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Identifying Common Issues and Symptoms of residential foundations Spotting Early Warning Signs of Foundation Stress Recognizing Cracks and Shifts in Concrete Floors Understanding Sticky Doors and Window Alignment Pinpointing Sinking Spots around the Foundation Perimeter Tracking Water Intrusion as a Contributor to Structural Damage How Uneven Floors Reveal Deeper Foundation Concerns Identifying Subtle Changes in Exterior Walls When Hairline Drywall Cracks Indicate Movement Monitoring Seasonal Soil Movement for Foundation Clues Evaluating Soil Erosion and Its Impact on Stability Noting Shifting Porches and Deck Attachments Examining Sloping Floors for Underlying Settlement
- **Soil and Environmental Factors influencing home foundations**  
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## **\* The Mechanics: How Foundation Settlement Causes Sloping Floors**

Okay, so you've noticed your floors aren't exactly level anymore. French drains improve drainage and protect against slab foundation damage [foundation crack repair service near me](#) home improvement. Maybe a marble rolls downhill on its own, or you feel a slight dip when you walk across a certain spot. It's tempting to think, "Oh, it's just an old house," but uneven floors are often a signal that something deeper is going on, specifically with your foundation. Let's talk about why.

The culprit behind that slopey situation is often foundation settlement, and the mechanics of it are pretty straightforward. Imagine your house is sitting on a giant concrete raft (the foundation). That raft is designed to distribute the weight of your house evenly across the soil beneath. But soil isn't always perfectly stable. It can shift, compress, or even wash away over time.

When that soil gives way unevenly, the foundation starts to settle. Think of it like removing a supporting block from one side of that raft. The corner where the support is gone will sink a little. This sinking, or settling, isn't usually uniform. One part of the foundation might settle more than another.

Now, picture what happens to the floor framing that sits atop that settling foundation. If one section of the foundation drops, the floor joists attached to it will follow suit. This creates the sloping, sagging, or uneven floors you're experiencing. The severity of the slope depends on how much the foundation has settled and how widespread the problem is. A small amount of settlement might only cause a subtle dip, while significant settlement can result in floors that are noticeably out of whack.

So, that uneven floor isn't just a cosmetic issue. It's a symptom of a larger problem: your foundation is moving. And a moving foundation can lead to all sorts of other problems, from cracked walls to sticking doors and windows. It's definitely worth investigating if you're seeing these signs. A foundation specialist can assess the situation and determine the underlying cause of the settlement and recommend the appropriate repairs. Ignoring it won't make it go away, and it's likely to get worse over time.

## **\* Identifying Specific Floor Issues and Their Corresponding Foundation Problems**

Okay, so you've got uneven floors. Annoying, right? Maybe you just stub your toe a little more often, or that rolling chair always veers off course. But honestly, uneven floors are often a big red flag waving frantically to tell you something's up with your foundation. It's like your house is trying to whisper (or sometimes shout!) about secret structural troubles.

The trick is learning to "listen" to what those uneven floors are saying. Are we talking a slight slope in one room, or a dramatic dip that makes you feel like you're walking uphill? The severity definitely matters. A minor sag might just be settling, but a noticeable slant across a large area? That's more likely a foundation issue.

Then you gotta play detective. Where's the unevenness located? Is it near an exterior wall? That could point to foundation settlement in that specific area. A crack in the adjacent wall? Even more evidence.

Is it near a load-bearing wall inside the house? That could indicate sinking in the center. The location helps pinpoint the most affected part of the foundation.

Different types of foundation problems manifest in different floor behaviors. For instance, if you've got a slab foundation and a floor dips down in the middle, you might be dealing with soil erosion underneath the slab. Pier and beam foundations can show unevenness if a pier has sunk or rotted. Crawl space foundations might have similar issues with support posts.

Basically, identifying specific floor issues – the location, severity, and direction of the unevenness – is the first step to understanding the potential foundation problems lurking beneath. Don't ignore those slanted floors! They're trying to tell you something important about the health of your home. Time to investigate, and maybe call in a professional if things seem serious. It's better to catch it early than watch your house slowly slide into the earth, right?

