



National Center for
Healthy Housing

Fact Sheet



September 2008

Healthy Home Specialist Credential

Children spend more than 90 percent of time indoors—making the home environment one of the top places where they can be exposed to health and safety hazards. To protect their families, parents and caregivers seek advice and help in finding and eliminating hazards in and around the home.

Until now, there has not been a trained workforce dedicated to healthy homes issues. To fill the training and education gap, the National Center for Healthy Housing and the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) created the Healthy Homes Specialist Credential. The first and only credential of its kind, the Healthy Homes Specialist credential signifies that an individual has demonstrated competency in the basics of the seven principles and how to put them into practice in homes.

“Realtors, home inspectors, energy auditors, pest management professionals, and others can save lives if they are armed with greater awareness of hazards in the home environment. This Credential provides an outstanding marketing opportunity for these professionals and more importantly, enables families to access qualified professionals who can help them take steps to protect their families.”

—Rebecca Morley, Executive Director of the National Center for Healthy Housing.

“The home is where we live. There is no environment that is more important. By advancing our ability to understand what it takes to create a healthy home, this credential truly pushes progress in the direction of providing increasing numbers of people with a safe and healthful environment.”

—Nelson Fabian, National Environmental Health Association Executive Director and CEO.

The Healthy Homes Specialist Credential is designed especially for:

BUSINESSES

- Certified Home Inspectors
- Pest management Professionals
- Energy Auditors
- Lead-Based Paint Inspectors/Risk Assessors
- Asbestos, Radon, and Mold Professionals
- Realtors
- Homebuyer Counselors
- Green Builders, Architects, and Developers
- Property Management Companies

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

- Environmental health professionals
- Code Inspectors
- Visiting nurses
- Housing Rehabilitation Specialists

To achieve the credential, individuals must complete a comprehensive exam on the seven principles of healthy housing, which include keeping homes: Dry, Clean, Pest-Free, Contaminant-Free, Ventilated, Safe, and Maintained. Individuals seeking the Healthy Homes Specialist credential must:

- 1) Be at least 21 years of age;
- 2) Have five years of experience in housing, environmental health or public health;
- 3) Achieve a minimum score of 70 percent on the qualifying examination; and
- 4) Successfully complete an on-line home assessment exercise.

Apply for the HHS credential by completing an application downloadable at www.neha.org/credential/HHS. Cost of applying for and taking the HHS exam is \$150 NEHA members or \$205 non-members. For more information on this credential you can contact NEHA's Credentialing Staff at (303) 756-9090 ext. 339 or ext. 337.

Candidates should review on-line references at www.healthyhomestraining.org/Credential/References.htm to prepare for the exam. They may also want to take the Training Center's two-day *Essentials for Healthy Homes Practitioners Course* to prepare for the exam. The exam is typically offered at the end of the course.

