

Unsolicited Testimonial

10/24/14

Dear Prospective Student,

It wasn't too long ago that I began my journey into the home inspection industry. When I began, I did a simple Google search and found all sorts of companies and organizations offering training. I began to email and call several of the companies and organizations to gather advice on just how to start my career in home inspection. The prices ranged from free to \$4000. Naturally, I went with the cheapest.

I first began training online from InterNACHI. While the training was "free," you still had to purchase a membership to their organization which is approximately \$400. As I went through the online learning modules, I found myself wanting more. Since it was all online, I had no one to converse with in a timely manner to answer my questions. After a few weeks of doing this, I realized that this would not prepare me to be a competent home inspector.

I emailed several members of the Great Plains chapter of ASHI (American Society of Home Inspectors) and asked them for advice. Every one of them told me to go to the Midwest Inspectors Institute (MII). They told me that Tom Lauhon, the owner, was an incredibly knowledgeable and caring instructor. So I emailed Tom and asked for information about MII. Without completely analyzing the information that he sent, I was hit with "sticker shock." I thought to myself, "\$4000 for school? I can't afford that. I'm sure I can find something cheaper."

So I found something cheaper and enrolled in a "blended learning" course through the American Home Inspectors Training Institute (AHIT). This meant that I was going to do a majority of my course work online and then have 3 days of classroom learning. The cost for this school was \$1300. I received a box of books and online access to videos on each section. I began to go through them and thought that they were going to be sufficient enough for me.

I went to a Great Plains chapter meeting and guess who the presenter was that night. You guessed it, Tom. He talked about several things that I had never heard of, but I figured that those things would be covered later on in my course work. When I got home that night I checked my course books and could not find anything about these items. I checked the copyright dates and found that they had not been updated since 2006. 2006? A lot has changed in the industry in 8 years.

I was discouraged, but what was I going to do? There were no refunds once I began the online learning sections. Luckily, a few weeks later, they cancelled my classroom section because there weren't enough people and they refunded my money.

A light bulb finally went off in my head and I decided that I needed to enroll in MII. MII is an intense seven day course that runs from 8:00 am to 10:00 pm each day. I knew that convincing my wife to spend the \$4000 was going to be a challenge. So I sat down and broke down the price.

- \$4000 total tuition

- \$300 for one week at a local motel

- \$300 for three meals a day and all the snacks that you could ever want

- \$750 for 3D Inspection software

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-\$2650 for class materials and learning

So really, once you break it down like that, it's a no brainer. Yes, \$2650 is more than \$1300, but the time and attention that you receive from Tom is like nothing else you will ever find. Tom updates his class material often to cover any new topics or changes in construction standards. He takes that time to make sure that you understand the topic fully. Tom has several practical exercises for you to do so that you can put what you learned that day into practice.

You'll also complete two practice inspections during the week. The first is what he calls a mechanical inspection. But what it really is is an "eye opener." He wants you to have this first one so that you can start it, get completely overwhelmed, and realize and learn that methodology in an inspection is crucial. The second inspection is a whole house inspection. Tom finds a vacant house in the area and you are let loose in it to do your thing. He stays with you and will answer some questions, but for the most part it's on you. After you complete it, you write the report using the 3D software.

On the last day you take a final. The format of the final is similar to that of the National Home Inspector Exam (NHIE), which is a requirement for all ASHI members to pass. He consults with MII grads who have taken the NHIE as to what areas of info and what types of questions will be on it. His final is almost like a practice run for the NHIE. After taking his course and taking his final exam, I feel completely confident that I will be a competent, successful home inspector and will have no issue passing the NHIE.

So please, learn from my mistakes. I went to two other schools and spent months delaying my new career because I wanted to take the cheaper option. I could not have asked for a better school or learning environment. The classroom is set up just like an apartment. Attached to the classroom is a living room area with two couches for you to take breaks on and study on. Next to that is a small kitchen where Tom prepares every meal. The food is out of this world.

If you just want to be a home inspector, go anywhere else. If you want to be a competent, knowledgeable, successful home inspector, attend the Midwest Inspectors Institute. Tom Lauhon genuinely cares about your learning and eventual success in this industry.

Sincerely,

Matthew Busenbark

MII Graduate October 2014