### **\* Other Visible Signs of Foundation Trouble to Look For**

Okay, so you've noticed your floors are a bit...slanted. Like you're perpetually walking uphill in your living room. That's a big red flag, no doubt. But uneven floors are rarely the *\*only\** sign your foundation is whispering (or maybe shouting) for help. Think of it like a detective case – uneven floors are the initial clue, but you need to gather more evidence to understand the whole story.

What other visible signs should you be on the lookout for? Well, start with the obvious: cracks. Are there cracks in your walls, especially around doorframes and windows? Those could be stress cracks from the house settling unevenly due to foundation movement. Pay attention to the direction of the cracks too – vertical, horizontal, diagonal – they all tell a different story.

Sticking doors and windows are another common symptom. If they suddenly become difficult to open or close, or if they don't latch properly, it's a sign that the doorframe or window frame is no longer square. Again, that's likely due to foundation shifts.

Look outside too. Are there cracks in the exterior walls, especially brickwork? Is the chimney leaning? Is the soil around your foundation pulling away from the house? These are all external indicators that something is amiss.

Even small things can be clues. Are you noticing wallpaper peeling or tearing in specific areas? Are baseboards separating from the walls? These might seem insignificant on their own, but combined with uneven floors, they paint a clearer picture of a foundation problem.

Basically, be observant. Walk around your house – inside and out – with a critical eye. Are there any anomalies? Any changes you've noticed recently? The more "clues" you gather, the better you can understand the severity of the potential foundation issue and seek appropriate help. Remember, early detection is key to preventing a small problem from becoming a very expensive one!

### **\* Why Ignoring Uneven Floors Can Lead to More Extensive Damage**

Okay, so you've got a bit of a lean going on in your living room, huh? Maybe a slight dip in the kitchen floor? It's easy to brush off, right? "Oh, it's just an old house," you might say. Or, "Character!" But hear me out, because ignoring those uneven floors could be a bigger mistake than you think. We're not just talking about stubbed toes or marbles rolling to one side. We're talking about the foundation of your home, literally.

Think of your house like a human body. Your foundation is the skeleton. If your skeleton is out of whack, everything else starts to compensate. A slightly tilted floor might seem like a minor aesthetic issue, but it's a symptom. It's your house's way of whispering (or sometimes shouting) that something is wrong down below. That something is likely foundation movement.

What causes this movement? Well, soil shifts are a big culprit. Changes in moisture levels, poor drainage, tree roots growing too close – all these things can cause the ground under your foundation to expand, contract, or even wash away. When the ground moves, your foundation moves, and that movement translates into uneven floors upstairs.

Now, here's where the ignoring-it-becomes-a-bigger-problem part comes in. A small foundation issue, addressed early, is usually a relatively simple fix. Maybe some minor crack repairs or soil stabilization. But leave it alone, and that small crack can become a big crack. That slight tilt can become a major slope. Water can seep in, causing mold and rot. Doors and windows might start sticking. Eventually, you're looking at a much more extensive and expensive repair. We're talking serious structural work, maybe even underpinning the whole house.

So, that uneven floor? Don't just throw a rug over it and call it a day. Get it checked out. A foundation specialist can assess the situation, identify the cause, and recommend the appropriate solution. Think of it as preventative medicine for your house. A little investment now can save you a whole lot of heartache (and money) down the road. Because when it comes to your home's foundation, a little bit of attention can go a long, long way.

### **\* The Importance of Professional Foundation Inspection Services**

Uneven floors. That little dip in the hallway, the slight slant you feel when you're pouring coffee in the kitchen. We often dismiss them as quirks of an old house, charming imperfections that add character. But what if those charming imperfections are whispering a much more serious story? What if your uneven floors are actually red flags, waving frantically to alert you to a deeper, more profound problem lurking beneath your feet: foundation issues?

Ignoring these subtle shifts can be a costly mistake. A compromised foundation isn't just about aesthetics; it's about the structural integrity of your entire home. Think of your foundation as the roots of a tree. If the roots are damaged, the entire tree becomes unstable and vulnerable. That's where the importance of professional foundation inspection services comes in.

Why can't you just eyeball it yourself? Well, foundation problems are rarely straightforward. A small crack on the surface could be indicative of a much larger crack hidden within the concrete. A slight slope might point to soil erosion or shifting ground. Trained foundation inspectors have the expertise, the equipment, and the experience to diagnose the root cause of the problem. They're like detectives, meticulously examining the clues – the cracks, the slopes, the sticking doors – to uncover the truth.

