training course and/or a successful examination by the state's licensing board. Several states and provinces also require inspectors to periodically obtain continuing education credits in order to renew their licenses.^[*citation needed*] Unless specifically advertised as part of the home inspection, items often needed to satisfy mortgage or tile requirements such as termite ("pest") inspections must be obtained separately from licensed and regulated companies.

In May 2001, Massachusetts became the first state to recognize the potential conflict of interest when real estate agents selling a home also refer or recommend the home inspector to the potential buyer.^[*citation needed*] As a result, the real estate licensing law in Massachusetts was amended^[¹]^[*non-primary source needed*] to prohibit listing real estate agents from directly referring home inspectors. The law also prohibits listing agents from giving out a "short" name list of inspectors. The only list that can be given out is the complete list of all licensed home inspectors in the state.

In September 2018, the California state legislature passed Senate Bill 721 (SB 721),^[²] which requires buildings with specific conditions, such as having exterior elevated structures, to undergo inspections by licensed professionals. These inspections must be conducted by qualified individuals, such as structural engineering firms,^[³] and a detailed report must be issued. Failure to comply with these requirements can result in penalties for property owners.

Ancillary services such as inspections for wood destroying insects, radon testing, septic tank inspections, water quality, mold, (or excessive moisture which may lead to mold), and private well inspections are sometimes part of home inspector's services if duly qualified.

In many provinces and states, home inspection standards are developed and enforced by professional associations, such as, worldwide, the International Association of Certified Home Inspectors (InterNACHI); in the United States, the American Society of Home Inspectors (ASHI), and the National Association of Home Inspectors (NAHI)(No Longer active 10/2017); and, in Canada, the Canadian Association of Home and Property Inspectors (CAHPI), the Professional Home & Property Inspectors of Canada (PHPIC) and the National Home Inspector Certification Council (NHICC).

Currently, more than thirty U.S. states regulate the home inspection industry in some form.

Canada saw a deviation from this model when in 2016 an association-independent home inspection standard was completed. This was developed in partnership with industry professionals, consumer advocates, and technical experts, by the Canadian Standards Association. The CAN/CSA A770-16 Home Inspection Standard was funded by three provincial governments with the intent to be the unifying standard for home inspections carried out within Canada. It is the only home inspection standard that has been endorsed by the Standards Council of Canada.

In Canada, there are provincial associations which focus on provincial differences that affect their members and consumers. Ontario has the largest population of home inspectors which was estimated in 2013 as part of a government survey at being around 1500.^[4]

To date, Ontario Association of Certified Home Inspectors is the only association which has mandated that its members migrate to the CAN/CSA A770-16 Home Inspection Standard, with a date of migration set as February 28, 2020. Other national and provincial associations have set it as an option to be added to other supported standards.

In Canada, only Alberta and British Columbia have implemented government regulation for the home inspection profession. The province of Ontario has proceeded through the process, with the passage of regulatory procedure culminating in the Home Inspection Act, 2017 to license Home Inspectors in that province. It has received royal assent but is still awaiting the development of regulations and proclamation to become law.

In Ontario, there are two provincial Associations, OAHI (the Ontario Association of Home Inspectors) and OntarioACHI (the Ontario Association of Certified Home Inspectors). Both claim to be the largest association in the province. OAHI, formed by a private member's Bill in the Provincial Assembly, has the right in law to award the R.H.I. (Registered Home Inspector) designation to anyone on its membership register. The R.H.I. designation, however, is a reserved designation, overseen by OAHI under the Ontario Association of Home Inspectors Act, 1994. This Act allows OAHI to award members who have passed and maintained strict criteria set out in their membership bylaws and who operate within Ontario. Similarly, OntarioACHI requires equally high standards for the award of their certification, the Canadian-Certified Home Inspector (CCHI) designation. To confuse things, Canadian Association of Home and Property Inspectors (CAHPI) own the copyright to the terms Registered Home Inspector and RHI. Outside of Ontario, OAHI Members cannot use the terms without being

qualified by CAHPI.

The proclamation of the Home Inspection Act, 2017, requires the dissolution of the Ontario Association of Home Inspectors Act, 1994, which will remove the right to title in Ontario of the RHI at the same time removing consumer confusion about the criteria for its award across Canada.

United Kingdom

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A home inspector in the United Kingdom (or more precisely in England and Wales), was an inspector certified to carry out the Home Condition Reports that it was originally anticipated would be included in the Home Information Pack.

