

**BUILDERS ONE YEAR  
LIMITED HOME WARRANTY  
PERFORMANCE STANDARDS**

## WHAT IS COVERED BY THIS LIMITED WARRANTY AND ITS DURATION

- A. The Builder warrants solely to You that commencing with the Warranty Date and continuing for one (1) year, the Home will be free of the Defects described in subparagraph B. below as the Builder's responsibility. This Limited Warranty terminates one (1) year after the Warranty Date. Written notice of an alleged Defect must be received by Builder before expiration date of the Limited Warranty in order to be eligible hereunder.
- B. Covered Defects; Scope of Coverage. To be eligible for coverage under this Limited Warranty, the items or conditions in the Home must be a Defect as described in the Performance Standards as the Builder's responsibility.
- C. No Implied Warranties. **THIS IS THE ONLY WARRANTY GIVEN TO YOU BY THE BUILDER IT IS IN LIEU OF ALL OTHER WARRANTIES, BOTH EXPRESS OR IMPLIED, AND IT SUPER CEDES ANY AGREEMENT TO THE CONTRARY, INCLUDING ANY WARRANTY OF COMPLETION OF CONSTRUCTION IN SUBSTANTIAL CONFORMITY WITH APPROVED PLANS AND SPECIFICATIONS REQUIRED BY SOME LENDERS OR GOVERNMENT AGENCIES TO BE SIGNED AT CLOSING.**

## WHAT IS NOT COVERED BY THIS LIMITED WARRANTY

- A. The Limited Warranty does not cover:
1. Bodily injury or any damage to personal property; Any Consequential or Incidental Damages, including but not limited to, damage to the Home that is caused by a covered defect but is not itself a covered defect, cost of shelter, transportation, food, moving, storage or other incidental expenses related to relocation during repairs. Some states do not allow the exclusion or limitation of incidental or consequential damages, so this Limitation may not apply to you.
  2. Any Defects caused by, contributed to, aggravated by, or resulting, in whole or in part, from:
    - (a) Changes to the grading of the Property by anyone other than the Builder or the Builder's employees, agents, or subcontractors;
    - (b) Changes or alterations made to the Home by anyone after the Warranty Date, except those performed by the Builder or the Builder's employees, agents, or subcontractors;
    - (c) Any deficiency in materials or work supplied by anyone other than the Builder or the Builder's employees, agents, or subcontractors;
    - (d) Negligence, improper maintenance or improper use of a Home by anyone;
    - (e) Dampness, condensation, mold, mildew or fungus regardless of its cause or source; or
    - (f) Failure of or damage to any part of the Home not built by the Builder or

the Builder's employees, agents, or subcontractors.

4. Any bodily injury, loss, damage, costs, expenses and any Defects caused by, contributed to, aggravated by, or resulting, in whole or in part, from:
  - (a) fire;
  - (b) explosion;
  - (c) smoke;
  - (d) water escape;
  - (e) falling objects;
  - (f) aircraft;
  - (g) vehicles;
  - (h) storms;
  - (i) Acts of God;
  - (j) lightning;
  - (k) hail;
  - (l) floods;
  - (m) wind driven water;
  - (n) insects, rodents or vermin;
  - (o) moisture, rot, corrosion, rust, mold, mildew, or fungus;
  - (p) roots, vines, or plants; or
  - (q) war, terrorist acts, vandalism, or riots.
  
5. Any **Defects** caused by, contributed to, aggravated by, or resulting, in whole or in part, from any soil or earth movement, including but not limited to:
  - (a) **earthquake**, landslide or mudslide;
  - (b) mine subsidence, sinkholes or the level of the underground water table;
  - (c) volcanic eruption, explosion or effusion; or
  - (d) expansion, contraction or settling of the earth or soil on which the Home is built.
  
6. Any **Defects** caused by, contributed to, aggravated by, or resulting, in whole or in part, from wind, including, but not limited to:
  - (a) hurricanes;
  - (b) tornadoes;
  - (c) tropical storms; or
  - (d) gale force winds.
  
7. Any bodily injury, loss, damage, costs, expenses or any **Defects** arising from, caused by, contributed to, aggravated by, or resulting, in whole or in part, from:
  - (a) The actual, alleged or threatened discharge, dispersal, seepage, migration, release or escape of **Pollutants**, including, without limitation, any liability arising from an inhabitability or health risk attributable to **Pollutants**, contaminants or irritants (including, without limitation, the presence or consequence of radon, formaldehyde, arsenic, fiberglass, methylene chloride, acids, alkalis, pesticides and chemicals or any other substance or

compound that is or may be in the building materials used to construct the Home) or attributable to the presence of or proximity to hazardous or toxic materials;

- (b) Any governmental direction or request to test for, monitor, clean-up, remove, contain, treat, detoxify or neutralize **Pollutants**;
  - 8. Any **Defects** that become apparent after the **Home** is no longer used primarily as a residence;
  - 9. Any **Defects** caused by, contributed to, aggravated by or resulting, in whole or in part, from abnormal loading on floors which exceeds design loads;
  - 10. Any damage to **Consumer Products**;
  - 11. Any **Defects** which **You** have not taken timely action to minimize;
  - 12. Any **Defects** covered by any other warranty or insurance; and
  - 13. Any nonconformity with (i) building material manufacturer's installation guidelines or specifications or (ii) local building codes, regulations or requirements which has not resulted in a **Defect**.
- B. The Limited Warranty does not cover any loss or damage as a result of any Defects which would not have occurred in the absence of one or more of the events or conditions listed in 4, 5 or 6 in Section A above. The Limited Warranty does not cover any such loss or damage regardless of:
- 1. The cause of the excluded event or condition; or
  - 2. Other causes of the loss or damage; or
  - 3. Whether other causes acted concurrently or in any sequence with the excluded event or condition to produce the loss or damage.

**REQUESTING WARRANTY PERFORMANCE  
UNDER THIS LIMITED WARRANTY**

- A. Your duties under this Limited Warranty are as follows.
- 1. If You believe that the Home contains a Defect, You must advise Builder by written notice. Your written notice must include the following information: a description of the claimed Defect; Your name and telephone number; the address of the Home; Your mailing address and the Warranty Date. Builder must receive Your written notice no later than the date the Limited Warranty expires. If such notice is not postmarked or received by Builder by that deadline, the

Builder shall have no obligation to remedy a Defect.

2. You must cooperate with Builder and the Builder's employees, agents, and subcontractors in every effort to investigate Defects, including without limitation, granting the right of reasonable access to the Home to monitor, investigate, or correct Defects, upon reasonable notification to You. In the event You withhold access to the Home from Builder, the Builder shall have no obligation to remedy the Defects.
3. Except at Your own cost, You will not voluntarily make any payment or assume any obligation or incur any expense for the correction of items which You believe to be covered by this Limited Warranty without the Builder's prior written approval. In the event of an Emergency Situation, approval is granted to You by the Builder to make reasonable repairs, temporary or permanent, provided such repairs are confined solely to protect the Home from further damage and that You shall notify the Builder as soon as possible, but no later than five (5) days after the repairs are undertaken, and provided further that You shall keep an accurate record of such repair expenditures.

