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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 of 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.