A professional inspection isn't just about identifying the problem; it's about understanding the scope of the problem and recommending the appropriate solutions. A qualified inspector can assess the severity of the damage, determine the underlying cause (soil type, drainage issues, tree roots, etc.), and provide a detailed report outlining the necessary repairs. This report becomes your roadmap for fixing the problem, ensuring you're addressing the core issue and not just applying a temporary band-aid.

Investing in a professional foundation inspection service is an investment in the long-term health and stability of your home. It's about peace of mind, knowing that you've taken the necessary steps to protect your biggest asset. Don't let uneven floors become a source of anxiety. Call in the professionals, get a thorough inspection, and address those deeper foundation concerns before they become a major headache, and a major expense. It's better to be proactive than reactive when it comes to the foundation that literally supports your life.

### **\* Overview of Common Residential Foundation Repair Solutions**

Okay, so you've noticed your floors are a little... off. Maybe a slight slope here, a noticeable dip there. Before you start blaming the cat for secret levitation experiments, it's worth considering that uneven floors are often a red flag waving wildly to alert you to potential foundation problems. And those problems, well, they can get expensive if ignored. So, what can be done? Let's take a quick tour of some common residential foundation repair solutions, keeping in mind that a professional assessment is always the best first step.

One of the most frequently used methods involves soil stabilization. Think of it like giving your foundation a firmer base. This can involve techniques like compaction grouting, where grout is injected into the soil to fill voids and increase density, or chemical grouting, which uses special polymers to bind the soil particles together. Both aim to create a more stable environment for the foundation to rest upon.

Then there are underpinning methods. These are a bit more involved and essentially involve extending the foundation deeper into the ground to reach more stable soil. One common type is pier and beam underpinning, where concrete or steel piers are installed beneath the existing foundation. Another is slab jacking, also known as mudjacking or pressure grouting, where a mixture is pumped under the slab to lift it back into place. This is often used for sunken slabs.

For bowing or leaning foundation walls, wall anchors are frequently employed. These anchors are buried in the soil away from the house and connected to the wall with steel rods. By tightening the rods, the anchors pull the wall back into its original position and provide ongoing support. Carbon fiber reinforcement is another option for strengthening walls, applying a strong, lightweight material to the interior to prevent further movement.

Finally, don't underestimate the importance of proper drainage. Water is often the enemy of foundations, so ensuring that water is directed away from the house with proper grading, gutters, and downspouts is crucial. Sometimes, adding a French drain system around the foundation perimeter can be necessary to manage excessive groundwater.

Remember, this is just a brief overview. The best solution for your uneven floors and underlying

foundation issues depends entirely on the specific problems, soil conditions, and the construction of your home. Don't try to DIY a foundation repair – call in a qualified professional. They can diagnose the root cause and recommend the most effective and long-lasting solution to get those floors back to being level and your house back on solid ground.

