



**How to Install a Foundation French Drain System
to Help Prevent Foundation Problems**

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“Installing a Foundation French Drain System is simple and the supplies can be found at any local hardware store,” comments Fred Marshall, owner of Advanced Foundation Repair and narrator of the educational video series. Fred Marshall adds “Moving water away from a home’s foundation is a critical foundation maintenance step. Foundation French drains can be a very effective way for draining subsurface water away from a foundation.”

French drains are trenches that contain a perforated drain pipe which is surrounded by gravel. Either the entire trench is lined with filter fabric, or the pipe is wrapped in filter fabric. Generally, the trench is covered with grass. They are very good at collecting water that is accumulating in marshy or boggy areas and moving it away from foundations.



With a few basic supplies and tools, home owners can follow a few steps for installing a foundation French drain system.

Tools include:

- Shovel
- Level or Zip Level
- Gravel
- Filter Fabric made specifically for this type of application
- Perforated PCV drainage pipe

As a general rule French drains should be at least 24 inches deep. Drains that are less than 24 inches deep are most likely collecting surface water in which case a French drain is not needed.



A typical French drain is a trench lined with a special filter fabric covered with a few inches of gravel in the bottom of the trench. The next step is to lay in a perforated pipe with the holes of the bottom side.

After the pipe is laid, the trench is filled with gravel to within a few inches of the surface. As a final step, the filter fabric is folded over the top of the gravel and the fabric is covered with dirt.



If you do not line the trench with filter fabric, the soil will wash into gravel and plug up the drain. Wrapping a pipe in a cloth is no substitute for lining the trench.

The drain works by capturing water that is flowing through the ground. Sub-surface water enters into the gravel, flows down into the pipe, and is carried away through the pipe. The cloth keeps soil particles from plugging up the gravel.



Never ever connect down spouts to your French drain. Remember the reason for going through the expense of installing a French drain is to get rid of ground water. If you connect you down spouts to your French drains, the flow of water can be so great that you fill up the French drain and actually push water back into the ground.

Advanced Foundation Repair offers home repairs for the foundation including drainage improvements, foundation repair, plumbing, and general construction services.

Advanced Foundation Repair has specialized in the foundation repair needs of Texas homeowners for over 100 years. Advanced Foundation Repair specialists' reputations and prompt honest service assures customers satisfaction. Visit www.foundationrepairs.com for information on Advanced Foundation Repair's services, home owner tips and DIY videos.