



#### STANDARD RESIDENTIAL INSPECTION AGREEMENT

### THIS IS INTENDED TO BE A LEGALLY BINDING CONTRACT, PLEASE READ IT CAREFULLY

Client: Report #: \_

Address:

**SCOPE OF THE INSPECTION:** The real estate inspection to be performed for Client is a survey and basic operation of the systems and components of a building which can be reached, entered, or viewed without difficulty, moving obstructions, or requiring any action which may result in damage to the property or personal injury to the Inspector. The purpose of the inspection is to provide the Client with information regarding the general condition of the building(s).

Inspector will prepare and provide Client a written report for the sole use and benefit of Client. The written report shall document any material defects discovered in the building's systems and components which, in the opinion of the Inspector, are safety hazards, are not functioning properly, or appear to be at the ends of their service lives.

The inspection shall be performed in accordance with the Standards of Practice of the California Real Estate Inspection Association (CREIA), attached hereto and incorporated herein by reference, and is limited to those items specified herein.

**CLIENT'S DUTY:** Client agrees to read the entire written report when it is received and promptly call Inspector with any questions or concerns regarding the inspection or the written report. The written report shall be the final and exclusive findings of Inspector.

Client acknowledges that Inspector is a generalist and that further investigation of a reported condition by an appropriate specialist may provide additional information which can affect Client's purchase decision. Client agrees to obtain further evaluation of reported conditions before removing any investigation contingency and prior to the close of the transaction.

In the event Client becomes aware of a reportable condition which was not reported by Inspector, Client agrees to promptly notify Inspector and allow Inspector and/or Inspector's designated representative(s) to inspect said condition(s) prior to making any repair, alteration, or replacement. Client agrees that any failure to so notify Inspector and allow inspection is a material breach of this Agreement.

**ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS:** Client agrees what is being contracted for is a building inspection and not an environmental evaluation. The inspection is not intended to detect, identify, or disclose any health or environmental conditions regarding this building or property, including, but not limited to: the presence of asbestos, radon, lead, urea-formaldehyde, fungi, molds, mildew, PCBs, Chinese drywall, or other toxic, reactive, combustible, or corrosive contaminants, materials, or substances in the water, air, soil, or building materials. The Inspector is not liable for injury, health risks, or damage caused or contributed to by these conditions.

<u>GENERAL PROVISIONS:</u> The written report is not a substitute for any transferor's or agent's disclosure that may be required by law, or a substitute for Client's independent duty to reasonably evaluate the property prior to the dose of the transaction. This inspection Agreement, the real estate inspection, and the written report do not constitute a home warranty, guarantee, or insurance policy of any kind whatsoever.

No legal action or proceeding of any kind, including those sounding in tort or contract, can be commenced against Inspector/Inspection Company or its officers, agents, or employees more than one year from the date Client discovers, or through the exercise of reasonable diligence should have discovered, the cause of action. In no event shall the time for commencement of a legal action or proceeding exceed two years from the date of the subject inspection. **THIS TIME PERIOD IS SHORTER THAN OTHERWISE PROVIDED BY LAW.** 

This Agreement shall be binding upon and inure to the benefit of the parties hereto and their heirs, successors, and assigns.

This Agreement constitutes the entire integrated agreement between the parties hereto pertaining to the subject matter hereof and may be modified only by a written agreement signed by all of the parties hereto. No oral agreements, understandings, or representations shall change, modify, or amend any part of this Agreement.

Each party signing this Agreement warrants and represents that he/she has the full capacity and authority to execute this Agreement on behalf of the named party. If this Agreement is executed on behalf of Client by any third party, the person executing this Agreement expressly represents to Inspector that he/she has the full and complete authority to execute this Agreement on Client's behalf and to fully and completely bind Client to all of the terms, conditions, limitations, exceptions, and exclusions of this Agreement.