## **Ray Owens Homes**

### **COMMON CONCERNS NOT COVERED BY THE LIMITED WARRANTY**

1. It is recommended that you change heat and air filters every month at least during the first 9 months of occupancy. This will help the efficiency of the system and benefit you on your utility usage.
2. **DO NOT LEAVE YOUR OUTSIDE HOSES HOOKED UP WHEN A FREEZE IS EMINENT.** Your frost proof hydrant could freeze and burst and you will not be aware of it until you turn the hydrant on next spring.
3. Concrete can develop cracks due to weather related expansion and contraction, which is a normal occurrence. Protect your exterior concrete by keeping it free and clear of ice and snow. Do not apply salts of any form. By allowing salts to accumulate, you are subjecting your concrete to scaling and pitting.
4. Caulking around kitchen cabinets, bathtub areas, shower stalls and Cracks in grouting of ceramic tile joints or at junctions between tiles and other materials (e.g., between tiles and bathtub) will normally crack and deteriorate with time. It is the homeowner's responsibility to perform the caulking maintenance.
5. Paint and stain touch up is not warranted unless documented prior to closing
6. If you lose power to an isolated section of your house such as the bathroom, kitchen, etc... check the test/reset button on your GFI outlets first. If this does not work, check the breaker box switches.
7. Ruts in the yard after the final grade will almost always occur due to the loose top soil and the needed drainage system for the surface water. These ruts should be raked out by the homeowner until a good grass root system takes hold of the soil; however, do not restrict or reroute the drainage flow.
8. Landscaping and trees are not covered under any warranty.
9. Sheetrock on ceilings under attic storage space will not be warranted if the storage is deemed to be excessive by Builder.
10. Due to the extreme amount of earthquakes Oklahoma has been experiencing, cracks in brick and rock mortar, slab cracks, and joint cracks in sheetrock (noticeable by vertical or horizontal straight line cracks), are no longer covered by the Standard Performance Warranty.
11. We do not spray for household bugs (spiders, crickets, etc...)
12. Make sure clothes washer's hoses are in good repair, of adequate length and connected tightly.
13. Make sure your exterior door jambs stay painted/stained or they will deteriorate over time. Paint is recommended every 2 to 4 years depending on exposure.
14. Keeping bedroom doors open will allow the conditioned air to circulate properly.
15. Non-emergency warranty items have to be in writing and are only addressed via fax, email, or mail. Warranty items are reviewed and corrected at 30 days, 6 months, and 11 months post closing.
16. The one year Builders warranty is a standard performance warranty. The materials and construction of your home is guaranteed to perform within a specific parameter, which is defined in the warranty documents provided. All warranty items must be documented with the provided submittal sheet and labeled with the correct page number of the warranty, letter of the type of material and item number of the item. Items not filled out correctly will not be addressed. Items that are the homeowner's responsibility will not be addressed.

Note: Review the Restrictive Covenants for your Subdivision prior to installing fencing and storage buildings, and to re-acquaint yourself with all existing policies governing the homes and residents.

**Ray Owens Homes, LLC**  
**PO BOX 31078**  
**Edmond, OK 73003**  
**405-615-5161**  
**Fax: 405-254-5550**

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## PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

- I. **Introduction.** The following is intended to acquaint **You** with **Builder's** responsibilities under this **Limited Warranty**. If a defect results in actual physical damage to the **Home**, the **Performance Standards** will be used to determine **Builder's** obligation under this **Limited Warranty**.

**NOTE:** **Your** new **Home**, no matter how carefully it was constructed, will go through a period of setting and drying. Generally this happens during one cycle of the seasons or one (1) year. It is normal to expect some wood shrinkage, hairline cracks or warping. **Builder** will remedy these conditions where they exceed these **Performance Standards**.

- II. **Your Responsibilities.** **Your Home** requires an active maintenance effort on **Your** part.

**NOTE:** Damage caused or made worse by **Your** negligence, improper maintenance, or improper operation is expressly excluded under this **Limited Warranty**.

- III. **Performance Standards.**

The following **Performance Standards** list common defects and conditions in new homes and tells which are covered under this **Limited Warranty**. The **Performance Standards** also explain both the **Builder's** responsibilities and **Your** responsibilities.

The **Performance Standards** are grouped according to the type of material or portion of the **Home** affected by a defect or condition. It is then divided into the specific item or work affected, and then by the actual problem or condition.

**You** will find some conditions listed in the **Performance Standards** that are not covered by this **Limited Warranty**. These conditions tend to occur naturally, are too small to detract from the overall appearance or stability of the **Home**, or are **Your** responsibility.

Under the **Limited Warranty**, the choice as to scope of repair, repair technique, or replacement versus payment for the cost of repair or replacement is solely that of **Builder**. Further, **Builder** will make a reasonable effort to match colors, patterns and dyes of all appropriate materials, finishes, etc. **You** should be aware that changes in color lots or discontinued patterns may preclude exact matching.

Type of Material or area of <b>Your Home</b>	Specific Item or Work	Problem or Condition Covered	Year	Building Standard or <b>Builder's</b> Responsibility	Your Responsibility
A. Site Work	1. Site Grading	a. Settling of ground around foundation, utility trenches or other filled areas interferes with water draining away from the home	1	<b>Builder</b> will fill settled areas which affect the proper drainage.	Remove and replace shrubs, sod or other landscaping affected by the placement of the fill.
	2. Site Drainage	a. Improper drainage of the site	1	<b>Builder</b> will establish the proper grades and swales (sloped low areas) for water to properly drain away from the <b>Home</b> . Water will not stand or pond within 10 feet of the <b>Home</b> for extended periods after a rain (usually not more than 24 hours). For swales which drain other areas or where sump pumps discharge; a longer time is not unusual. It is normal for water to stand after a heavy rainfall. Grading or ponding determinations will not be made while there is frost or snow on the ground, or while the ground is saturated or frozen.	Maintain the grades and swales after they have been properly established by <b>Builder</b> .  Insure established drainage patterns are not impeded by landscaping, decking, patios, pools, driveways, walls, etc which <b>You</b> install. Do not change the grade of the soil away from the foundation by building planters, raised beds, or other blocking construction. Damages caused by changes in drainage and grading are not covered.  Where a sump pit has been installed by <b>Builder</b> but the sump pump was not contracted for or installed by <b>Builder</b> , <b>You</b> must install a properly sized pump in attempt to correct the condition.
B. Concrete	1. Cast-in-place concrete	a. Cracks in basement walls, or foundation walls, stem walls or floor slabs	1	Shrinkage cracks are not unusual in concrete. <b>Builder</b> will repair all cracks more than 1/8" wide.	
		b. Cracks in basement floor	1	Minor cracks in basement floors are normal. <b>Builder</b> will repair cracks more than 3/16" wide or 1/8" in vertical displacement.	
		c. Cracks in slab in attached garage	1	<b>Builder</b> will repair cracks in garage slabs more than 1/4" wide or 1/4" in vertical displacement.	
	1. Cast-in-place concrete	d. Uneven concrete floors or slabs	1	Concrete floors in rooms designed for habitability (as living space) will not have pits, depressions, or raised surfaces	

