
MANOMETERS

DeBerry Inspection Services

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The Manometer & Your Home Inspection

By incorporating a floor level survey in the home inspection of slab-on-grades properties, the buyer is presented with one of the most important pieces of information regarding their purchase...a guide as to the structural integrity of the home!

The inspector conducts a series of elevation point measurements on the slab (first floor) both around the perimeter footprint and inside the home. Adjustments to these measurements are made to reflect the various thicknesses of different floorings installed. Then the highest and lowest point measurements are computed and the inspector will compare this differential to a standard building tolerance of 8/10 inch.

It should be noted the floor level survey is only one of the key components in determining structure issues in a residence. The inspection will also include a visual examination of other key factors such as cracks in walls & ceilings, door frame squareness, migration of concrete flatwork, etc.

In certain instances, when the floor level survey variance exceeds the standard tolerance and other signs of structural distress are evident, it will be recommended to the buyer they consult with an engineer specializing in structural foundations for further evaluation any repair requirements deemed necessary.

The manometer consists of a single base reservoir with a built-in reel containing liquid filled tubing. Attached to the other end of the tubing is a digital display unit and a position rod.

History: An Ancient Tool

Throughout history, the principal of the manometer or “water level” has been used for centuries in ship building. Additionally, the ancient Romans used the manometer in the construction of their aqueducts. You may also be surprised to know even the Pharaohs of Egypt utilized this water level method in the construction of their Great Pyramids!

Modern Applications:

The manometer of today is used in a number of various applications; construction of bridges, installing swimming pools, and many other professional applications. One of the most popular applications is the performance of relative elevation surveys or “floor level” surveys on the floor slabs of residential homes.

Numerous elevation points are made on the home slab to measure the levelness of a concrete slab foundation system. A comparison of these findings are then compared to normal historical building variations.