Home inspectors were required to complete the ABBE Diploma in Home Inspection to show they met the standards set out for NVQ/VRQ competency-based assessment (Level 4). The government had suggested that between 7,500 and 8,000 qualified and licensed home inspectors would be needed to meet the annual demand of nearly 2,000,000 Home Information Packs. In the event, many more than this entered training, resulting in a massive oversupply of potential inspectors.

With the cancellation of Home Information Packs by the coalition Government in 2010, the role of the home inspector in the United Kingdom became permanently redundant.

Inspections of the home, as part of a real estate transaction, are still generally carried out in the UK in the same manner as they had been for years before the Home Condition Report process. Home Inspections are more detailed than those currently offered in North America. They are generally performed by a chartered member of the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors.

India

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The concept of home inspection in India is in its infancy. There has been a proliferation of companies that have started offering the service, predominantly in Tier-1 cities such as Bangalore, Chennai, Kolkata, Pune, Mumbai, etc. To help bring about a broader understanding among the general public and market the concept, a few home inspection companies have come together and formed the Home Inspection Association of India.^[5]

After RERA came into effect, the efficacy and potency of home inspection companies has increased tremendously. The majority of homeowners and potential home buyers do not know what home inspection is or that such a service exists.

The way that home inspection is different in India^[6] than in North America or United Kingdom is the lack of a government authorised licensing authority. Apart from the fact that houses in India are predominantly built with kiln baked bricks, concrete blocks or even just concrete walls (predominantly in high rise apartments) this means the tests conducted are vastly different. Most home inspection companies conduct non-destructive testing of the property, in some cases based on customer requirement, tests that require core-cutting are also performed.

The majority of homeowners are not aware of the concept of home inspection in India. The other issue is that the balance of power is highly tilted toward the builder; this means the home buyers are stepping on their proverbial toes, because in most cases, the home is the single most expensive purchase in their lifetime, and the homeowners do not want to come across as antagonising the builders.

Home inspection standards and exclusions

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Some home inspectors and home inspection regulatory bodies maintain various standards related to the trade. Some inspection companies offer 90-day limited warranties to protect clients from unexpected mechanical and structural failures; otherwise, inspectors are not responsible for future failures.^[a] A general inspection standard for buildings other than residential homes can be found at the National Academy of Building Inspection Engineers.

Many inspectors may also offer ancillary services such as inspecting pools, sprinkler systems, checking radon levels, and inspecting for wood-destroying organisms. The CAN/CSA-A770-16 standard allows this (in-fact it demands swimming pool safety inspections as a requirement) and also mandates that the inspector be properly qualified to offer these. Other standards are silent on this.

Types of inspections

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Home buyers and home sellers inspections

[edit]

Home inspections are often used by prospective purchasers of the house in question, in order to evaluate the condition of the house prior to the purchase. Similarly, a home seller can elect to have an inspection on their property and report the results of that inspection to the prospective buyer.

Foreclosure inspection

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Recently foreclosed properties may require home inspections.

Four point inspection

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An inspection of the house's roof, HVAC, and electrical and plumbing systems is often known as a "four-point inspection", which insurance companies may require as a condition for homeowner's insurance.

Disaster inspection

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Home inspections may occur after a disaster has struck the house. A disaster examination, unlike a standard house inspection, concentrates on damage rather than the quality of everything visible and accessible from the roof to the basement.

Inspectors go to people's homes or work places who have asked for FEMA disaster aid.

Section 8 inspection

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In the United States, the federal and state governments provide housing subsidies to low-income people through the Section 8 program. The government expects that the housing will be "fit for habitation" so a Section 8 inspection identifies compliance with HUD's Housing Quality Standards (HQS).

Pre-delivery inspection

[edit]

See also: Pre-delivery inspection

An inspection may occur in a purchased house prior to the deal's closure, in what is known as a "pre-delivery" inspection.

Structural inspection

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The house's structure may also be inspected. When performing a structural inspection, the inspector will look for a variety of distress indications that may result in repair or further evaluation recommendations.

In the state of New York, only a licensed professional engineer or a registered architect can render professional opinions as to the sufficiency structural elements of a home or building.^[11] Municipal building officials can also make this determination, but they are not performing home inspections at the time they are rendering this opinion. Municipal officials are also not required to look out for the best interest of the buyer. Some other states may have similar provisions in their licensing laws. Someone who is not a licensed professional engineer or a registered architect can describe the condition of structural elements (cracked framing, sagged beams/roof, severe rot or insect damage, etc.), but are not permitted to render a professional opinion as to how the condition has affected the structural soundness of the building.