Type of Material or area of <b>Your Home</b>	Specific Item or Work	Problem or Condition Covered	Year	Building Standard or <b>Builder's</b> Responsibility	Your Responsibility
				greater than 1/2" in 30". <b>Builder</b> will repair these defects.	
		e. Cracks in concrete slab-on-grade floors under finished flooring	1	<b>Builder</b> will repair cracks which rupture the finished flooring material so the cracks are not readily apparent when the finished flooring material is in place. (See also Performance Standard G., "Finishes.")	
		f. Pitting, scaling or spalling (flakes, chipping) of concrete surfaces covered by the warranty	1	It is normal for some minor chipping of the surface to occur. Concrete surfaces should not disintegrate so that the aggregate is loose under normal use and weather conditions. <b>Builder</b> will repair concrete surfaces. <b>Builder</b> is not responsible for deterioration caused by salt, chemicals, mechanical implements or other factors beyond <b>Builder's</b> control.	Avoid damaging concrete with salt, chemicals, mechanical equipment, etc.
		g. Settling, heaving or separating of stoops, steps or garage floors	1	Stoops, steps or garage floors will not settle, heave or separate more than 1" from the <b>Home</b> . <b>Builder</b> will repair these defects.	
	1. Cast-in-place concrete	h. Standing water on stoops	1	Water should drain from outdoor stoops and steps. However, it is normal for small amounts of water to stand on stoops for short periods after it rains. <b>Builder</b> will correct any improper drainage.	
C. Masonry	1. Unit Masonry	a. Cracks in masonry basement or foundation walls	1	Cracks up to 1/8" wide are not unusual in mortar joints of masonry foundation walls. <b>Builder</b> will repair cracks more than 1/8" wide.	
		b. Cracks in masonry or veneer walls	1	Cracks up to 3/8" wide due to shrinkage are common in mortar joints in masonry	

Type of Material or area of <b>Your Home</b>	Specific Item or Work	Problem or Condition Covered	Year	Building Standard or <b>Builder's</b> Responsibility	Your Responsibility
				construction. <b>Builder</b> will repair cracks more than 3/8" wide by Repointing. @ <b>Builder</b> will not be responsible for any difference in the color of the old and new mortar.	
		c. Mortar used in brick veneer, fireplaces or chimneys is excessively sandy or of low tensile or bond strength	1	<b>Builder</b> will correct these conditions by repointing affected areas. Under no circumstances will <b>Builder</b> be required to tear down and replace brick veneer, fireplaces or chimneys.	
D. Wood & Plastic	1. Rough carpentry	a. Squeaking floors or subfloors that appear loose	1	These conditions are often temporary in new homes. <b>Builder</b> will correct these conditions only if they are caused by underlying defects in construction. A squeak proof floor cannot be guaranteed.	
		b. Uneven wood floors	1	<b>Builder</b> will repair any floors that have more than 1/4" ridge or depression within any 30" measurement when measured in any direction to the joists.	
		c. Bowed walls or other interior exposed surfaces.	1	All interior and exterior walls have slight variances on their finished surfaces. Bowing of walls will not detract from or blemish the wall's finished surface. <b>Builder</b> will repair any walls which bow more than 3/8" out of line within any 30" horizontal or vertical measurement taken a minimum of 16" from any sheetrock corner or opening.	
		d. Out-of-plumb walls	1	<b>Builder</b> will repair any walls that are more than 1/4" out-of-plumb for any 30" vertical measurement.	
	2. Kitchen cabinets	a. Warped kitchen cabinets	1	<b>Builder</b> will repair any doors or drawer fronts that are warped more than 1/4". This condition is measured by closing	

Type of Material or area of <b>Your Home</b>	Specific Item or Work	Problem or Condition Covered	Year	Building Standard or <b>Builder's</b> Responsibility	Your Responsibility
				the drawer or door and measuring from the face frame to the point of furthest warpage. <b>Builder</b> is not responsible for matching cabinet finishes.	
		b. Gaps between the cabinets, or between the cabinets, ceiling, or walls	1	<b>Builder</b> will correct any gap that is more than 1/4" wide.	Do not overload cabinets.
		c. Split in panels of a cabinet door	1	If light is visible through the split in a panel, <b>Builder</b> will repair the panel.	
	3. Countertops	a. Separation from wall	1	<b>Builder</b> will repair only once prior to closing or first occupancy, whichever occurs first.	
	4. Interior finish carpentry (trim inside the <b>Home</b> )	a. Trim/molding has open joints between molding and the surface areas to which the moldings are attached.	1	<b>Builder</b> will repair open joints in moldings or between moldings and surfaces if the gaps are more than 1/8" wide. Caulking is acceptable.	
	5. Exterior finish carpentry (wood siding, or masonry trim on the outside of the <b>Home</b> )	a. Trim has open joints between pieces of trim, including siding and masonry	1	<b>Builder</b> will repair any open joints that are more than 3/8" wide or which do not keep out the elements.	Maintain exterior finish by caulking and painting.
E. Thermal and moisture protecting materials	1.	a. Leaks in basement	1	Dampness on the walls or floors in the basement is not a defect. However, if water is actually trickling into the basement, <b>Builder</b> will repair the leaks.	Maintain proper grades and drainage around the home and landscape properly to avoid water problems in the <b>Home</b> .
	2. Insulation	a. Insufficient insulation	1	<b>Builder</b> will insulate the <b>Home</b> as required to meet local energy and building requirements. Insulation does not render a wall or room soundproof.	

Type of Material or area of <b>Your Home</b>	Specific Item or Work	Problem or Condition Covered	Year	Building Standard or <b>Builder's</b> Responsibility	Your Responsibility
	3. Louvers and vents	a. Rain or snow leaks into the attic through louvers and vents	0	Homes must have louvers and vents for proper ventilation. Rain or snow will sometimes come through these openings.	
		a. Ice build-up on roof	0	During prolonged cold spells, ice is likely to build up at the eaves of the roof. This build-up will occur when snow and ice accumulate and gutters and downspouts freeze up.	
		b. Leaks in roof or flashing	1	<b>Builder</b> will repair roof or flashing leaks. Leaks caused by ice build-up are not <b>Builder's</b> responsibility.	Clean leaves from valleys, gutters and downspouts.
	4. Roofing and siding	c. Standing water on a flat roof	1	It is not unusual for minor ponding to occur on a flat roof for up to 24 hours after a rainfall. However, if water is not draining properly, <b>Builder</b> will correct the drainage. <b>Builder</b> is not responsible if the roof was specifically designed to retain water.	
		d. Delamination of veneer siding or joint separation	1	All siding will be installed so that it meets the manufacturer's standards and industry standards and is sufficiently painted or protected. <b>Builder</b> will repair or replace any siding that delaminates or separates. <b>Builder</b> will only paint new materials as part of the repair. The paint may not be an exact match to the original colors.	Protect the siding from damage, such as leaning heavy objects against siding, ball dents, and water from sprinklers striking the siding.  Annually, seal or recaulk siding.
		e. Gaps in wood siding	0	Gaps on end and side edge may occur due to normal expansion and contraction. <b>Builder</b> cannot control wood expansion and contraction.	
	5. Sheet metal	a. Leaks in gutters and/or down-spouts	1	Gutters and downspouts may overflow during heavy rains. They should not leak at connections. <b>Builder</b> will repair	Keep leaves and debris out of gutters so that water can flow properly.



