



Ontario Association of Home Inspectors

Established by the Ontario Association of Home Inspectors Act, 1994

3901 Highway 7 Suite 100, Woodbridge, Ontario L4L 8L5

Tel: 416-256-0960 or 1-888-RHI-OAHI (744-6244)

Email: oahi@oahi.com • Website: www.oahi.com or www.cahpi-ontario.org

ABOUT THE ONTARIO ASSOCIATION OF HOME INSPECTORS (OAH)

Goals

- The Ontario Association of Home Inspectors is dedicated to enhancing the technical skills and professional practice of home inspectors, and maintaining high professional standards through education and discipline.
- To promote public awareness of the advantages of a home inspection.
- To promote excellence within the profession by following the OAH approved Standards of Practice which provides inspection guidelines, and the OAH Code of Conduct, which defines the member's responsibility to act in a strictly fair, impartial, and professional manner.
- To interact with other related professional bodies, representing practitioners in real estate, technology, the legal community, and government bodies.
- The OAH is committed to continue with its efforts to gain and maintain recognition within the professional community on behalf of all its members. Through hard work and the dedication of many volunteers, the OAH, in a just a few short years, has established itself as the undisputed voice for home inspectors in Ontario.

Benefits

- Through your membership you have the opportunity to work together with and facilitate the efforts of other OAH members and related organizations in promoting the benefits of professional home inspectors.
- OAH is your voice to certain levels of government, and all other related industries such as real estate, banks, legal professions, relocators, etc., for accomplishing mutual goals.
- Consumers are entitled to the best, and the best you can give them is the backing of a professional Association. This will create confidence in your business.
- OAH membership is your "passport" to networking with other professional home inspectors and industry related professionals, as well as seminars and workshops for personal and professional upgrading along with new trends in business, which are ongoing throughout the year at all the meetings.
- OAH has developed strong educational programs, in cooperation with community colleges, that offer comprehensive training courses in this profession. When you have completed the requirements, you will have an instant market that accepts these qualifications.
- Members of the OAH may make reference to the OAH on company letterhead, advertising and other promotional publications to help you grow and prosper in your business, provided that such use is in strict accordance with the OAH By-laws and policies and that the membership category is not misrepresented. Members are encouraged to attend our education programs and seminars to keep up to date with new technologies, procedures and tools of the trade.



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FACTS YOU NEED TO KNOW

OAH Members have as of (Dec. 7, 2010) updated their requirements to integrate the National Occupational Standard (NOS) and to prepare for compliance under the Ontario Labour Mobility Act (2009). Under the Act every regulatory authority, of which OAH is one, shall facilitate mobility of qualified inspectors to and from Ontario. OAH representatives continue to work effectively with other Provincial organizations to secure accreditation for all provincial / regional bodies to provide certification for their Members meeting the NOS. This national initiative was first launched by CMHC and fully supported by OAH in the mid- 1990's and appears to be getting closer to a reality. This will secure and greatly increase opportunities for OAH inspectors.

Considerable experience, education/training, field work and expertise are required for successful performance in this profession. No single source of information is sufficient to launch a competent practice in this field. It is a combination of all.

First, there is no other profession or line of work that would fully prepare you to become a home inspector. Although construction related fields require an understanding of how new homes are built, they rarely deal with the extended use and age related deterioration of components that the home inspector encounters daily. You will need extensive detailed knowledge in many areas such as electrical and plumbing systems, heating and cooling systems, roofing, attic structures, as well as interior components and structures. You will also require knowledge of components that are obsolete yet still in service. No single course, nor even a collection of courses can prepare you for all of the significant conditions that occur in the field. The ability to recognize a condition or defect that may be a problem comes in part from experience with "what can go wrong".

OAH meetings and workshops, conferences and seminars, are also instrumental in producing well-qualified professional inspectors. Inspectors who lack exposure to more disciplined and formal training and rely on their "experience" only are at risk for having difficulty distinguishing between arm-waving opinions and well researched authoritative sources of information. This is a critical distinction if you are to practice as a qualified professional, rather than simply as a generic business operator.

The OAH has recognized that and requires that certain specific courses are mandatory baseline requirements to ensure that its members are above the crowd and true professionals. The best credential you can have in the home inspection profession is membership in the OAH. Its members are widely recognized. Anyone interested in the business should become an Applicant or Student member as early as possible, so that the regular member's correspondence mailings and meetings can enhance their competence and professionalism. Remember, your customer's expectations will be very high. In order to meet those expectations, you will need to be very good and very careful. Sharing ideas and experiences with others in the business can be extremely valuable to the survival of your business. Note: The courses can be done in any order; if you are not sure that this is the field for you... new home inspectors have indicated that by taking the weekend Defect Recognition & Reporting Course first was a valuable tool in their decision. At this course, you meet those in the same situation as yourself, as well as veteran inspectors, and knowledgeable instructors.

Getting Started: As a minimum, you will need required education, sufficient working capital, a reliable vehicle, a computer, and sufficient basic inspection tools. Your best source of information about these items as well as how to proceed towards obtaining your professional status, is by joining the OAH. We invite you to fill in the Membership Application. Those aspiring to become members must first apply as a new "Student" (non-practicing) or "Applicant" (practicing) member. Please go to oahi.com and click on become a Member and complete the process . For those requiring an assessment of their credentials, please allow about three to four weeks.