

Don't hesitate to contact us if you have any questions.  
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### Tips for Drainage and Watering

#### Do's:

1. The yard next to your home **SHOULD** slope away from the house for at least 5 feet. This is to ensure that water does not pool next to the foundation, which will cause uneven settlement, and possible upheavals.
2. **RAIN GUTTERS** are an excellent means of controlling where water is displaced around your home. When **INSTALLING** rain gutters, pay close attention that the downspouts release water **ONLY** in areas with good drainage.
3. Your foundation needs water, but too much or too little water **WILL** create foundation problems. The key to foundation stability is to maintain a consistent moisture level around the home. **SPRINKLER SYSTEMS** help tremendously, but normally do not provide enough water **AT** the foundation. Therefore, use of a **SOAKER HOSE** is highly recommended, even in conjunction with a sprinkler system.

#### Soaker Hose Use:

1. You should **ALWAYS** use the round, porous hose and **NOT** the flat hoses with holes on top. The porous hoses allow water to "ooze" out evenly along the length of even a very long section of hose, and allow you to turn the water valve on full **WITHOUT** the concern of uneven water distribution.
2. The soaker hose should be placed approximately 8-12" **AWAY** from the foundation-not right against the home. You **DO NOT** have to water across driveways or patios, but watering **AROUND** patios (as if they were an extension of your foundation) will help to keep them more stable as well.
3. The soaker hose **SHOULD** be used at the coolest part of the day, as feasible. Battery powered timers (available in the Garden Center near garden hoses) are an inexpensive way to "remember" to water, as well as allowing you to water during the coolest times of day.
4. The soaker hose **SHOULD** be used for 1.5 to 2 hours (increase by 30 minutes in areas with large bushes or a lot of foliage) all the way around the home under the following schedule:
  - Below 60 degree days: usually unnecessary **UNLESS** we are in a drought.
  - 60-75 degree days: 1 time **PER** week
  - 75-95 degree days: 2 times **PER** week
  - 95 degree days or higher: 3 times **PER** week **STAGGERED**

#### Don'ts

1. The dirt around your home **SHOULD NOT** be at the top of your foundation. This will allow both moisture and insect penetration into your home. Soil **SHOULD** be at least ½" below the top of the concrete foundation, and slope **AWAY** from the house from there.
2. Trees and large shrubs (like photinias and hollies) **SHOULD** be planted at least 10 feet away from the home, as these root systems drink a tremendous amount of water from the soil under your home, and they also create breaks in your plumbing system.
3. Gutter downspouts should **NEVER** empty water into an area where it will be trapped near the foundation. Pooling water can create uneven foundation movement and more severe problems like upheaval.