Type of Material or area of <b>Your Home</b>	Specific Item or Work	Problem or Condition Covered	Year	Building Standard or <b>Builder's</b> Responsibility	Your Responsibility
				leaks.	Do not lean ladders against gutters and downspouts.
		b. Standing water in gutters	1	Small amounts of water may stand in a gutter after a rain. If the water is more than 1" deep in a gutter and the gutter is not clogged with debris, <b>Builder</b> will repair the gutter so that water can drain properly.	Keep leaves and debris out of gutters so that water can flow properly.
	6. Sealants	a. Leaks in exterior (outside) walls because caulking is inadequate	1	If water is coming into the <b>Home</b> , <b>Builder</b> will repair leaking joints or cracks in the exterior wall surface, around openings and flashings.	Properly installed caulking may shrink. <b>You</b> must maintain caulking during the life of the <b>Home</b> .
F. Doors and windows	1. Wood and plastic doors	a. Outside doors are warped	1	<b>Builder</b> will repair any doors that warp to the extent that they satisfy one of the following: - they no longer work; - they are no longer weather resistant; or - they warp more than 1/4", measured diagonally from corner to corner. <b>Builder</b> will refinish any new doors to match other doors as closely as possible.	If <b>You</b> paint outside doors, doors must be properly prepared.
		b. Inside doors or closet doors are warped	1	<b>Builder</b> will repair any doors that warp more than 1/4", measured diagonally from corner to corner. In the event <b>Builder</b> installs a new door, <b>Builder</b> will finish new door to match other doors as closely as possible.	
		c. Panels in doors shrink so that raw wood edges show	0	It is normal for panels to shrink.	
		d. Split in panels of a door	1	If light is visible through the split in a panel, <b>Builder</b> will repair the panel. <b>Builder</b> will make this repair only once after closing or first occupancy,	

Type of Material or area of <b>Your Home</b>	Specific Item or Work	Problem or Condition Covered	Year	Building Standard or <b>Builder's</b> Responsibility	Your Responsibility
				whichever occurs first.	
	2. Garage doors on garages that are attached to the home	a. Garage doors do not operate properly	1	If garage doors do not operate properly under normal use, <b>Builder</b> will adjust or correct them. If <b>You</b> install a garage door opener, <b>Builder</b> is no longer responsible for the operation of the garage door.	Keep all movable parts lubricated.
		b. Rain or snow leaks in through garage doors	1	Garage doors will be installed in accordance with manufacturer's specifications. <b>Builder</b> will repair leaks resulting from a failure to properly install the garage doors. During severe weather conditions, some leakage may be normal.	
	3. Wood, plastic, and metal windows	a. Windows do not function properly	1	<b>Builder</b> will correct the windows so that they are reasonably easy to operate.	Keep tracks and roller cleaned, lubricated and adjusted.
		b. Condensation and/or frost on inside surfaces of windows	0	Condensation may occur on the interior window surfaces with extremes in temperature and humidity. Individual living habits can impact humidity levels. These conditions are beyond <b>Builder's</b> control and <b>Builder</b> has no responsibility.	If a humidifier is installed, <b>You</b> must follow the manufacturer's recommendations for proper settling of the humidistat.
	4. Weather stripping and seals	a. Air leaks in around doors and windows	1	Doors and windows will be insulated according to the manufacturer's standards. If air comes in because doors, windows, or weatherstripping were fitted poorly, <b>Builder</b> will repair the improperly fitted doors, windows, or weatherstripping.	If <b>You</b> live in an area with high winds, storm doors and windows may be installed.
	5. Sliding doors	a. Sliding doors do not operate properly	1	Sliding doors will be installed according to the manufacturer's specifications.	Keep tracks and rollers cleaned, lubricated, and adjusted.

Type of Material or area of <b>Your Home</b>	Specific Item or Work	Problem or Condition Covered	Year	Building Standard or <b>Builder's</b> Responsibility	Your Responsibility
				<b>Builder</b> will repair inoperative sliding doors.	
	6. Glass	a. Broken glass	0	<b>Builder</b> will repair broken glass reported to <b>Builder</b> prior to closing or at first occupancy, whichever occurs first.	Report to <b>Builder</b> all broken glass prior to closing or at first occupancy, whichever occurs first.
	7. Hardware	a. Locks on doors or windows do not operate properly.	1	<b>Builder</b> will repair any hardware which does not meet manufacturer's standards.	
G. Finishes	1. Lath and plaster	a. Cracks in inside walls and ceilings	1	Cracks in inside walls and ceilings are not unusual. <b>Builder</b> will repair all cracks that are more than 1/8" wide. <b>Builder</b> will repair these cracks only once.	
	2. Gypsum wallboard	a. Nail pops, blisters in tape, and other blemishes on inside walls and ceilings	1	<b>Builder</b> will correct these imperfections only once.	
		b. Cracks	1	If the wallboard has cracks that are more than 1/8" wide.	
	3. Ceramic tile	a. Chips or cracks in floor, counter, or wall tile	0	<b>Builder</b> will replace cracked or chipped tiles reported to <b>Builder</b> prior to closing or at first occupancy. <b>Builder</b> will not be responsible to match tile patterns and color between the old and the new tile and grout.	Report to <b>Builder</b> all cracked or chipped tiles prior to closing or at first occupancy, whichever occurs first.
		b. Loose floor, counter or wall tile	1	<b>Builder</b> will replace cracked tiles and resecure loose tiles.	
		c. Cracks in grouting of ceramic tile joints or at junctions between tiles and other materials (e.g., between tiles and bathtub)	1	Cracks in grouting of ceramic tile joints are commonly caused by normal shrinking of the grouting. <b>Builder</b> will repair cracked grouting prior to closing. <b>Builder</b> will not be responsible for discontinued grout or for differences in color between the old and the new grout.	RegROUT cracks during the lifetime of the <b>Home</b> .