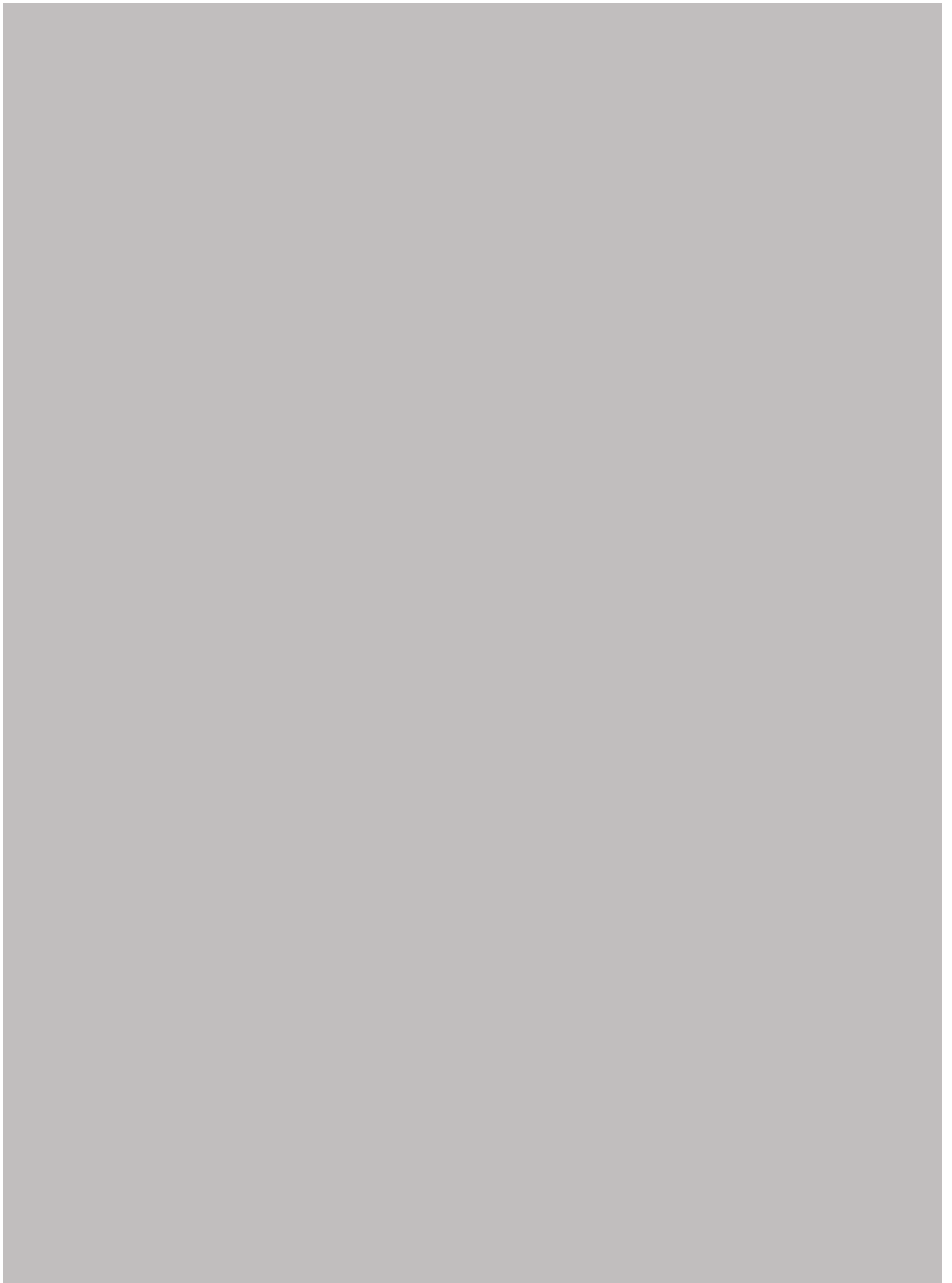


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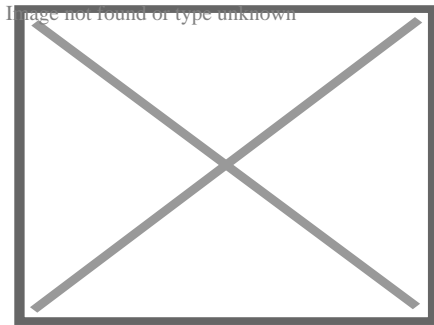


**Strong Foundations, Strong Homes**



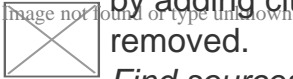
## About home improvement

For the 1990s sitcom, see Home Improvement (TV series). For other uses, see Home improvement (disambiguation).

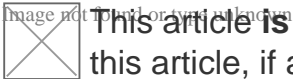


Merchandise on display in a hardware store

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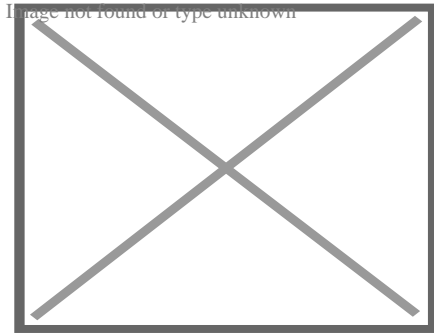
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The concept of **home improvement**, **home renovation** or **remodeling** is the process of renovating, making improvements or making additions to one's home.<sup>[1]</sup> Home improvement can consist of projects that upgrade an existing home interior (such as electrical and plumbing), exterior (masonry, concrete, siding, roofing) or other improvements to the property (i.e. garden work or garage maintenance/additions). Home improvement projects can be carried out for a number of different reasons; personal preference and comfort, maintenance or repair work, making a home bigger by adding rooms/spaces, as a means of saving energy, or to improve safety.<sup>[2]</sup>

