

Basement Walkout Frost Heave Checklist

What to confirm before a basement walkout entrance goes on the permit drawings

Before the Drawings Are Started

- 1 Confirm the frost depth your municipality specifies for footings**
Ask the local building department what depth applies to your property before the footing elevations are drawn.
- 2 Check whether the site has a known drainage or grading issue**
A history of standing water near the foundation is worth raising with your designer early.
- 3 Ask how the stairwell drainage will be detailed**
Confirm whether an area drain, a sloped slab, or both are proposed for the stairwell floor.

While the Set Is Being Drawn

- 1 Ask whether exterior insulation is proposed for the stairwell walls**
Confirm with your designer whether rigid insulation is being considered as part of the frost-protection strategy.
- 2 Confirm the door sill and threshold detail**
Ask how the detail manages water at the base of the door before it reaches the interior.
- 3 Ask who is coordinating the foundation wall cut and lintel**
Confirm a licensed professional engineer is involved in sizing that opening.

Before You Submit

- 1 Confirm the permit set shows footing and foundation wall details**
Ask whether the exterior grade and the landing height at the base of the stair are noted, since municipalities commonly ask for both.
- 2 Ask your designer who is qualified to prepare the drawings**
Confirm who is authorized to prepare and submit the permit set for your municipality.

Bring this checklist to your first design meeting so nothing gets missed before the set goes to the building department.

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