Various systems of the house, including plumbing and HVAC, may also be inspected.^[12]

Thermal imaging Inspection

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A thermal imaging inspection using an infrared camera can provide inspectors with information on home energy loss, heat gain/loss through the exterior walls and roof, moisture leaks, and improper electrical system conditions that are typically not visible to the naked eye. Thermal imaging is not considered part of a General Home Inspection because it exceeds the scope of inspection Standards of Practice.

Pool and spa inspection

[edit]

Inspection of swimming pools and spas is not considered part of a General Home Inspection because their inspection exceeds the scope of inspection Standards of Practice. However, some home inspectors are also certified to inspect pools and spas and offer this as an ancillary service.^[13]

Tree health inspection

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Inspection of trees on the property is not considered part of a General Home Inspection because their inspection exceeds the scope of inspection Standards of Practice. This type of inspection is typically performed by a Certified Arborist and assesses the safety and condition of the trees on a property before the sales agreement is executed.^[14]

Property inspection report for immigration

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The UKVI (United Kingdom Visa and Immigration) issued guidance on the necessity of ensuring that properties must meet guidelines so that visa applicants can be housed in properties which meet environmental and health standards. Part X of the Housing Act 1985 provides the legislative grounding for the reports - primarily to ensure that a property is not currently overcrowded, that the inclusion of further individuals as a result of successful visa applications - whether spouse visa, dependent visa, indefinite leave to remain or visitor visa, can house the applicants without the property becoming overcrowded. Reports are typically prepared by environmental assessors or qualified solicitors in accordance with HHSRS (Housing Health and Safety Rating Scheme). Property inspection reports are typically standard and breakdown the legal requirements.

Pre-Listing Home Inspection

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A pre-listing inspection focuses on all major systems and components of the house including HVAC, electrical, plumbing, siding, doors, windows, roof and structure. It's a full home inspection for the seller to better understand the condition of their home prior to the buyer's own inspection.

See also

[edit]

- List of real estate topics
- Real estate appraisal

Notes

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1. ^ A general list of exclusions include but are not limited to: code or zoning violations, permit research, property measurements or surveys, boundaries, easements or right of way, conditions of title, proximity to environmental hazards, noise interference, soil or geological conditions, well water systems or water quality, underground sewer lines, waste disposal systems, buried piping, cisterns, underground water tanks and sprinkler systems. A complete list of standards and procedures for home inspections can be found at NAHI,^[7] ASHI,^[8] InterNACHI,^[9] or IHINA^[10] websites.

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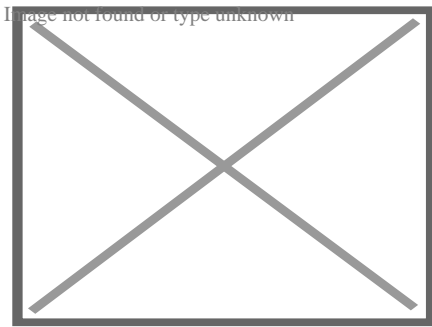
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About home improvement

For the 1990s sitcom, see Home Improvement (TV series). For other uses, see Home improvement (disambiguation).



Merchandise on display in a hardware store

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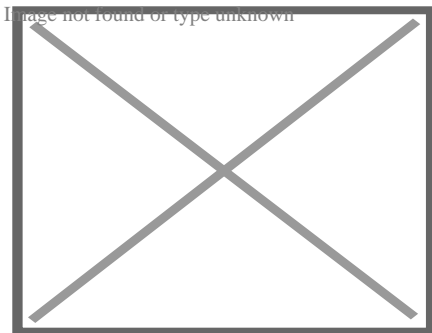
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The concept of **home improvement**, **home renovation** or **remodeling** is the process of renovating, making improvements or making additions to one's home.^[1] Home improvement can consist of projects that upgrade an existing home interior (such as electrical and plumbing), exterior (masonry, concrete, siding, roofing) or other improvements to the property (i.e. garden work or garage maintenance/additions). Home improvement projects can be carried out for a number of different reasons; personal preference and comfort, maintenance or repair work, making a home bigger by adding rooms/spaces, as a means of saving energy, or to improve safety.^[2]

Types of home improvement

[edit]



Man painting a fence

While "home improvement" often refers to building projects that alter the structure of an existing home, it can also include improvements to lawns, gardens, and outdoor structures, such as gazebos and garages. It also encompasses maintenance, repair, and general servicing tasks. Home improvement projects generally have one or more of the following goals:^[citation needed]

Comfort

[edit]

- Upgrading heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems (HVAC).
- Upgrading rooms with luxuries, such as adding gourmet features to a kitchen or a hot tub spa to a bathroom.