Type of Material or area of <b>Your Home</b>	Specific Item or Work	Problem or Condition Covered	Year	Building Standard or <b>Builder's</b> Responsibility	Your Responsibility
	4. Finished wood floors	a. Cracks between the floor boards	1	<b>Builder</b> will repair all cracks that are more than 1/8" wide.	
	5. Resilient flooring or floor covering	a. Nail pops on surface of resilient floor covering	1	<b>Builder</b> will repair any nail pops that break the surface of the flooring.	
		b. Depressions or ridges in resilient flooring because the subfloor is irregular	1	<b>Builder</b> will repair any ridges or depressions which are readily apparent and which are more than 1/8" high or deep. The ridge or depression measurement is the gap created at one end of a 6" straight-edge placed over the depression or ridge with 3" of the straightedge on one side of the defect, held tightly to the floor. <b>Builder</b> will not be responsible to match the old and the new flooring.	
		c. Resilient flooring lifts, bubbles, or becomes unglued	1	<b>Builder</b> will repair these defects.	
		d. Visible seams or shrinkage gaps at joints of resilient flooring	1	If the gaps are more than 1/16" wide between pieces of resilient flooring, <b>Builder</b> will repair them. If the gaps between flooring and other materials are more than 1/8" wide, <b>Builder</b> will repair the affected area only.	
	5. Resilient flooring or floor covering	e. Cuts and gouges	0	<b>Builder</b> will repair cuts and gouges reported to <b>Builder</b> prior to closing.	Report to <b>Builder</b> prior to closing.
	6. Paint, stain, or varnish	a. Deteriorating, fading, or peeling of outside paint	1	Fading of a paint or stain is normal and not considered a defect. The amount of fading will depend on the climate where the <b>Home</b> is located. <b>Builder</b> will repair paint, stain or varnish which peels or deteriorates. <b>Builder</b> will properly prepare and refinish any areas that are	

Type of Material or area of <b>Your Home</b>	Specific Item or Work	Problem or Condition Covered	Year	Building Standard or <b>Builder's</b> Responsibility	Your Responsibility
				affected.	
		b. Painting made necessary by other repair work	1	If painting is required because of other repair work, <b>Builder</b> will paint to match surrounding areas as closely as possible.	
		c. Deteriorating varnish or lacquer finish on outside woodwork	0	Varnish or lacquer on outside woodwork deteriorates quickly and is not covered.	
		d. Deteriorating varnish or lacquer finish on inside woodwork	1	<b>Builder</b> will retouch areas of the woodwork where the finish has deteriorated. <b>Builder</b> will make this repair only once.	
		e. Mold, mildew or fungus on painted surfaces	0	<b>Builder</b> will remove mildew or fungus reported to <b>Builder</b> prior to closing or first occupancy. Mold, mildew or fungus may form on painted surfaces over time because of warmth and moisture.	Report to <b>Builder</b> prior to closing.  Clean mildew or fungus regularly from exterior or interior surfaces.
		f. Deteriorating, fading, or peeling of interior paint	1	Interior painted surface should not deteriorate, fade, or peel. <b>Builder</b> will touch-up only the affected areas one time after closing.	Maintain interior paint per manufacturer's specifications.
	7. Wall coverings	a. Peeling wall covering	1	<b>Builder</b> will repair wall covering which peels within the first year.	
		b. Mismatched edges of wall covering, pattern mismatch, and open seams.	0	<b>Builder</b> will repair these conditions when reported to <b>Builder</b> prior to closing.	
	8. Carpeting	a. Open seams in carpeting	1	Visible carpet seams are not a defect. <b>Builder</b> will repair any openings or gaps in the seams.	
		b. Wall-to-wall carpeting comes up, is loose, or stretched.	1	If <b>Builder</b> originally installed wall-to-wall carpeting as a primary floor covering, <b>Builder</b> will resecure or restretch any of the carpeting that has	

Type of Material or area of <b>Your Home</b>	Specific Item or Work	Problem or Condition Covered	Year	Building Standard or <b>Builder's</b> Responsibility	Your Responsibility
				loosened from the material to which it was attached.	
		c. Spots or minor fading on carpet	0	Spots and/or minor fading can occur naturally when a carpet is exposed to light. <b>Builder</b> has no responsibility for this condition.	
	9. Stucco	a. Cracks in outside stucco walls	1	Cracks are not unusual in the surfaces of outside stucco walls. <b>Builder</b> will repair within the first year, any cracks that are more than 1/8" wide.	
	10. Marble, real or synthetic, plastic laminate, porcelain, and fiberglass	a. Scratches, nicks, chips, or blemishes	0	<b>Builder</b> will repair scratches, nicks, chips, or blemishes reported to <b>Builder</b> prior to closing. <b>Builder</b> is not responsible for discontinued patterns or for differences in color between old and new.	Report to <b>Builder</b> prior to closing.
H. Louvers, vents, and fireplaces	1. Louvers and vents	a. Inadequate ventilation of attics and crawl spaces	1	<b>Builder</b> will repair the louvers and vents so that they provide proper ventilation. <b>Builder</b> will not be responsible for problems caused by the alteration of the original ventilation system.	
	2. Fireplaces and chimneys	a. Improper drawing of fireplace or chimney	1	Several things can cause temporary negative draft situations in a fireplace or chimney. These include high winds, obstructions such as large branches or trees too close to the chimney, or tight insulation and weatherproofing throughout the house. <b>Builder</b> will not be responsible for these problems. If the draft problem is caused by improper installation, <b>Builder</b> will repair the problem.	Insure there is sufficient fresh air make-up for the flue to draw properly. Before the beginning of the season that <b>You</b> will use the fireplace, look for any obstructions and clear prior to use.
		b. Separation of chimney from the structure to which it is attached	1	It is not unusual for a new chimney to separate slightly from the structure to	

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				which it is attached. <b>Builder</b> will repair any chimney that has separated from the <b>Home</b> more than 2" in any 10 feet vertical measurement.	
		c. Firebox (area where the fire burns) paint has changed	0	The heat from a fire can naturally change any finish on the firebox. This condition is not covered.	
		d. Cracks in firebrick (brick that lines the fireplace) and mortar joints	0	Roaring fires can naturally cause this cracking. This condition is not a defect.	
I. Mechanical systems	1. Plumbing, water supply, and septic systems	a. Plumbing pipes have frozen and burst	1	Drain, waste, vent, and water pipes will be adequately protected to prevent freezing as required by the applicable plumbing requirements for normally anticipated cold weather and in accordance with the design temperatures established by the American Society of Heating, Refrigerating, and Air-Conditioning Engineers (ASHRAE). <b>Builder</b> will repair any pipes not meeting the ASHRAE standards.	Drain water pipes and outside faucets when they are exposed to freezing temperatures.
		b. Leaks in faucets or valves	1	<b>Builder</b> will repair or replace any faucets or valves that leak because of defects in workmanship or materials.	
		c. Defects in plumbing fixtures or trim fittings	1	<b>Builder</b> will repair any fixture or fitting which does not meet the manufacturer's standards.	
		d. Noisy water pipes	1	Some noise in the water pipes is natural and comes from the flow of water and from the pipes expanding. If there is a pounding noise from improperly anchored pipes, <b>Builder</b> will repair.	
		e. Leaks in pipes	1	<b>Builder</b> will repair any leaks in the drain, waste, vent or water pipes. Condensation on pipes is not the same	

