

Common Repairs for Minneapolis Truth in Housing Inspections

Smoke Alarms

- One on each floor, including the basement.
- On floors with bedrooms, place near the bedrooms (not required inside bedrooms).
- Battery-powered alarms are acceptable.

Carbon Monoxide Alarms

- Needed within 10 feet of every bedroom.
- Common installation: in the hallway or inside each bedroom.
- Only one door is allowed between the alarm and the sleeping room.

Grounding Jumper Wire

- Use an approved clamp on both sides of the water meter.
- Must use No. 6 gauge copper wire.

Floor Drains

- Cleanout plug must be in place and fit tightly.
- Clogged floor drains must be cleaned and made functional.

Backflow Preventers

- Required on laundry sink faucets with hose threads.
- Required on outdoor faucets unless they are anti-siphon type.

Dishwasher Drain

- Must have a high-loop drain higher than the bottom of the sink.
- The loop must be permanently attached.

GFCI Outlets

- Must trip and cut power when the test button is pushed.

- Check all GFCI outlets in the house, outdoor outlets, and garage.

Bathtub Faucets

- Faucets cannot be below the rim of the tub.

Missing Breakers or Fuses

- Empty breaker openings or fuse holders must be capped.

Flues

- Furnace and water heater flues must be tightly cemented or sealed where they enter the chimney.
- Must be airtight.

Water Heater Discharge Pipe

- Must be metal, not plastic.
- The end of the pipe must be no higher than 18" above the floor and must not have threads.

Garage Access

- The garage must be unlocked and accessible for inspection.

Attic Access

- Attic hatch must be accessible to the inspector.
- Move clothes, closet shelves, or other obstructions ahead of time.
- Ensure vent pipes and fans vent outside, not into the attic.

Smoke and CO Alarms

- Smoke alarms missing, improperly located, or not functioning.
- Required on every floor, including basements (not required inside bedrooms).
- Carbon monoxide alarms must be within 10 feet of each bedroom.

Floor Drain Issues

- Cleanout plug missing or loose.

- Drain clogged.

Plumbing Issues

- Outside hose faucets must be anti-siphon type or have backflow preventers attached.
- Laundry sink faucet with a threaded end must have a backflow preventer.
- Toilet must have an anti-siphon fill valve with a 1" air gap above the overflow pipe.
- Dishwasher drain line must have a high-rise loop under the sink.
- Laundry sink drains to floor drain.
- Laundry standpipe must have a trap.
- Leaking drain pipes or uncapped openings.
- Spouts below the rim of any sink or tub.
- Cracked, broken, or leaking plumbing fixtures.
- Sump pump must discharge outside, not to the sanitary sewer.

Gas Piping and Dryer Issues

- Dryer venting into the house.
- Dryer vent bypass directing exhaust into the house.
- Missing shutoff on gas line to gas appliances.
- Old-style flexible gas lines.
- Flexible gas line running through walls, floors, or cabinets.
- Old gas piping not properly capped.

Electrical Issues

- Grounding jumper wire missing or not clamped on both sides of the water meter.
- GFCI outlets that don't trip when tested or stay energized after tripping.
- Overfusing (30-amp fuses on normal household circuits).
- Extension cords used as permanent wiring or running through walls, floors, or cabinets.
- Uncapped wires or wires spliced outside electrical boxes.

Furnace and Water Heater Issues

- Gas back spillage at the draft hood.

- Flues with holes, backward slope, not tightly sealed to the chimney, or too close to combustibles.
- Missing safety controls on boilers or furnaces.
- Abandoned fuel oil tank.
- Missing 9D backflow valve on boiler supply line.
- Water heater relief valve missing or improperly located.
- Water heater relief pipe issues:
 - Missing or too short (must end within 18" of the floor).
 - Plastic pipe or threaded end.

Structural Issues

- Stairways not capable of supporting normal loads.
- Potential structural failure of floors, walls, stairs, or roof.

Exterior Issues

- Outside hose faucets must be anti-siphon type or have backflow preventers.
- GFCI outlets must trip when tested and cut power.
- Extension cords must not be used as permanent wiring or run through walls, floors, or from house to garage.

Note: A permit issued by the City of Minneapolis may be required before fixing some of these items.