

# Q&A

## ASK THE HOME INSPECTOR!

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Home & Building Inspections • Radon & Mold Testing



The following article is intended to provide pertinent home and building inspection information to the readers. Your input is welcome by emailing your questions to [pat@hbponline.com](mailto:pat@hbponline.com).

**Question:** We are experiencing some water seepage in our basement. We have heard that this is expensive to correct. Can we correct the problem ourselves?

**Answer:** Basement water seepage can often be corrected by the homeowner. It is commonly caused by water collecting along the exterior of the foundation walls, running down the walls, and seeping into the basement. The following measures should be followed to reduce or eliminate the amount of water collecting along the walls:

- Check all gutters and downspouts to make sure they are clear and draining. Have them drain a minimum of 3' away from the foundation – 6' is better, if possible.

- Check the grading of the yard. It should slope away from the foundation a minimum of 1" per foot, for 4'.
- Check the sidewalks, driveways and patios to see if they slope away from the home. If any of these surfaces slope toward the foundation, they should be corrected to provide proper drainage from them.
- If you have a sump pump, check it to make sure it is working.

If, after doing the above, you are still experiencing water seepage, you should contact a qualified waterproofing contractor. It may be necessary to install a system to correct the problem. Make sure the contractor provides a guarantee that, after the work is completed, the problem will be corrected.

Go to our website at [www.hbponline.com](http://www.hbponline.com) for more information about water seepage, see our specials and order an inspection online.



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