

TX-D370

DAILY NEWSPAPER

FORT WORTH STAR-TELEGRAM

Fort Worth, TX

Morning Circulation - 225,737

CITY FINAL EDITION
MARCH 14, 2001



Bacon's

3834

P 1

CONSTRUCTIVE CRITICISM FOR NEW HOMES

Inspectors work from ground up

Busy building market boosts demand for experts' help in checking details

BY ANDREA JARES
Star-Telegram Staff Writer

FLOWER MOUND — Damon and Diane Trammell didn't just want their four-bedroom Flower Mound home built. They wanted it to be perfect.

They had heard friends complain of a bad experience in building a home: walls that bowed with age and windows that weren't square. They wanted to avoid a lifetime of these flaws.

"We did some research before we built the home, and there were a lot of problems with homes being built really fast and the workmanship was poor," Diane Trammell said.

A feverish pace in a fast-moving market is driving more homeowners to hire an inspector to monitor construction, inspectors and their clients say.

The inspectors serve as an advocate for the homeowner, often interceding in disputes with the building contractor or subcontractors. The inspector's job is different from that of the city inspector, who looks to see if



TYPES OF INSPECTIONS:

- Phased, third-party or new construction inspections. Take place as the house is being built, during different stages of construction.
- Traditional home inspection. Homeowner hires someone to check the house after it is complete.
- City inspection. Determines the house is up to code. Performed by the city.
- Inspector for the builder. The contractor sometimes has an inspector who checks several houses as they are being built.
- Special inspections. Inspectors also check for radon and lead in homes.

SOURCE: American Society of Home Inspectors

Star-Telegram/SHAUNNA LOPEZ

(More on INSPECT on Page 10C)