**LIMITATION ON LIABILITY:** IT IS UNDERSTOOD AND AGREED THAT PRO VIEW PROPERTY INSPECTION IS *NOT* AN INSURER AND THAT THE INSPECTION AND REPORT ARE NOT INTENDED TO BE CONSTRUED AS A GUARANTEE OR WARRANTY OF THE ADEQUACY. PERFORMANCE OR CONDITION OF ANY STRUCTURE, ITEM, COMPONENT OR SYSTEM AT THE PROPERTY TO BE INSPECTED. THE PARTIES UNDERSTAND AND AGREE THAT THE INSPECTOR'S LIABILITY FOR ERRORS OR OMISSIONS IN THIS STANDARD RESIDENTIAL INSPECTION AND REPORT IS LIMITED TO A REFUND OF THREE TIMES THE FEE PAID FOR THIS INSPECTION AND REPORT. THE LIABILITY OF INSPECTOR AND/OR INSPECTION COMPANY'S PRINCIPALS, AGENTS, AND EMPLOYEES IS ALSO LIMITED TO THREE TIMES THE FEE PAID. THIS LIMITATION APPLIES TO ANYONE WHO IS DAMAGED IN ANY FORM OR FASHION OR HAS TO PAY EXPENSES OF ANY KIND FOR ANY AND ALL CLAIMS ARISING OUT OF OR RELATING TO THIS AGREEMENT, THE INSPECTION, OR THE INSPECTION REPORT, WHICH INCLUDES CLAIMS ALLEGING MISTAKES OR OMISSIONS IN THIS INSPECTION AND REPORT. THIS LIABILITY LIMITATION IS BINDING ON CLIENT AND CLIENT'S SPOUSES, HEIRS, PRINCIPALS, ASSIGNS, AND ANYONE ELSE WHO MAY OTHERWISE HAVE A CLAIM THROUGH CLIENT. CLIENT ASSUMES THE RISK OF ALL LOSSES GREATER THAN THREE TIMES THE FEE PAID FOR THE INSPECTION. CLIENT AGREES TO IMMEDIATELY ACCEPT A REFUND OF THREE TIMES THE FEE AS FULL SETTLEMENT OF ANY KIND AND ALL CLAIMS WHICH MAY EVER ARISE OUT OF OR RELATE TO THIS INSPECTION AND REPORT. CLIENT UNDERSTANDS THAT IF CLIENT DESIRES AN INSPECTION WITHOUT THE ABOVE LIMITATION ON LIABILITY TO A REFUND OF THREE TIMES THE FEE PAID FOR THE STANDARD INSPECTION, CLIENT MAY PAY AN ADDITIONAL FEE TO RECEIVE A REPORT WITHOUT THIS LIMITATION.

**SEVERABILITY:** Should any provision of this Agreement be held by a court of competent jurisdiction to be either invalid or unenforceable, the remaining provisions of this Agreement shall remain in full force and effect, unimpaired by the court's holding.

**MEDIATION:** The parties to this Agreement agree to attend, in good faith, mediation with a retired judge or lawyer with at least 5 years of mediation experience before any lawsuit is filed. All notices of mediation must be served in writing by return receipt requested allowing 30 days for response. If no response is forthcoming the moving party may then demand binding arbitration under the terms and provisions set forth below.

ARBITRATION: Any dispute concerning the interpretation or enforcement of this Agreement, the inspection, the inspection report, or any other dispute arising out of this relationship, shall be resolved between the parties by binding arbitration conducted in accordance with California Law, except that the parties shall select an arbitrator who is familiar with the real estate profession. The parties agree that they shall be entitled to discovery procedures within the discretion of the arbitrator. The arbitrator shall manage and hear the case applying the laws of the State of California to all issues submitted in the arbitration proceeding. The award of the arbitrator shall be final, and a judgment may be entered on it by any court having jurisdiction. Any disputes are to be arbitrated by: Construction Dispute Resolution Services LLC

<u>CANCELLATION:</u> Acceptance of this agreement secures the date & time of inspection. Client acknowledges having read and understood all the terms, conditions and limitations of this Agreement and voluntarily agrees to be bound thereby and to pay the fee listed herein. If a <u>flat cancellation (no reschedule)</u> occurs less than 48 hours from scheduled date & time, Pro View Property Inspection reserves the right to charge a cancellation fee of up to thirty-five percent of the original fee.

