



DriveTech Helical Foundation Systems DriveTech Helical Foundation Systems

248-666-4741 Ext 2

drivetechsystems.com

Waterford, Mi

How to Conduct a Home Foundation Inspection

If you suspect your home's foundation may need repairs, a visual foundation inspection can detect obvious red flags. But you don't want to pay for an inspection if you don't have to. And you don't want to leave the problem unresolved if there truly is foundation damage.

This article outlines a few simple tips on how to inspect your foundation for damage. You can run through this visual checklist on your own – and determine whether or not it's time to get a foundation repair estimate.

[DriveTech Helical Foundation Systems](#)

Waterford, Mi 247-666-4741 Ext 2

A Visual Checklist

Moisture, Mold, and Poor Drainage

Water damage is an early warning sign of foundation problems – especially in heavy rainfall regions, high water tables or poor drainage. While not conclusive, the following symptoms should set off alarm bells:

- If your home is surrounded by standing puddles that don't drain properly after the last storm, this may be an indication of poor drainage. Left unchecked, this can easily lead to foundation failure.
- Another symptom is extreme changes in water composition of your surrounding soil. If your yard goes from wet to dry (or vice versa) too quickly, the expansive soil can place tremendous pressure on your home's foundation.
- Moisture and mold (especially in the basement) is another danger sign. Sometimes, it just means you need to ventilate your foundation a little better. But it's worth bringing in a consultant if the problem doesn't go away.

Walls Are Buckling or Leaning and Window or Doors Won't Close Correctly

If you can answer "yes" to any of the following, it's probably time to call an expert:

- Do your windows or doors no longer close like they used to?

- Do supportive beams seem to lean or curve (especially in basement crawl spaces)?
- Do the floors slope or buckle under your weight (more than normal)?
- Do you notice any leaning or bulging in your interior or exterior walls?

Crumbling and Chipping Concrete

When inspecting your home's foundation, do you notice any concrete crumbling or chipping? This is not a telltale sign of foundation damage, as there can be many causes of concrete damage, but it is a cause for concern.

Well-mixed concrete is designed to last. True, seasonal contractions and expansions may result in some degradation, but if you can chip away at your foundation or basement walls with a screwdriver, it's best to [contact us](#) ASAP.

Cracks, Fissures, and Ruptures

Cracks are the most obvious signs of foundation damage. But they are also the hardest to interpret correctly. As homes settle with time, they often develop "acceptable" cracks. Not all cracks are insignificant, though. Does your house exhibit any of the following signs:

- Vertical cracks on interior or exterior walls?
- Staircase cracks that zigzag?
- Cracks that extend into the base of the foundation floor?
- Horizontal cracks in foundation walls?
- Non-uniform cracks that are wider at the bottom or top?
- Cracks in which 1 edge juts out from the rest of the wall or floor?

If you answered yes to any of the above, a foundation inspection may be necessary. Consult [Drivetech Helical Foundation Systems](#) as soon as possible.

When In Doubt, Get a Professional Foundation Inspection

The above list is merely a cheat-sheet – a handy self-evaluation guide to get started. There's no substitute for a professional foundation inspection, though.

If you have concerns about the structural integrity of your home, contact us today. We'll conduct a site survey of your home, identify the problem, and provide the best solution for your foundation repairs.

[Contact Drivetech Helical Foundation Systems for Advice](#)