



Canadian  
Association  
of Home &  
Property  
Inspectors (BC)

## Buying a home? Can you tell if it was a grow-op?

It used to be that a grow op in a town or neighbourhood was used until it was publicly unmasked or the house was destroyed. Now illegal grow operators take a quick crop from a house, re-paint the interior to mask any obvious damage, then dump it on the market.

With an increasing percentage of real estate available for sale in BC having previously been used as marijuana grow op sites, the Canadian Association of Home and Property Inspectors of British Columbia wants you to know some of the warning signs:

- Holes or patches in the ceiling in unusual places, or a patch in the drywall close to electrical services.
- Painted-over staple marks, or evidence of plastics stapled to walls or ceiling.
- Disconnected toilet or dismantled furnace make-up air connection.
- Extraneous ductwork, or a pile of unused ductwork.

These indicators do not mean a house must have been used as a grow op, but they do mean you need to pay attention, and ask questions.

Buying a home represents the largest single financial decision people are likely to make in their lives, and with BC housing prices some of the highest in Canada, consumers ought to have some measure of protection.

Consumers who seek professional and qualified advice to help make this important decision deserve to know that the individual they hire is trained and qualified. The Canadian Association of Home and Property Inspectors of British Columbia is leading the campaign to have the government of BC establish standards in the home and property inspection industry.