Client acknowledges having read and understood all the terms, conditions, and limitations of this Agreement and voluntarily agrees to be bound thereby and to pay the fee listed herein.

Client: _	Name:	Date:
Inspector:	Name:	Date:

#### **RESIDENTIAL STANDARDS OF PRACTICE – FOUR OR FEWER UNITS**

## Part I. Definitions and Scope

These Standards of Practice provide guidelines for a real estate inspection and define certain terms relating to these inspections. Italicized words in these Standards are defined in Part IV, Glossary of Terms.

- A. A real estate inspection is a survey and basic operation of the systems and components of a building which can be reached, entered, or viewed without difficulty, moving obstructions, or requiring any action which may result in damage to the property or personal injury to the *Inspector*. The purpose of the *inspection* is to provide the Client with information regarding the general condition of the building(s). Cosmetic and aesthetic conditions shall not be considered.
- B. A real estate inspection report provides written documentation of material defects discovered in the inspected building's systems and components which, in the opinion of the Inspector, are safety hazards, are not functioning properly, or appear to be at the ends of their service lives. The report may include the Inspector's recommendations for correction or further evaluation.
- C. *Inspections* performed in accordance with these Standards of Practice are not *technically exhaustive* and shall apply to the *primary building* and its associated *primary parking structure*.

#### Part II. Standards of Practice

A real estate inspection includes the readily accessible systems and components or a representative number of multiple similar components listed in Sections 1 through 9 subject to the limitations, exceptions, and exclusions in Part III.

#### 1. Foundation, Basement, and Under-floor Areas

A. Items to be inspected:

- 1. Foundation system
- 2. Floor framing system
- 3. Under-floor ventilation
- 4. Foundation anchoring and cripple wall bracing
- 5. Wood separation from soil
- 6. Insulation
- B. The inspector is not required to:
  - 1. Determine size, spacing, location, or adequacy of foundation bolting/bracing components or reinforcing systems
  - 2. Determine the composition or energy rating of insulation materials

#### 2. Exterior

A. Items to be inspected:

- 1. Surface grade directly adjacent to the buildings
- 2. Doors and windows
- 3. Attached decks, porches, patios, balconies, stairways, and their enclosures
- 4. Wall cladding and trim
- 5. Portions of walkways and driveways that are adjacent to the buildings
- B. The *inspector* is not required to:
  - 1. Inspect door or window screens, shutters, awnings, or security bars
  - 2. Inspect fences or gates or operate automated door or gate openers or their safety devices
  - 3. Use a ladder to inspectsystems or components

#### 3. Roof Covering

A. Items to be inspected:

- 1. Covering
- 2. Drainage
- 3. Flashings
- 4. Penetrations
- 5. Skylights
- B. The *inspector* is not required to:

- 1. Walk on the roof surface if in the opinion of the *Inspector* there is risk of damage or a *hazard* to the *Inspector*
- 2. Warrant or certify that roof systems, coverings, or components are free from leakage

#### 4. Attic Areas and Roof Framing

A. Items to be inspected:

- 1. Framing
- 2. Ventilation
- 3. Insulation
- B. The *inspector* is not required to:
  - 1. Inspect mechanical attic ventilation systems or components
  - 2. Determine the composition or energy rating of insulation materials