Type of Material or area of <b>Your Home</b>	Specific Item or Work	Problem or Condition Covered	Year	Building Standard or <b>Builder's</b> Responsibility	Your Responsibility
				as a leak, and is not a defect.	
	1. Plumbing, water supply, and septic systems	f. Stopped up sewers, fixtures, and drains	1	<b>Builder</b> will repair all sewers, fixtures, and drains that are clogged because of defects in construction. <b>Builder</b> is not responsible for any defect which is not construction related, including any failure of municipal systems.	If sewers, fixtures, and drains are clogged because of <b>Your</b> actions, then <b>You</b> will pay the cost of repairing them.
		g. Water supply system does not deliver water	1	<b>Builder</b> is responsible for connecting all on-site service to municipal water mains and to private water supplies. <b>Builder</b> is also responsible for making sure that an individual well on-site is installed to comply with all building and plumbing requirements. <b>Builder</b> will repair problems caused by defects in workmanship and materials. <b>Builder</b> is not responsible for problems caused by conditions beyond <b>Builder's</b> control. <b>Builder</b> is not responsible for water quality.	
		h. Septic tank, distribution box and pump do not meet state, county or local requirements.	1	Septic tank must meet state, county, or local requirements. <b>Builder</b> will repair any septic system that cannot properly handle the normal flow of household waste because of defects in workmanship or materials. <b>Builder</b> is not responsible for conditions beyond <b>Builder's</b> control, such as freezing, saturated soil, an increase in the elevation of the water table, excessive use of the system, or limitations established by the local governing agency.	Properly maintain the septic tank system to include proper grades, landscaping, and protection from vehicular traffic or excessive weight which would result in soil compaction. Tanks may need to be pumped during periods of excessive use or extended rainfall.
		i. Septic drain fields	1	Septic drain fields will meet state, county, or local requirements. <b>Builder</b> will repair any septic drain fields that	



Type of Material or area of <b>Your Home</b>	Specific Item or Work	Problem or Condition Covered	Year	Building Standard or <b>Builder's</b> Responsibility	Your Responsibility
				cannot properly handle the normal flow of household waste because of defects in workmanship or materials. <b>Builder</b> is not responsible for conditions beyond <b>Builder's</b> control, such as freezing, saturated soils, increase in the elevation of the water table, excessive use of the system, or limitations establishes by the local governing agency.	
	2. Heating system	a. Inadequate heating	1	Heating system is designed to maintain an indoor temperature of 70E F. The temperature is measured in the center of each room at a height of 5 feet above the floor (under local outdoor winter design conditions as specified in the ASHRAE handbook). Federal, state, or local energy requirements take precedence. <b>Builder</b> will repair the heating system so that it provides the required temperature.	Balance dampers and registers and make other minor adjustments for change of seasons.  Maintain unit per manufacturer's specifications.
		b. Leaks in refrigerant lines	1	<b>Builder</b> will repair all leaking refrigerant lines and will recharge the unit, unless <b>You</b> caused the damage.	
	3. Refrigeration	a. Inadequate air conditioning	1	Cooling system is designed to maintain an indoor temperature of 78E F. The temperature is measured in the center of each room at a height of 5 feet above the floor (under local out-door summer design conditions as specified in ASHRAE handbook). If the temperature outside is above 95E F, cooling system must be able to maintain an inside temperature that is 15E below the outside temperature. Federal, state, or local energy requirements take precedence. <b>Builder</b> will repair the cooling system so that it provides the required temperature.	Balance dampers and registers and make other minor adjustments for change of seasons and maintain proper window treatment to optimize cooling capabilities.  Maintain unit per manufacturer's specifications.

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	4. Condensation drain lines	a. Clogged condensation drain lines	0	<b>Builder</b> will provide clear condensation drain lines at closing. After this, <b>You</b> are responsible for keeping the condensation drain lines clear.	Condensation drain lines may clog, under normal use. <b>You</b> should keep these clear. Prior to using the cooling system each season, check condensation lines to ensure the drain lines are clear.
	5. Evaporative cooling system	a. Mechanical part of the evaporative cooling system does not operate properly	1	<b>Builder</b> will correct or adjust the blower and the water system so that it functions properly.	
	6. Air distribution system	a. Ductwork makes ticking and crackling noises	0	The ductwork may make ticking and crackling noises when the metal in it expands from the heat and contracts from the cold. This condition is natural and is not covered.	
		b. Ductwork makes a booming noise	1	This booming is called "oilcanning." <b>Builder</b> will repair the ductwork.	
	6. Air distribution system	c. Separated or unattached ductwork	1	<b>Builder</b> will re-attach or re-secure all ductwork that has become separated or unattached.	<b>You</b> should not walk on, place heavy objects against or otherwise subject ductwork to unusual loads.
		d. Water seeps into heating and/or air conditioning ducts located under the floor slab.	1	If the Home is built with underslab heat and air conditioning ducts and water seeps into the ducts causing problems with the heat and air conditioning system, <b>Builder</b> will make necessary repairs during the term of this Limited Warranty. <b>Builder</b> shall have one or more of the following options in making such repairs, at <b>Builder=s</b> sole discretion: 1. Regrade the problem area; 2. Put a sump pump in the plenum; or 3. Install new duct work in areas other than beneath the slab.	
J. Electrical system	1. Electrical conductors,	a. Fuses blow or circuit breakers (excluding ground fault interrupters)	1	<b>Builder</b> will check the wiring circuits and make sure that they conform with	Do not overload circuits.

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	fuses, and circuit breakers	"kick out"		approved local electrical requirements.	Check circuit breakers.
	2. Outlets, switches, and fixtures	a. Air leaks around electrical outlets	1	Cold air can be drawn through an outlet on an exterior wall into a room. <b>Builder</b> will repair one time after closing or first occupancy, whichever occurs first.	
		b. Malfunctions in electrical outlets, switches, and fixtures	1	<b>Builder</b> will repair or replace all defective outlets, switches, or fixtures.	
	3. Service and distribution	a. Ground fault interrupters frequently trip (These are sensitive safety devices that are installed into the electric system to protect from electric shock.)	1	Ground fault interrupters are sensitive and can be easily tripped. Normally, this is not indicative of a construction defect. <b>Builder</b> will install ground fault interrupters to meet the electrical requirement. <b>Builder</b> will correct the interrupters if the tripping is due to a defect in installation.	A tripped ground fault interrupter usually indicates an overloaded circuit or the connected appliance contains a faulty ground.
		b. Electrical wiring does not carry its designed load for normal residential use	1	<b>Builder</b> will repair any wiring that does not conform with approved local electrical requirements. <b>Builder</b> is responsible for original installation only. <b>Builder</b> is not responsible for problems caused by conditions beyond <b>Builder's</b> control.	
K. Foundation	1. Beams, concrete	a. Cracks or deflection	1	<b>Builder</b> will repair cracks greater than 1/8 inch in width, or deflection greater than 1/4 inch in 30 inches.	See the Active Soils Addendum on page 24 for <b>Your</b> responsibilities relating to the foundation and property grade.
	2. Beams, wood (built up)	a. Cracks or deflection	1	<b>Builder</b> will repair deflection greater than 1 inch in 10 feet.	
	3. Beams, wood (laminated)	a. Cracks or deflection	1	<b>Builder</b> will repair deflection greater than 1 inch in 10 feet.	
	4. Beams, wood (solid)	a. Cracks or deflection	1	<b>Builder</b> will repair deflection greater than 1 inch in 10 feet.	

