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#### Protect your home from water

Even if your home isn't near a lake or river it could still be vulnerable to flooding. If you have regular water infiltration in your basement, you must correct the problem as quickly as possible — the mould that grows on damp materials can seriously compromise the health of your home's

Moisture might come in through holes or cracks in the foundation or because of the inadequate waterproofing of the outside walls. Infiltrations could also be the result of poor drainage around the perimeter of the foundation or from sloping land that directs the water towards the foundation. Whatever the cause, repairs are essential.

If the problem is a seasonal one, it could be caused by crushed or blocked perimeter drainage pipes in the foundation. If this is the case, they must be repaired or replaced, meaning the entire basement will have to be rebuilt. On the other hand, if the infiltrations only occur during heavy downpours, the problem could be caused by the gutters. If the downspout doesn't direct the runoff far enough away from the house, this water will infiltrate a poorly waterproofed foundation. A distance of more than four

feet should be maintained, although many municipalities have now established norms of more than five feet.

The worst problem to have to cope with is cracks in the foundation. This problem has to be resolved from the outside, usually with heavy machinery that excavates and exposes the walls. Specialists in this type of work will be able to solve the problem, but usually at a high cost to the homeowner

Finally, always ensure that you have a backwater valve, also known as a back flow valve, installed on the sewage pipes. This device is essential in order to avoid water backing up through your sinks, showers, or toilets.

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