

5 THINGS TO CHECK TO SEE IF YOU HAVE A FOUNDATION ISSUE

Here are 5 easy things to check to see if your home may be having a foundation issue. If you are able to check these boxes off, you will want to have a Foundation Contractor to inspect your home to provide you with more information and data.



DO YOU HAVE DRYWALL CRACKS ON THE INTERIOR OF YOUR HOME?

- These cracks are typically around door and window frames.
- The cracks can vary in size in conjunction with the settlement of a home's foundation
- LOOK UP!! There can also be cracks in your ceiling.



DO YOU HAVE STUCCO CRACKS ON THE OUTSIDE OF YOUR HOME?

- Just like the interior drywall cracks, you will notice cracking around doors and window frames.
- The cracks can be of varying shapes and sizes
- If your home has had a bad stucco job, you may have cracking occurring as well, which doesn't always lead to having a foundation problem.



ARE YOUR DOORS AND WINDOWS HARD TO OPEN OR DO THEY NOT OPEN AT ALL!!

- Foundation settlement can cause the framing of doors and windows to shift. When this shift occurs, the framing is no longer square. The phrase "Trying to put a Round peg into a Square hole" fits, except it is more of a "Square door into a Trapizoid hole!"
- If your home is older, the doors may have been shaved down to be allowed to open and close to the shifted frame. You can check the top or bottom of your door to see if any shaving has taken place.
- If new doors and windows have been recently installed, you won't be able to notice this, since the framing is adjusted while they set the new doors and windows.



MARBLES DON'T LIE!

- You can do this technique by putting a marble or a heavier round object on the floor of your home. If there is settlement to a particular area, gravity will take over and the ball will start to roll toward the lowest point. This trick won't work on carpet and certain tiles, unfortunately.



GRAB A LEVEL AND AN 8' + 2x4.

- You can lay the 2x4 on the floor, typically the 2" side up) and place your bubble level on top of it. The bubble should read level unless you have some settlement in your home.
- One thing to make sure is to confirm your 2x4 is relatively straight. We've all see some of the odd ball 2x4's at the lumber store that would not work for this test.

If you are able to check a few of these boxes, then it is time to call a foundation contractor. At Dalinghaus Construction, we offer free evaluations to home owners. With this evaluation we will be able to determine if your home does or does not have a foundation settlement problem.