

Informal assessments should be completed at least two times a year. This checklist will walk you through how to check your foundation for any potential issues. If you notice any signs mentioned, note them on this list, and/or take a picture.

Interior Checklist

This portion of the assessment requires you to walk through all the indoor areas of your home.

- Open and close doors and windows along the perimeter of the home. Look for sticking windows or doors, gaps, leveled door jambs and window sills, cracks around the window or door.
- Check floors for sagging, creaking, and uneven/slanted flooring. This is most important on the ground floor and basement.
- Complete the same assessment for interior doors. Make sure interior doors open and close properly, are leveled, and there are no gaps or cracks around the door jamb.
- If you have a basement, check walls and windows. Look for bowing walls and/or windows that leak air and/or moisture. Check for cracks in the walls, especially with block walls.
- Look at walls all around the home, especially perimeter walls. Note any new or developing cracks.
- Homes with garages and/or any detached structures should be checked as well.

Exterior Perimeter Checklist

This portion requires walking along the outer perimeter of your home.

- Look at the exposed part of the foundation, crawlspace, or basement wall. This exposed portion should be free of plants, vines, debris, and buildup. Look for cracks and water pooling next to this area.
- If you have a chimney, is it standing straight and tall? See if the chimney has begun to separate from the house.
- If there are basement windows, check the window frames. Is the frame level? Are there any cracks in the corners?
- Assess all porches, decks, and sunrooms. Ensure the flooring is level, and free of cracks. If there are posts or columns, see that they are standing straight and tall like the chimney.
- For brick homes, check the mortar joints. This applies to cinder block walls, or any other type of block wall. Measure any cracks along the mortar joints.

Landscaping Checklist

Landscaping is the last portion to ensure the foundation is protected from water and weather.

- Check the slope around your foundation. This area should be graded at least six inches in ten feet from the foundation base to draw water away from the building
- Check tree roots and canopies. Look for large roots near the home or other structures. Trim canopies so limbs are not touching the home. Consider removing trees that are too close to the foundation.
- Look at your gutter system. Clear debris so water can run freely. Ensure gutter extensions expel water at least five feet away from the building.
- Check watering system is applicable. Sprinklers should not lead to water pooling next the foundation, basement, or crawlspace.
- Trim or remove any large plants along the perimeter of the home that cover the foundation and/or are aiding pooling water near the building.