

Unplugging equipment, testing outlets, and dismantling equipment

I do not unplug any item to test an outlet. In order to be consistent throughout the course of all my property inspections, I have a choice of unplugging every item or unplugging no items. Making decisions on a case-by-case, site-specific, or equipment-specific basis on what to unplug would not be fair to all my Clients. Additionally, unplugging every item presents problems when there is programmable equipment, sensitive equipment that could be damaged by power surges when plugging the equipment back in or turning it on, lost data from programs running on computers, and personal injury concerns. In many cases, looking at the equipment's switches and lights tells me whether the outlet is functioning, although looking at equipment will not tell me if the outlets are wired or grounded properly. If you have any concerns about any specific outlet, particularly if it is going to be used for sensitive equipment (such as computers and those new plasma televisions), have the outlet tested by a licensed electrician.

I determined the type of branch circuit wiring used in your home by inspecting the electric panels. Inspection of the wiring in or at electric outlets; light switches; lighting fixtures; electrical junction boxes; or in walls, ceilings, floors and the attic, or any other places other than the electric panel, is beyond the scope of a property inspection and were not inspected. It would be extremely time-consuming to unplug someone's equipment and appliances (and we don't do that) and unscrew every outlet and light switch cover to check the wiring. Such an inspection could take several days or hours and would cost many hundreds of dollars more than what you paid for a general property inspection. It is entirely possible, particularly with older homes, that wiring at electric outlets; light switches; lighting fixtures; electrical junction boxes; or in walls, ceilings, floors and the attic, or any other places other than the electric panel, might be different from that in the electric panel, particularly if the home has been renovated or has additions.

I also do not disassemble or dismantle anything, such as furnaces, cooling condensers, water heaters, etc. I will remove the outer and inner covers of electric panels that are safely accessible to look at the wiring inside, but I will not remove any circuit breakers to look for bad contact points, rust, or corrosion since doing so would require disconnecting electric service to the structure.

My inspection protocols concerning unplugging equipment, testing outlets, and dismantling equipment are consistent with generally accepted property inspection [standards](#) as published by InterNACHI (International Association of Certified Home Inspectors).