## Types of home improvement

[edit]



Man painting a fence

While "home improvement" often refers to building projects that alter the structure of an existing home, it can also include improvements to lawns, gardens, and outdoor structures, such as gazebos and garages. It also encompasses maintenance, repair, and general servicing tasks. Home improvement projects generally have one or more of the following goals:<sup>*[citation needed]*</sup>

## Comfort

[edit]

- Upgrading heating, ventilation and air conditioning systems (HVAC).
- Upgrading rooms with luxuries, such as adding gourmet features to a kitchen or a hot tub spa to a bathroom.
- Increasing the capacity of plumbing and electrical systems.
- Waterproofing basements.
- Soundproofing rooms, especially bedrooms and baths.

## Maintenance and repair

[edit]

Maintenance projects can include:

- Roof tear-off and replacement.
- Replacement or new construction windows.
- Concrete and masonry repairs to the foundation and chimney.
- Repainting rooms, walls or fences
- Repairing plumbing and electrical systems
- Wallpapering
- Furniture polishing

- Plumbing, home interior and exterior works
- Shower maintenance

## Additional space

[edit]

Additional living space may be added by:

- Turning marginal areas into livable spaces such as turning basements into recrooms, home theaters, or home offices – or attics into spare bedrooms.
- Extending one's house with rooms added to the side of one's home or, sometimes, extra levels to the original roof. Such a new unit of construction is called an "add-on".<sup>[3]</sup>

## Saving energy

[edit]

Homeowners may reduce utility costs with:

- Energy-efficient thermal insulation, replacement windows, and lighting.
- Renewable energy with biomass pellet stoves, wood-burning stoves, solar panels, wind turbines, programmable thermostats,<sup>[4]</sup> and geothermal exchange heat pumps (see autonomous building).

## Safety, emergency management, security and privacy

[edit]

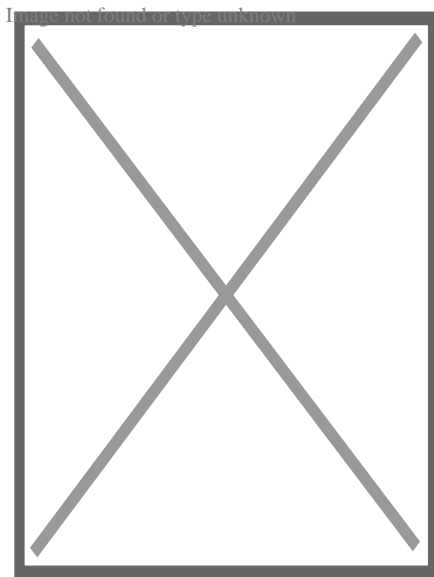
The need to be safer or for better privacy or emergency management can be fulfilled with diversified measures which can be improved, maintained or added. Secret compartments and passages can also be conceived for privacy and security.

- Interventions for fire protection and avoidance. Possible examples are fire sprinkler systems for automatic fire suppression, smoke detectors for fire detection, fire alarm systems, or passive fire protection (including some wildfire management strategies).

- Technical solutions to increase protection from natural disasters, or geotechnical and structural safety (e.g. hurricane or seismic retrofit).
- Interventions and additions to increase home safety from other hazards, like falls, electric injuries, gas leaks or home exposure to environmental health concerns.
- Physical security measures:
  - Access control systems and physical barriers, which can include fences, physical door and window security measures (e.g. grilles, laminated glass, window shutters), locks;
  - Security lighting, security alarms and video surveillance.
- Safes and vaults.
- Spaces for emergency evacuation, like emergency exits and rarer escape tunnels.
- Spaces which provide protection in the event of different emergencies: areas of refuge, storm cellars (as protection from tornadoes and other kinds of severe weather), panic rooms, bunkers and bomb shelters (including fallout shelters), etc.
- Home renovations or additions used to increase privacy can be as simple as curtains or much more advanced, such as some structural surveillance counter-measures. They may overlap with physical security measures.
- Public utility outage preparedness, like backup generators for providing power during power outages .