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	5. Beams, steel	a. Cracks or deflection	1	<b>Builder</b> will repair deflection greater than 2 inch in 8 feet.	
	6. Footings	a. Cracks or deflection	1	<b>Builder</b> will repair cracks greater than 2 inch in width.	
	7. Walls, concrete	a. Cracks, displacement, out-of-plumb	1	<b>Builder</b> will repair cracks greater than 1/4 inch in width or greater than 1/4 inch vertical displacement, or out-of-plumb greater than 1/4 inch in 12 inches measured from base of wall.	
	8. Walls, masonry	a. Cracks, out-of-plumb	1	<b>Builder</b> will repair cracks greater than 3/8 inch in width, or out-of-plumb greater than 1/4 inch in 12 inches measured from base of wall. Brick mortar cracks, see para. C1.c. above.	
	9. Columns, wood	a. Bowed or out-of-plumb	1	<b>Builder</b> will repair if bowed to greater than 1 inch in 8 feet, or out-of-plumb greater than 1/4 inch in 12 inches measured from base of column.	
	10. Columns, concrete	a. Bowed or out-of-plumb	1	<b>Builder</b> will repair if bowed greater than 2 inch in 8 feet, or out-of-plumb greater than 1/4 inch in 12 inches measured from base of column.	
	11. Columns, masonry	a. Bowed	1	<b>Builder</b> will repair if bowed greater than 1/8 inch in 12 inches measured from base to column.	
	12. Columns, steel	a. Bowed or out-of-plumb	1	<b>Builder</b> will repair if bowed greater than 1 inch in 8 feet, or out-of-plumb greater than 1/4 inch in 12 inches measured from base of column.	
L. Structural Beams and Girders	1. Beams and Girders, wood (solid)	a. Deflection	1	<b>Builder</b> will repair deflection greater than 1 inch in 10 feet.	

Type of Material or area of <b>Your Home</b>	Specific Item or Work	Problem or Condition Covered	Year	Building Standard or <b>Builder's</b> Responsibility	Your Responsibility
	2. Beams and Girders, wood (built up)	a. Deflection	1	<b>Builder</b> will repair deflection greater than 1 inch in 10 feet.	
	3. Beams and Girders, wood (laminated)	a. Deflection	1	<b>Builder</b> will repair deflection greater than 1 inch in 10 feet.	
	4. Steel	a. Deflection	1	<b>Builder</b> will repair deflection greater than 1 inch in 10 feet.	
M. Lintels and Headers	1. Steel	a. Deflection	1	<b>Builder</b> will repair deflection greater than 1 inch in 48 inches.	
	2. Wood	a. Deflection	1	<b>Builder</b> will repair deflection greater than 1 inch in 48 inches.	
	3. Concrete	a. Deflection	1	<b>Builder</b> will repair deflection greater than 1 inch in 48 inches.	
	4. Masonry	a. Deflection	1	<b>Builder</b> will repair deflection greater than 1 inch in 48 inches.	
N. Arches	1. Masonry	a. Cracks or settlement	1	<b>Builder</b> will repair cracks greater than 1/4 inch in width in arch, or settlement in span of arch greater than 2 inch.	
O. Structural Columns	1. Wood	a. Bowed or out-of-plumb	1	<b>Builder</b> will repair if bowed greater than 1 inch in 8 feet, or out-of-plumb greater than 1/4 inch in 12 inches measured from base of column.	
	2. Concrete	a. Bowed or out-of-plumb	1	<b>Builder</b> will repair if bowed greater than 2 inch in 8 feet or out-of-plumb greater than 1/4 inch in 12 inches measured from base of column.	
	3. Masonry	a. Out-of-plumb	1	<b>Builder</b> will repair if out-of-plumb greater than 1/8 inch in 12 inches measured from base of column.	

Type of Material or area of <b>Your Home</b>	Specific Item or Work	Problem or Condition Covered	Year	Building Standard or <b>Builder's</b> Responsibility	Your Responsibility
	4. Steel	a. Bowed or out-of-plumb	1	<b>Builder</b> will repair if bowed greater than 1 inch in 8 feet, or out-of-plumb greater than 1/4 inch in 12 inches measured from base of column.	
P. Walls and Partitions (Load Bearing Only)	1. Studs	a. Bowed	1	<b>Builder</b> will repair if bowed or cupped greater than 1 inch in 8 feet.	
Q. Floor Systems	1. Structural Concrete	a. Cracks or displacement	1	<b>Builder</b> will repair cracks greater than 1/4 inch in width or greater than 1/4 inch vertical displacement.	
	2. Joists	a. Deflection	1	<b>Builder</b> will repair deflection greater than 1 inch in 15 feet.	
	3. Trusses	a. Deflection	1	<b>Builder</b> will repair deflection greater than 1 inch in 10 feet.	
R. Roof Framing	1. Ridge Beam	a. Deflection	1	<b>Builder</b> will repair deflection greater than 1 inch in 10 feet.	
	2. Rafters (common)	a. Deflection	1	<b>Builder</b> will repair deflection or bow greater than 1 inch in 10 feet.	
	3. Rafters (jack)	a. Deflection	1	<b>Builder</b> will repair deflection or bow greater than 1 inch in 10 feet.	
	4. Rafters (valley/HIP)	a. Deflection	1	<b>Builder</b> will repair deflection or bow greater than 1 inch in 10 feet.	
	5. Ceiling Joists	a. Deflection	1	<b>Builder</b> will repair deflection greater than 3/4 inch in 10 feet.	
	6. Trusses	a. Deflection	1	<b>Builder</b> will repair deflection greater than 1 inch in 10 feet.	

**ADDENDUM NO. 1 TO BUILDER'S ONE YEAR LIMITED  
HOME WARRANTY PERFORMANCE STANDARDS**

**ACTIVE SOILS**

**Homeowner Maintenance Responsibilities for Homes Constructed on Active Soils**

Soils in Oklahoma have a high clay content and expand and contract when variations occur in the moisture content of the soils. Heavy rains, drought and other Acts of God can adversely affect the foundation of the Home. Damage caused by Acts of God is not covered by the **Limited Warranty**. It is **Your** responsibility to provide proper ongoing maintenance.

Improper homeowner maintenance can also adversely affect the performance and structural integrity of any foundation constructed on active soils and void the **Limited Warranty** coverage. These post-construction practices are beyond the control of the design engineer and the **Builder**.

To minimize the probability of movement and displacement in the foundation caused by moisture content variations, the following post-construction maintenance and requirements must be executed. Failure to do so by **You** will void the **Limited Warranty** coverage.