- Increasing the capacity of plumbing and electrical systems.
- Waterproofing basements.
- Soundproofing rooms, especially bedrooms and baths.

Maintenance and repair

[edit]

Maintenance projects can include:

- Roof tear-off and replacement.
- Replacement or new construction windows.
- Concrete and masonry repairs to the foundation and chimney.
- Repainting rooms, walls or fences
- Repairing plumbing and electrical systems
- Wallpapering
- Furniture polishing
- Plumbing, home interior and exterior works
- Shower maintenance

Additional space

[edit]

Additional living space may be added by:

- Turning marginal areas into livable spaces such as turning basements into recrooms, home theaters, or home offices – or attics into spare bedrooms.
- Extending one's house with rooms added to the side of one's home or, sometimes, extra levels to the original roof. Such a new unit of construction is called an "add-on".^[3]

Saving energy

[edit]

Homeowners may reduce utility costs with:

- Energy-efficient thermal insulation, replacement windows, and lighting.
- Renewable energy with biomass pellet stoves, wood-burning stoves, solar panels, wind turbines, programmable thermostats,^[4] and geothermal exchange heat pumps (see autonomous building).

Safety, emergency management, security and privacy

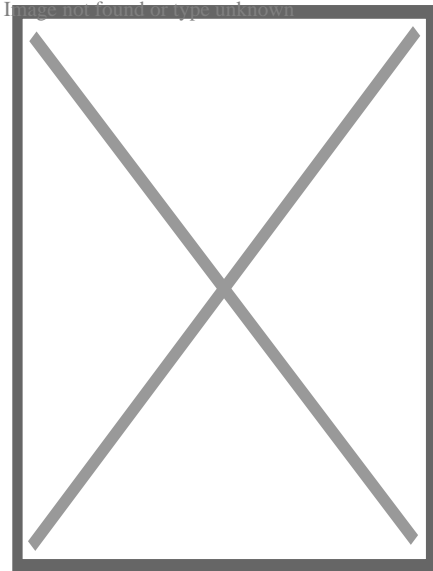
[edit]

The need to be safer or for better privacy or emergency management can be fulfilled with diversified measures which can be improved, maintained or added. Secret compartments and passages can also be conceived for privacy and security.

- Interventions for fire protection and avoidance. Possible examples are fire sprinkler systems for automatic fire suppression, smoke detectors for fire detection, fire alarm systems, or passive fire protection (including some wildfire management strategies).
- Technical solutions to increase protection from natural disasters, or geotechnical and structural safety (e.g. hurricane or seismic retrofit).
- Interventions and additions to increase home safety from other hazards, like falls, electric injuries, gas leaks or home exposure to environmental health concerns.
- Physical security measures:
 - Access control systems and physical barriers, which can include fences, physical door and window security measures (e.g. grilles, laminated glass, window shutters), locks;
 - Security lighting, security alarms and video surveillance.
- Safes and vaults.
- Spaces for emergency evacuation, like emergency exits and rarer escape tunnels.
- Spaces which provide protection in the event of different emergencies: areas of refuge, storm cellars (as protection from tornadoes and other kinds of severe weather), panic rooms, bunkers and bomb shelters (including fallout shelters), etc.
- Home renovations or additions used to increase privacy can be as simple as curtains or much more advanced, such as some structural surveillance counter-measures. They may overlap with physical security measures.
- Public utility outage preparedness, like backup generators for providing power during power outages .

Home improvement industry

[edit]



Screws and bolts in an OBI home improvement store in Poland

Further information: Hardware store

Home or residential renovation is an almost \$300 billion industry in the United States,^[5] and a \$48 billion industry in Canada.^[6]^[full citation needed] The average cost per project is \$3,000 in the United States and \$11,000–15,000 in Canada.

Professional home improvement is ancient and goes back to the beginning of recorded civilization. One example is Sergius Orata, who in the 1st century B.C. is said by the writer Vitruvius (in his famous book *De architectura*) to have invented the hypocaust. The hypocaust is an underfloor heating system that was used throughout the Roman Empire in villas of the wealthy. He is said to have become wealthy himself by buying villas at a low price, adding spas and his newly invented hypocaust, and reselling them at higher prices.^[7]

Renovation contractors

[edit]

Perhaps the most important or visible professionals in the renovation industry are renovation contractors or skilled trades. These are the builders that have specialized credentials, licensing and experience to perform renovation services in specific municipalities.

