

Hidden Home Defects to Watch For

No home is flawless, but certain physical problems can be expensive. Watch for:

1. **Water leaks.** Look for stains on ceilings and near the baseboards, especially in basements or attics.
2. **Shifting foundations.** Look for large cracks along the home's foundation.
3. **Drainage.** Look for standing water, either around the foundation of the home or in the yard.
4. **Termites.** Look for weakened or grooved wood, especially near ground level.
5. **Worn roofs.** Look for broken or missing copings and buckled shingles as well as water spots on ceilings.
6. **Inadequate wiring.** Look for antiquated fuse boxes, extension cords (indicating insufficient outlets), and outlets without a place to plug in the grounding prong.
7. **Plumbing problems.** Very low water pressure, banging in pipes.