1. The lot on which **Your Home** sits has been graded in accordance with local building codes and local industry standards. **You** are responsible for maintaining such grades. The grade around the foundation shall be maintained by **You** in such a manner that surface drainage is away from the foundation, and shall not permit water to pond or become trapped in localized areas against the foundation as this can cause variations in moisture content that can damage the foundation.
2. Watering shall be done in a uniform systematic manner as equally as possible on all sides of the foundation to keep the soil moist, NOT SATURATED. Areas of soil that do not have ground cover may require more moisture as they are more susceptible to evaporation, causing a moisture content imbalance.
3. During extreme hot and dry periods, close observations should be made around the foundation to insure adequate watering is being provided, preventing soil from separating or pulling back from the foundation.
4. Gutters and downspouts shall be installed by **You** if not included with the **Home** and they shall be maintained to prevent injection of moisture into the soil from roof run-off in localized areas.
5. Studies show that trees planted in close proximity to the foundation can damage the structural integrity of the foundation. Trees planted in close proximity to the foundation can develop a root system which can penetrate beneath the foundation and draw moisture from the soil. Areas around trees will require more water in periods of extreme drought. If **You** plant trees close to the foundation, coverage under the **Limited Warranty** may be adversely affected. Precautionary measures such as the installation of a root shield or root injection system should be taken to maintain moisture equilibrium.
6. Placing flower gardens and beds or shrubs next to the foundation and watering these areas heavily will generally result in a net increase of the soil moisture content in that localized area. This may result in a soil expansion in that localized area of the foundation. **You** must maintain a balanced soil moisture content around the perimeter of the foundation.

**ADDENDUM NO. 2 TO BUILDER=S ONE YEAR LIMITED  
HOME WARRANTY PERFORMANCE STANDARDS**

**MOLD AND MILDEW**

**BUILDER AND HOMEOWNER RESPONSIBILITIES**

The Builder will remove mold, mildew or fungus reported to Builder prior to closing or first occupancy. Mold, mildew or fungi growth after that is a homeowner maintenance item.

**MOLD AND MILDEW**

Mold and Mildew are subsets of the fungi family and are common, abundant and an essential part of the world=s ecological system. Fungi are found nearly everywhere and are necessary for recycling organic material, which is required to sustain life on the planet.

Mold spores are airborne and travel into and out of buildings as air is exchanged and with the movement of people and their belongings. Mold grows on wet surfaces and, if left untreated, may eventually release spores into the air. Airborne mold spore concentrations can become unhealthy when large areas are wet for prolonged periods. Resolving excessive moisture conditions can prevent and minimize mold growth in the indoor environment.

**MOLD GROWTH**

In order to reproduce, molds release tiny spores just as plants produce seeds. The spores settle on surfaces and, when conditions are favorable, they begin to consume organic material in their immediate vicinity. Molds can grow on cloth, carpet, leather, wood, wallboard, household dust, and on anything th at is made of organic material. Sustained mold growth requires moisture, organic material (a food source), and a suitable temperature generally in the range of 40E to 100EF. When one or more of these three conditions are unsatisfactory, the mold colony will become dormant. When favorable conditions are restored, the dormant colony will resume its metabolic activity.

Molds can produce compounds that become airborne along with the mold spores. A toxic substance call mycotoxin can cling to the surfaces of spores; other substances may be found within spores. Molds also produce volatile bioaerosols that are released directly into the air. These compounds often have strong, unpleasant odors (a musty smell) that are commonly associated with molds.

**HOW TO LIMIT MOLD GROWTH**

The most practical approach to limit mold growth is early detection and prompt resolution of excessive moisture. If **You** can see mold or detect an earthy or musty odor, **You** can assume **You** have a moisture problem that must be resolved to achieve a permanent solution to arresting mold growth. Mold growth is found behind walls or under materials where water has damaged surfaces. Look for discoloration and mold on surfaces.

Controlling indoor air moisture will limit the probability of supporting mold growth from condensing water on interior surfaces; such as on walls, windows, and areas near air conditioning supply registers. Relative humidity is a measure of the amount of water vapor in air. Relative humidity meters are useful for detecting excessive moisture and they are available from most hardware stores. Moisture sources that increase indoor air relative humidity are:



habitation (people release moisture), bathing, cooking, plants, washing and air-drying of dishes and clothes, unvented combustion appliances, humidifiers, and outdoor ventilation air in humid climates.

Another moisture source is water from leaks; such as from pipes, rain water leakage through windows, roof flashing, ice dams, etc.

Listed below are strategies that can help minimize mold growth.

- § Take notice of musty odors in the home because they indicate the presence of mold. Look for visible signs of mold and abate the moisture source.
- § Watch for condensation and wet spots and eliminate sources of moisture.
- § Prevent moisture resulting from condensation by increasing surface temperatures or reducing moisture levels in the air. To increase the surface temperature, insulate or increase the circulation of heated air. To reduce moisture levels in the air, repair leaks, increase ventilation (if outside air is cold and dry), or dehumidify.
- § Perform building and HVAC inspections and maintenance. Repair the condensate drain if the air conditioning system's drip pan overflows with water.
- § Run the air conditioner and/or a dehumidifier during the humid months of the year. Controlling indoor air moisture to below 65 percent relative humidity will limit the probability of supporting mold growth.
- § Keep the relative humidity as low as is comfortable during the winter season for houses in cold climates. Mold growth on interior surfaces of exterior walls can occur during the heating season. The combination of cool surfaces and excessive humidity can cause a high near-surface relative humidity and condensation. Experience has shown that an air moisture level below 40 percent relative humidity during the heating season will prevent condensation on surfaces. This level of humidity may not be appropriate for houses in severe cold climates. A sign of excessive humidity is condensation on the inside of windows. If condensation is present for prolonged periods take steps to reduce the moisture source or increase ventilation.
- § Clean and dry any wet or damp areas within 48 hours.
- § Provide drainage for roof rainwater and maintain the ground with a slope that drains water away from the foundation.
- § Repair water leaks in the building envelope as soon as possible.
- § Do not store organic materials such as paper, books, clothes, etc., in humid locations (such as in the unconditioned basements).
- § Exercise extra care when cleaning up after water damage from flood and sewer water.

- § Consider the use of dehumidifiers in areas such as unconditioned basements.

## **MOLD ABATEMENT AND REMEDIATION**

The common suggestions among the various documents include:

- § Correct the source of excessive moisture.
- § When handling or cleaning moldy materials, consider using a mask or respirator for protection against inhaling airborne spores. Respirators can be purchased from hardware stores; select one for particle removal (sometimes referred to as a N95 or TC-21C particulate respirator).
- § Wear protective gloves, eye protection glasses, and clothing should be immediately washed.
- § Take care to remove or clean contaminated materials in a way that prevents the emission of fungi and dust contaminated with fungi from leaving a work area and entering an occupied area.
- § Non-porous (e.g., metals, glass and hard plastics) and semi-porous (e.g., wood, and concrete) materials that are structural sound and are visibly moldy can be cleaned and reused.
- § Cleaning should be done using a detergent solution.
- § Porous materials (e.g., ceiling tiles and insulation, and wallboard) with more than a small area of contamination should be removed and discarded. Porous materials that can be cleaned, can be reused, but should be discarded if possible.
- § A professional restoration consultant should be contacted when restoring porous materials with more than a small area of fungal contamination.
- § All materials to be reused should be dry and visibly free from mold.
- § Periodic inspections should be conducted to confirm the effectiveness of remediation work.