



Cornerstone Classroom

Upcoming Webinar: Combustion air and venting safety
Feb. 3rd 2026 7:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Home inspectors will learn how to identify and evaluate proper combustion air supply and venting systems for fuel-burning appliances.

INDUSTRY HEADLINES

States eyeing regulations amid rise in waived home inspections — many homebuyers are skipping inspection contingencies to win bidding wars, prompting some states to consider laws to protect buyers. [Straight Arrow News+1](#)

HOME INSPECTORS

Inspector Story of the Month

A few weeks ago, I inspected a home in Rocky Hill, Ct. Came across this electrical panel. Mice had made a home.



Takeaway for Inspectors

- **Trust your instincts.** If you see mice here they are most likely everywhere.
- **Document and explain.** Clear notes and photos help your clients understand what you saw — and why it matters.
- **Limitation of Inspection.** Document, Document, Document.

As home inspectors, we don't just check boxes — we protect people, one observation at a time.

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Law Webinars

We are proud to offer the **Connecticut and Rhode Island Law and Regulations Webinar**, these state-approved continuing education course designed specifically for licensed home inspectors. Credits that home inspectors must earn to maintain their license. [Purchase Now](#)

Narrative of the Month

Electrical Panel – Debris

Observation:

The main electrical panel contained debris consistent with rodent and/or mouse activity, including nesting material and droppings. This debris was observed within the panel enclosure around energized electrical components.

Implication:

Rodent activity inside an electrical panel is a **serious safety concern**. Rodents can damage wire insulation by chewing, increasing the risk of **short circuits, electrical arcing, overheating, and fire**. Additionally, debris inside the panel can interfere with proper operation of breakers and increase the risk of electrical failure.

Recommendation:

A **licensed electrician** should further evaluate the electrical panel, safely remove all debris, inspect wiring and components for damage, and make any necessary repairs. In addition, a **qualified pest control professional** should be consulted to identify and eliminate the source of rodent intrusion and prevent recurrence.

Limitation:

The inspection was visual and non-invasive. The inspector did not remove breakers or dismantle electrical components. Concealed wiring and internal damage beyond visible areas may exist and were not evaluated.

FROM THE DESK OF STAN BAJERSKI

The State of Home Inspection Education

Getting your continuing education from a **local provider like Cornerstone Home Inspector Education Center (located in Connecticut)** matters because home inspection is regulated and practiced **locally**, not nationally. State standards of practice, licensing requirements, climate conditions, construction methods, and common defects vary widely across New England. A local education company understands these regional differences and tailors its courses to what inspectors actually encounter in the field—from older housing stock and moisture issues to state-specific laws and reporting expectations. Local education also keeps inspectors current on regional trends, code enforcement practices, and regulatory changes, helping them produce better reports, reduce liability, and provide greater value to their clients.

by **Cornerstone Home Inspector Education Center**

NEW ENGLAND SPOTLIGHT

New England Compliance

Regulators and consumer-protection agencies in New England have also renewed their focus on **licensing compliance, standards of practice, and continuing education**, reinforcing the importance of inspectors staying current with state-specific requirements. Inspectors who operate across state lines note that differences in reporting expectations and ethical standards make ongoing education essential.

Real estate professionals throughout the region are echoing this sentiment, encouraging buyers and sellers to work with well-trained, credentialed inspectors who understand New England-specific construction methods, moisture issues, and climate-related concerns.

Recall Center

Midea U and U+ Smart Window Air Conditioners (2025)

- **Issue:** Design defect allows water to pool, leading to potential mold growth inside the unit.
- **Impact:** ~1.7 million units recalled, many likely still in New England homes.
- **Why it matters: Moisture and mold risks are exactly the types of interior issues inspectors look for.** If you see these units installed, consider advising clients to verify recall status and drainage performance. nbcnews.com

Ryobi Electric Pressure Washers Recall

- **Issue:** Capacitors can overheat and explode — risk of serious injury.
- **Where found:** Homeowners may have these in garages, sheds, or exterior storage.
- **Relevance:** Even outdoor tools can pose *home safety hazards* if part of homeowner property. Advising homeowners to stop use and check model/serial numbers could be beneficial. [U.S. Cons](#)

Trane & American Standard Gas/Electric Packaged Units (2025)

- Trane and American Standard issued a recall for certain **gas/electric packaged HVAC units** (which include furnace/heating modes) because the **fuel gas valve can open unexpectedly**, posing a **gas leak and fire hazard**.
- Consumers are advised to **stop using the heating mode** and contact their dealer to schedule a **free inspection and ignition board repair**. [U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission+1](#)