

# INTRODUCTION

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An increasing number of state licensing bodies and professional organizations require home inspectors to pass a written examination to prove their competency. Perhaps the best known of these exams is the National Home Inspection Exam (NHIE), which is used in many states and by the American Society of Home Inspectors® (ASHI). Some states and other professional organizations have developed their own exams for licensing or certification of home inspectors.

Regardless of the specific test, preparing for and taking a formal home inspection exam can be a stressful proposition. This book is designed to help you approach your exam with confidence and improve your ability to pass on the first try.

## HOW TO USE THIS BOOK

*Home Inspection Exam Prep* consists of three major parts:

**Part A: Diagnostic Test**—This brief test will help you determine which topic areas you're strongest in and which areas you need to concentrate on improving. Use the diagnostic test to help organize your review for the exam and prioritize the practice problems on which you will focus.

**Part B: Practice Problems**—This part contains nearly 1,400 questions organized by house systems, reporting and professional practice, and appliances. Some of the questions focus on a strictly technical understanding of the system or component, and others test your understanding of inspection methods and reporting techniques for specific conditions.

You can select a cross-section of problems from each topic, focus on particular topics, or, for the most rigorous exam preparation, practice with all the problems. Solutions and explanations are provided to help you understand the correct answer for each problem.

**Part C: Sample Exam**—This exam contains the same number of questions (200) and the full range of topics found in the NHIE. It is also a useful model for other home inspection exams. Use the sample exam to simulate your actual exam experience and test your readiness to pass a real home inspection exam.

## EXAM PREPARATION TIPS

In addition to using this book, you should consider several other strategies and issues to help you prepare for your exam:

**Standards of Practice and State-Specific Information.** In addition to testing technical knowledge of home inspection, some states and professional organizations also require candidates to answer exam questions relating to Standards of Practice (SOPs). Because SOPs vary between states and organizations, this book

does not cover this topic. Be sure to study and understand the SOPs for the exam you are taking.

Even if your state uses the NHIE, it may include some additional questions specific to the scope of home inspections or laws governing the profession in your state. For example, some states require home inspectors to inspect home appliances, whereas others do not. Contact your state board for details about examination and licensing requirements. Many have information available via a Web site for your convenience.

**Your Specific Exam.** To increase your comfort level, you should become familiar with the scope of the exam you'll be taking, such as the number of questions and time limit. The NHIE consists of 200 multiple-choice questions, each with four answer choices. Examinees have four hours to complete the exam. If you are taking a different exam, contact the relevant state board or professional organization for details.

**Content Review.** Although this book can help you prepare for the experience of taking an exam and identify topic areas where you need more review, it does not provide in-depth content review. For that, be sure to review the reference books, class notes, and other materials you have used in your training and practice. The Examination Board of Professional Home Inspectors, which oversees the development and validation of the NHIE, provides a list of suggested readings to help prepare for it at [http://www.homeinspectionexam.org/suggested\\_reading.html](http://www.homeinspectionexam.org/suggested_reading.html).

**Good luck!**