#### 5. Plumbing

A. Items to be inspected:

- 1. Water supply piping
- 2. Drain, waste, and vent piping
- 3. Faucets and fixtures
- 4. Fuel gas piping
- 5. Water heaters
- 6. Functional flow and functional drainage
- B. The *inspector* is not required to:
  - 1. Fill any fixture with water, inspect overflow drains or drain-stops, or evaluate backflow devices, waste ejectors, sump pumps, or drain line cleanouts
  - 2. *Inspect* or evaluate water temperature balancing *devices*, temperature fluctuation, time to obtain hot water, water circulation, or solar heating *systems* or *components*
  - 3. Inspect whirlpool baths, steam showers, or sauna systems or components
  - 4. Inspect fuel tanks or determine if the fuel gas system is free of leaks
  - 5. Inspect wells or water treatment systems

#### 6. Electrical

A. Items to be inspected:

- 1. Service equipment
- 2. Electrical panels
- 3. Circuit wiring
- 4. Switches, receptacles, outlets, and lighting fixtures
- B. The *inspector* is not required to:
  - 1. Operate circuit breakers or circuit interrupters
  - 2. Remove cover plates
  - 3. Inspect de-icing systems or components
  - 4. Inspect private or emergency electrical supply systems or components

#### 7. Heating and Cooling

A. Items to be inspected:

- 1. Heating equipment
- 2. Central cooling equipment
- 3. Energy source and connections
- 4. Combustion air and exhaust vent systems
- 5. Condensate drainage
- 6. Conditioned air distribution systems
- B. The *inspector* is not required to:
  - 1. Inspect heat exchangers or electric heating elements
  - 2. Inspect non-central air conditioning units or evaporative coolers
  - 3. Inspect radiant, solar, hydronic, or geothermal systems or components

- 4. Determine volume, uniformity, temperature, airflow, balance, or leakage of any air distribution system
- 5. Inspect electronic air filtering or humidity control systems or components

#### 8. Fireplaces and Chimneys

A. Items to be inspected:

- 1. Chimney exterior
- 2. Spark arrestor
- 3. Firebox
- 4. Damper
- 5. Hearth extension

#### B. The *inspector* is not required to:

- 1. Inspect chimney interiors
- 2. Inspect fireplace inserts, seals, or gaskets
- 3. Operate any fireplace or determine if a fireplace can be safely used

## 9. Building Interior

A. Items to be inspected:

- 1. Walls, ceilings, and floors
- 2. Doors and windows
- 3. Stairways, handrails, and guardrails
- 4. Permanently installed cabinets
- 5. Permanently installed cook-tops, mechanical range vents, ovens, dishwashers, and food waste disposers
- 6. Absence of smoke and carbon monoxide alarms
- 7. Vehicle doors and openers
- B. The *inspector* is not required to:
  - 1. *Inspect* window, door, or floor coverings
  - 2. Determine whether a building is secure from unauthorized entry
  - 3. Operate, test or determine the type of smoke or carbon monoxide alarms or test vehicle safety devices
  - 4. Use a ladder to *inspect systems* or *components*

# III. Limitations, Exceptions and Exclusions

A. The following are excluded from a real estate inspection:

- 1. Systems or components of a building, or portions thereof, which are not readily accessible, not permanently installed, or not inspected due to circumstances beyond the control of the Inspector or which the Client has agreed or specified are not to be inspected
- 2. Site improvements or amenities, including, but not limited to; accessory buildings, fences, planters, landscaping, irrigation, swimming pools, spas, ponds, waterfalls, fountains or their *components* or accessories
- 3. Auxiliary features of appliances beyond the appliance's basic function
- 4. Systems or components, or portions thereof, which are under ground, under water, or where the Inspector must come into contact with water
- 5. Common areas as defined in California Civil Code section 1351, et seq., and any dwelling unit *systems* or *components* located in common areas
- 6. *Determining* compliance with manufacturers' installation guidelines or specifications, building codes, accessibility standards, conservation or energy standards, regulations, ordinances, covenants, or other restrictions
- 7. *Determining* adequacy, efficiency, suitability, quality, age, or remaining life of any *building*, *system*, or *component*, or marketability or advisability of purchase
- 8. Structural, architectural, geological, environmental, hydrological, land surveying, or soils- related examinations
- 9. Acoustical or other nuisance characteristics of any *system* or *component* of a *building*, complex, adjoining property, or neighborhood
- 10. Conditions related to animals, insects, or other organisms, including fungus and mold, and any hazardous, illegal, or controlled substance, or the damage or health risks arising there from
- 11. Risks associated with events or conditions of nature including, but not limited to; geological, seismic, wildfire, and flood
- 12. Water testing any building, system, or component or determine leakage in shower pans, pools, spas, or any body of water
- 13. Determining the integrity of hermetic seals at multi-pane glazing
- 14. Differentiating between original construction or subsequent additions or modifications
- 15. Reviewing information from any third-party, including but not limited to; product defects, recalls, or similar notices

