

Get grounded with Stable Foundations



PHOTOS BY JAMES HASKINS

If you are a homeowner and you notice that doors don't swing open the way they should normally or windows won't shut easily, the problem might be with your house's foundation.

That's where Stable Foundation is able to help. The family-run business is very active throughout Chesterfield County and Central Virginia.

"We make sure the foundation is stabilized and repaired," says Matt Walder, general manager of the 26-year-old business that plies its expertise on residential and commercial structures of any size.

Foundation problems arise naturally as the earth underneath a structure shifts and changes. Walder notes that if there's a lot of rain during the winter, the ground tends to swell, causing the house to rise. With summer's heat, the ground settles. The cycle can affect foundations, causing cracks in drywall and brick, and doors and windows that do not operate normally.

Homeowners are advised to check

for telltale signs twice yearly. If they see something amiss, Stable Foundation offers a free inspection and can help.

Depending on the problem, Stable Foundation typically excavates around the foundation to a depth of about 10 inches below the concrete footer of the home. They install helical pile systems by hydraulically screwing helical piles into better soil with minimal disturbance.

"Nothing is affected inside the house," says Walder. Typical jobs take one or two days, rain or shine. A routine job costs about \$4,000.

Some of the unusual jobs Walder and his 25 field personnel have worked on is shoring up all-brick houses built during the 1940s or earlier. "Some of these were built without foundations," he says.

Chesterfield's soil has its peculiarities. It contains a lot of clay that can put more pressure on structures to rise and then settle, causing foundation problems. Walder recommends that homeowners install gutters and make sure gutter drain pipes empty at least four feet from the house.

Stable Foundations is family-owned and run. Four family members are on the roster. "We have an A-plus rating from the Better Business Bureau, have never had any complaints and offer

a lifetime guarantee," Walder says. "We never try to sell more than what's needed."

Cutlines



Engineered for support. Executed with integrity.

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