

FACT SHEET

Guide to Home Maintenance: foundations, slab & brickwork

Our homes are probably one of the largest investments we'll make in our lives...so well worth looking after! As part of our Guide to Home Maintenance, today we'll focus on how to safeguard your home by taking care of the foundations, slab & brickwork.

Landscaping

It's important to plan your landscaping carefully. Ideally talk to a landscaping professional before you start.

Bear in mind that whatever you do, try to keep the moisture content of the soil around the foundations & slab even.

Be aware of the water pipes, taps, & down-pipes around the home, and ensure they drain away from the house and are maintained regularly.

When it comes to planning out your paths, make sure you lay them with a fall away from the house so that water doesn't pool around the slab.

Outdoor living areas

The same goes with placement of your outdoor living areas.

Avoid laying large areas of concrete against the slab on one side of the house, with heavily watered garden beds on the other. That leads to an un-even expansion and contraction of the soil.

If lawns are placed against the house, make sure any excess water will drain away. Same with gardens.

Drainage

Make sure that when you water or it rains, there is adequate drainage to take the water away from the house. Importantly your drains should be at least 1 metre away from your footings.

Planting Trees and Shrubs

When planning the planting of trees and shrubs near the house, check they're not the kind that are going to grow large roots that may damage the footings, or take too much moisture from the soil underneath.

Brickwork

When it comes to your brickwork, the good news is they actually need very little maintenance. At times you may notice a white powder forming on the face of the brick. This is lime or salt drawn from inside, when the brick itself has high moisture content.

It's easy enough to remove, just go to work with a stiff brush.

Weep holes provide ventilation for the wall cavity. Make sure they stay clear of soil & garden matter.

Call 131 878 for our full Guide To Home Maintenance brochure.