While there is a fairly large "grey market" of unlicensed companies, there are those that have membership in a reputable association and/or are accredited by a professional organization. Homeowners are recommended to perform checks such as verifying license and insurance and checking business references prior to hiring a contractor to work on their house.

Because interior renovation will touch the change of the internal structure of the house, ceiling construction, circuit configuration and partition walls, etc., such work related to the structure of the house, of course, also includes renovation of wallpaper posting, furniture settings, lighting, etc.

Aggregators

[edit]

Aggregators are companies that bundle home improvement service offers and act as intermediary agency between service providers and customers.

In popular culture

[edit]

Home improvement was popularized on television in 1979 with the premiere of *This Old House* starring Bob Vila on PBS. American cable channel HGTV features many do-it-yourself shows, as does sister channel DIY Network.^[8] Danny Lipford hosts and produces the nationally syndicated *Today's Homeowner with Danny Lipford*. Tom Kraeutler and Leslie Segrete co-host the nationally syndicated *The Money Pit Home Improvement Radio Show*.

Movies that poked fun at the difficulties involved include: *Mr. Blandings Builds His Dream House* (1948), starring Cary Grant and Myrna Loy; *George Washington Slept Here* (1942), featuring Jack Benny and Ann Sheridan; and *The Money Pit* (1986), with Tom Hanks and Shelley Long. The sitcom *Home Improvement* used the home improvement theme for comedic purposes.

See also

[edit]

-  not found or type unknown Housing portal
- Home repair
- Housekeeping
- Maintenance, repair and operations

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[edit]

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Further reading

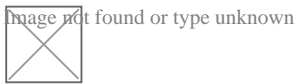
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External links

[edit]

- o  Media related to Home improvement at Wikimedia Commons



Wikibooks has a book on the topic of: ***Kitchen Remodel***

- o v
- o t
- o e

Rooms and spaces of a house

Shared rooms

- Bonus room
- Common room
- Den
- Dining room
- Family room
- Garret
- Great room
- Home cinema
- Kitchen
 - dirty kitchen
 - kitchenette
- Living room
- Gynaecium
 - harem
- Andron
 - man cave
- Recreation room
 - billiard room
- Shrine
- Study
- Sunroom

Private rooms

- Bathroom
 - toilet
- Bedroom / Guest room
 - closet
- Bedsit / Miniflat
- Boudoir
- Cabinet
- Nursery

Spaces

- Atrium
- Balcony
- Breezeway
- Conversation pit
- Cubby-hole
- Deck
- Elevator
 - dumbwaiter
- Entryway/Genkan
- Fireplace
 - hearth
- Foyer
- Hall
- Hallway
- Inglenook
- Lanai
- Loft
- Loggia
- Overhang
- Patio
- Porch
 - screened
 - sleeping
- Ramp
- Secret passage
- Stairs/Staircase
- Terrace
- Veranda
- Vestibule

**Technical, utility
and storage**

- Attic
- Basement
- Carport
- Cloakroom
- Closet
- Crawl space
- Electrical room
- Equipment room
- Furnace room / Boiler room
- Garage
- Janitorial closet
- Larder
- Laundry room / Utility room / Storage room
- Mechanical room / floor
- Pantry
- Root cellar
- Semi-basement
- Storm cellar / Safe room
- Studio
- Wardrobe
- Wine cellar
- Wiring closet
- Workshop

Great house areas

- Antechamber
- Ballroom
- Kitchen-related
 - butler's pantry
 - buttery
 - saucery
 - scullery
 - spicery
 - still room
- Conservatory / Orangery
- Courtyard
- Drawing room
- Great chamber
- Great hall
- Library
- Long gallery
- Lumber room
- Parlour
- Sauna
- Servants' hall
- Servants' quarters
- Smoking room
- Solar
- State room
- Swimming pool
- Turret
- Undercroft

Other

- Furniture
- Hidden room
- House
 - house plan
 - styles
 - types
- Multi-family residential
- Secondary suite
- Duplex
- Terraced
- Detached
- Semi-detached
- Townhouse
- Studio apartment

