

Mastering Maintenance

Fix Those Damp Basement Walls

(NAPSA)—There are a number of ways to reduce basement moisture and prevent it from leading to major repair expenses.

Make sure rain gutters are functioning properly and that downspouts are clear. Use long leaders or downspout extensions to carry rainwater far away from the foundation. Also, slope the ground around the wall so that water drains away from the foundation.

Check walls carefully for any cracks or gaps, and seal them with a caulking compound designed for your type of wall. If problems persist, more extensive waterproofing work may be needed.



Basement wall leaks don't have to dampen your day with some proper maintenance inside and out.

If you obtain an evaluation from a qualified waterproofing contractor, beware of recommendations for major waterproofing work that are only designed to remove water that seeps in, rather than preventing it from infiltrating in the first place. In many cases, it is more effective and less expensive to address exterior conditions to redirect the water away from the foundation.

Since each house and situation is different, you may want to contact a professional. More home maintenance information is available online at www.housemaster.com.