- 16. Specifying repairs/replacement procedures or estimating cost to correct
- 17. Communication, computer, security, or low-voltage *systems* and remote, timer, sensor, or similarly controlled *systems* or *components*
- 18. Fire extinguishing and suppression systems and components or determining fire resistive qualities of materials or assemblies
- 19. Elevators, lifts, and dumbwaiters
- 20. Lighting pilot lights or activating or operating any system, component, or appliance that is shut down, unsafe to operate, or does not respond to normal user controls
- 21. Operating shutoff valves or shutting down any system or component
- 22. Dismantling any *system*, structure, or *component* or removing access panels other than those provided for homeowner maintenance

#### B. The *Inspector* may, at his or her discretion:

- 1. *Inspect* any *building*, *system*, *component*, *appliance*, or improvement not included or otherwise excluded by these Standards of Practice. Any such *inspection* shall comply with all other provisions of these Standards.
- 2. Include photographs in the written report or take photographs for *Inspector's* reference without inclusion in the written report. Photographs may not be used in lieu of written documentation.

## **IV - Glossary of Terms**

**Note**: All definitions apply to derivatives of these terms when *italicized* in the text.

- Appliance: An item such as an oven, dishwasher, heater, etc. which performs a specific function
- Building: The subject of the inspection and its primary parking structure
- Component: A part of a system, appliance, fixture, or device
- Condition: Conspicuous state of being
- Determine: Arrive at an opinion or conclusion pursuant to a real estate inspection
- **Device:** A component designed to perform a particular task or function
- Fixture: A plumbing or electrical component with a fixed position and function
- Function: The normal and characteristic purpose or action of a system, component, or device
- Functional Drainage: The ability to empty a plumbing fixture in a reasonable time
- **Functional Flow:** The flow of the water supply at the highest and farthest *fixture* from the *building* supply shutoff valve when another *fixture* is used simultaneously
- Inspect: Refer to Part I, "Definition and Scope", Paragraph A
- **Inspector:** One who performs a *real estate inspection*
- **Normal User Control:** Switch or other *device* that activates a *system* or *component* and is provided for use by an occupant of a *building*
- Operate: Cause a system, appliance, fixture, or device to function using normal user controls
- Permanently Installed: Fixed in place, e.g. screwed, bolted, nailed, or glued
- **Primary Building**: A building that an Inspector has agreed to inspect
- Primary Parking structure: A building for the purpose of vehicle storage associated with the primary building
- **Readily Accessible:** Can be reached, entered, or viewed without difficulty, moving obstructions, or requiring any action which may harm persons or property
- Real Estate Inspection: Refer to Part I, "Definitions and Scope", Paragraph A
- Representative Number: Example, an average of one component per area for multiple similar components such as windows, doors, and electrical outlets
- Safety Hazard: A condition that could result in significant physical injury
- Shut Down: Disconnected or turned off in a way so as not to respond to normal user controls
- **System:** An assemblage of various *components* designed to *function* as a whole
- **Technically Exhaustive:** Examination beyond the scope of a *real estate inspection*, which may require disassembly, specialized knowledge, special equipment, measuring, calculating, quantifying, testing, exploratory probing, research, or analysis