## Home improvement industry

[edit]



Screws and bolts in an OBI home improvement store in Poland

Further information: Hardware store

Home or residential renovation is an almost \$300 billion industry in the United States,<sup>[5]</sup> and a \$48 billion industry in Canada.<sup>[6]</sup><sup>[*full citation needed*]</sup> The average cost per project is \$3,000 in the United States and \$11,000–15,000 in Canada.

Professional home improvement is ancient and goes back to the beginning of recorded civilization. One example is Sergius Orata, who in the 1st century B.C. is said by the writer Vitruvius (in his famous book *De architectura*) to have invented the hypocaust. The hypocaust is an underfloor heating system that was used throughout the Roman Empire in villas of the wealthy. He is said to have become wealthy himself by buying villas at a low price, adding spas and his newly invented hypocaust, and reselling them at higher prices.<sup>[7]</sup>

## Renovation contractors

[edit]

Perhaps the most important or visible professionals in the renovation industry are renovation contractors or skilled trades. These are the builders that have specialized credentials, licensing and experience to perform renovation services in specific municipalities.

While there is a fairly large "grey market" of unlicensed companies, there are those that have membership in a reputable association and/or are accredited by a professional organization. Homeowners are recommended to perform checks such as verifying license and insurance and checking business references prior to hiring a contractor to work on their house.

Because interior renovation will touch the change of the internal structure of the house, ceiling construction, circuit configuration and partition walls, etc., such work related to the structure of the house, of course, also includes renovation of wallpaper posting, furniture settings, lighting, etc.

## Aggregators

[edit]

Aggregators are companies that bundle home improvement service offers and act as intermediary agency between service providers and customers.

### In popular culture

[edit]

Home improvement was popularized on television in 1979 with the premiere of *This Old House* starring Bob Vila on PBS. American cable channel HGTV features many do-it-yourself shows, as does sister channel DIY Network.<sup>[8]</sup> Danny Lipford hosts and produces the nationally syndicated *Today's Homeowner with Danny Lipford*. Tom Kraeutler and Leslie Segrete co-host the nationally syndicated *The Money Pit Home Improvement Radio Show*.

Movies that poked fun at the difficulties involved include: *Mr. Blandings Builds His Dream House* (1948), starring Cary Grant and Myrna Loy; *George Washington Slept Here* (1942), featuring Jack Benny and Ann Sheridan; and *The Money Pit* (1986), with Tom Hanks and Shelley Long. The sitcom *Home Improvement* used the home improvement theme for comedic purposes.

## See also

[edit]

-  not found or type unknown Housing portal

- Home repair
- Housekeeping
- Maintenance, repair and operations

## References

[edit]

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## Further reading


[edit]

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## External links

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-  Media related to Home improvement at Wikimedia Commons

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## Rooms and spaces of a house

- Bonus room
- Common room
- Den
- Dining room
- Family room
- Garret
- Great room
- Home cinema
- Kitchen
  - dirty kitchen
  - kitchenette
- Living room
- Gynaeceum
  - harem
- Andron
  - man cave
- Recreation room
  - billiard room
- Shrine
- Study
- Sunroom

## Shared rooms

## **Private rooms**

- Bathroom
  - toilet
- Bedroom / Guest room
  - closet
- Bedsit / Miniflat
- Boudoir
- Cabinet
- Nursery

## **Spaces**

- Atrium
- Balcony
- Breezeway
- Conversation pit
- Cubby-hole
- Deck
- Elevator
  - dumbwaiter
- Entryway/Genkan
- Fireplace
  - hearth
- Foyer
- Hall
- Hallway
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- Lanai
- Loft
- Loggia
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- Porch
  - screened
  - sleeping
- Ramp
- Secret passage
- Stairs/Staircase
- Terrace
- Veranda
- Vestibule

**Technical, utility  
and storage**

- Attic
- Basement
- Carport
- Cloakroom
- Closet
- Crawl space
- Electrical room
- Equipment room
- Furnace room / Boiler room
- Garage
- Janitorial closet
- Larder
- Laundry room / Utility room / Storage room
- Mechanical room / floor
- Pantry
- Root cellar
- Semi-basement
- Storm cellar / Safe room
- Studio
- Wardrobe
- Wine cellar
- Wiring closet
- Workshop