**Architectural
elements**

- Arch
- Balconet
- Baluster
- Belt course
- Bressummer
- Ceiling
- Chimney
- Colonnade / Portico
- Column
- Cornice / Eaves
- Dome
- Door
- Ell
- Floor
- Foundation
- Gable
- Gate
 - Portal
- Lighting
- Ornament
- Plumbing
- Quoins
- Roof
 - shingles
- Roof lantern
- Sill plate
- Style
 - list
- Skylight
- Threshold
- Transom
- Vault
- Wall
- Window

Related

- Backyard
- Driveway
- Front yard
- Garden
 - roof garden
- Home
- Home improvement
- Home repair
- Shed
- Tree house

-  Category: Rooms

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Things To Do in Cook County

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4.8 (96)

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River Trail Nature Center

4.6 (235)

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Palmisano (Henry) Park

4.7 (1262)

Driving Directions in Cook County

Driving Directions From Palmisano (Henry) Park to

Driving Directions From Lake Katherine Nature Center and Botanic Gardens to

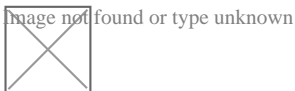
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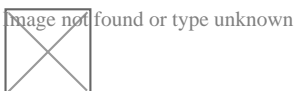
Reviews for



Jeffery James

(5)

Very happy with my experience. They were prompt and followed through, and very helpful in fixing the crack in my foundation.

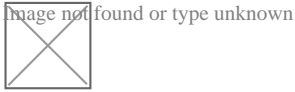


Sarah McNeily

(5)

USS was excellent. They are honest, straightforward, trustworthy, and conscientious. They thoughtfully removed the flowers and flower bulbs to dig where they needed in the yard, replanted said flowers and spread the extra dirt to fill in an area of the yard. We've had other services from different companies and our yard was really a mess

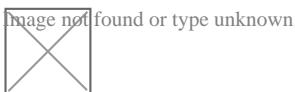
after. They kept the job site meticulously clean. The crew was on time and friendly. I'd recommend them any day!
Thanks to Jessie and crew.



Jim de Leon

(5)

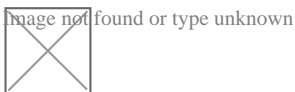
It was a pleasure to work with Rick and his crew. From the beginning, Rick listened to my concerns and what I wished to accomplish. Out of the 6 contractors that quoted the project, Rick seemed the MOST willing to accommodate my wishes. His pricing was definitely more than fair as well. I had 10 push piers installed to stabilize and lift an addition of my house. The project commenced at the date that Rick had disclosed initially and it was completed within the same time period expected (based on Rick's original assessment). The crew was well informed, courteous, and hard working. They were not loud (even while equipment was being utilized) and were well spoken. My neighbors were very impressed on how polite they were when they entered / exited my property (saying hello or good morning each day when they crossed paths). You can tell they care about the customer concerns. They ensured that the property would be put back as clean as possible by placing MANY sheets of plywood down prior to excavating. They compacted the dirt back in the holes extremely well to avoid large stock piles of soils. All the while, the main office was calling me to discuss updates and expectations of completion. They provided waivers of lien, certificates of insurance, properly acquired permits, and JULIE locates. From a construction background, I can tell you that I did not see any flaws in the way they operated and this an extremely professional company. The pictures attached show the push piers added to the foundation (pictures 1, 2 & 3), the amount of excavation (picture 4), and the restoration after dirt was placed back in the pits and compacted (pictures 5, 6 & 7). Please notice that they also sealed two large cracks and steel plated these cracks from expanding further (which you can see under my sliding glass door). I, as well as my wife, are extremely happy that we chose United Structural Systems for our contractor. I would happily tell any of my friends and family to use this contractor should the opportunity arise!



Chris Abplanalp

(5)

USS did an amazing job on my underpinning on my house, they were also very courteous to the proximity of my property line next to my neighbor. They kept things in order with all the dirt/mud they had to excavate. They were done exactly in the timeframe they indicated, and the contract was very details oriented with drawings of what would be done. Only thing that would have been nice, is they left my concrete a little muddy with boot prints but again, all-in-all a great job



Dave Kari

(5)

What a fantastic experience! Owner Rick Thomas is a trustworthy professional. Nick and the crew are hard working, knowledgeable and experienced. I interviewed every company in the area, big and small. A homeowner

never wants to hear that they have foundation issues. Out of every company, I trusted USS the most, and it paid off in the end. Highly recommend.

Assessing Poly Foam Injection as a Repair Option [View GBP](#)

Check our other pages :

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- [Obtaining Local Building Permits for Foundation Work](#)
- [Evaluating Helical Pier Installations for Stability](#)

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