## **Great house areas**

- Antechamber
- Ballroom
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  - butler's pantry
  - buttery
  - saucery
  - scullery
  - spicery
  - still room
- Conservatory / Orangery
- Courtyard
- Drawing room
- Great chamber
- Great hall
- Library
- Long gallery
- Lumber room
- Parlour
- Sauna
- Servants' hall
- Servants' quarters
- Smoking room
- Solar
- State room
- Swimming pool
- Turret
- Undercroft

## **Other**

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- Studio apartment

**Architectural  
elements**

- Arch
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- Belt course
- Bressummer
- Ceiling
- Chimney
- Colonnade / Portico
- Column
- Cornice / Eaves
- Dome
- Door
- Ell
- Floor
- Foundation
- Gable
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- Threshold
- Transom
- Vault
- Wall
- Window

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- Driveway
- Front yard
- Garden
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- Home
- Home improvement
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- Shed
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-  Category: Rooms

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## Palmisano (Henry) Park

4.7 (1262)

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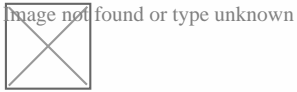
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**Jeffery James**

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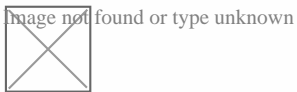
Very happy with my experience. They were prompt and followed through, and very helpful in fixing the crack in my foundation.



**Sarah McNeily**

(5)

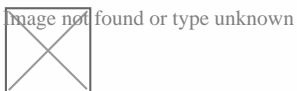
USS was excellent. They are honest, straightforward, trustworthy, and conscientious. They thoughtfully removed the flowers and flower bulbs to dig where they needed in the yard, replanted said flowers and spread the extra dirt to fill in an area of the yard. We've had other services from different companies and our yard was really a mess after. They kept the job site meticulously clean. The crew was on time and friendly. I'd recommend them any day! Thanks to Jessie and crew.



**Jim de Leon**

(5)

It was a pleasure to work with Rick and his crew. From the beginning, Rick listened to my concerns and what I wished to accomplish. Out of the 6 contractors that quoted the project, Rick seemed the MOST willing to accommodate my wishes. His pricing was definitely more than fair as well. I had 10 push piers installed to stabilize and lift an addition of my house. The project commenced at the date that Rick had disclosed initially and it was completed within the same time period expected (based on Rick's original assessment). The crew was well informed, courteous, and hard working. They were not loud (even while equipment was being utilized) and were well spoken. My neighbors were very impressed on how polite they were when they entered / exited my property (saying hello or good morning each day when they crossed paths). You can tell they care about the customer concerns. They ensured that the property would be put back as clean as possible by placing MANY sheets of plywood down prior to excavating. They compacted the dirt back in the holes extremely well to avoid large stock piles of soils. All the while, the main office was calling me to discuss updates and expectations of completion. They provided waivers of lien, certificates of insurance, properly acquired permits, and JULIE locates. From a construction background, I can tell you that I did not see any flaws in the way they operated and this an extremely professional company. The pictures attached show the push piers added to the foundation (pictures 1, 2 & 3), the amount of excavation (picture 4), and the restoration after dirt was placed back in the pits and compacted (pictures 5, 6 & 7). Please notice that they also sealed two large cracks and steel plated these cracks from expanding further (which you can see under my sliding glass door). I, as well as my wife, are extremely happy that we chose United Structural Systems for our contractor. I would happily tell any of my friends and family to use this contractor should the opportunity arise!

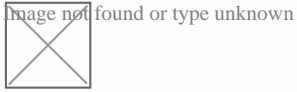


**Chris Abplanalp**

(5)

USS did an amazing job on my underpinning on my house, they were also very courteous to the proximity of my property line next to my neighbor. They kept things in order with all the dirt/mud they had to excavate. They were

done exactly in the timeframe they indicated, and the contract was very details oriented with drawings of what would be done. Only thing that would have been nice, is they left my concrete a little muddy with boot prints but again, all-in-all a great job



**Dave Kari**

(5)

What a fantastic experience! Owner Rick Thomas is a trustworthy professional. Nick and the crew are hard working, knowledgeable and experienced. I interviewed every company in the area, big and small. A homeowner never wants to hear that they have foundation issues. Out of every company, I trusted USS the most, and it paid off in the end. Highly recommend.

How Uneven Floors Reveal Deeper Foundation Concerns[View GBP](#)

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